

ERIK S. KATOVICH

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EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Expected 2022

PhD Candidate in Agricultural and Applied Economics

MS in Agricultural and Applied Economics (2020)

Dissertation: *Essays on Resource Governance and Development*

Committee: Ian Coxhead, Dominic Parker, Sarah Johnston, Steven Poelhekke, Rikhil Bhavnani

Universidade Estadual de Campinas (São Paulo, Brazil)

2016-2017

Fulbright Research Fellow

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

2015

BS in Economics, *summa cum laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa*

RESEARCH FIELDS

Development Economics, Environmental and Resource Economics, Political Economy

JOB MARKET PAPER

Winning and Losing the Resource Lottery: Governance after Uncertain Oil Discoveries

Abstract: Resource discoveries are often followed by long delays and heterogeneous production outcomes. Post-discovery uncertainty creates challenges for governance: policymakers may alter present behavior in anticipation of future revenues or struggle to adapt to disappointed expectations. I exploit quasi-experimental subnational variation in oil discoveries and subsequent production realizations in Brazil to identify dynamic effects of news and revenue shocks on municipal public finances, public goods provision, and political competition, selection, and patronage. Relative to never-treated controls, places that experience discovery announcements but never receive anticipated windfalls suffer significant declines in per capita investment and public goods spending after ten years. Places where discoveries are realized enjoy significant growth in per capita revenues and spending, but do not invest in economic diversification and fail to improve public goods provision. Findings reveal inefficient windfall spending and adjustment costs after disappointment as two faces of the resource curse, and highlight the importance of accounting for heterogeneity in production outcomes after discovery announcements.

WORKING PAPERS

Labor Reallocation, Human Capital Investment, and “Stranded Careers”: Evidence from an Oil Boom and Bust *(with Dominic Parker and Steven Poelhekke)*

Abstract: Sectoral expansions and contractions have significant worker-level and distributional consequences. Using linked employer-employee panel data from Brazil—a country that experienced oil booms and busts during the 2000s and 2010s—we estimate dynamic effects of being hired into the volatile oil and gas sector on workers’ subsequent wages, employment, and earnings. We find that oil generates inequality both between and within worker cohorts. Highly-educated early entrants capture nearly all the earnings

benefits of the oil boom and are insulated from downturns by seniority and a higher likelihood of holding professional roles within firms. Later high-education entrants must compete with a glut of new graduates from oil-specific degree programs, and suffer from “stranded careers” after oil busts. Low-education workers never enjoy earnings premiums during booms and lose their jobs during busts. Our findings contribute evidence on the job-creation potential of energy sectors and the distributional consequences of energy transitions.

Agricultural Elites, Special Interest Politics, and Deforestation: Property-Level Evidence from the Amazon *(with Fanny Moffette)*

Abstract: How do local leaders’ personal and political incentives shape tropical deforestation and land use? We combine individually identified land cadasters for the Brazilian Amazon, registries of political candidates and campaign donors, and remote sensing data to construct a novel panel of land use change on properties belonging to municipal politicians and donors between 2000-2019. We estimate event studies around close mayoral elections and find that deforestation weakly increases on successful candidates’ properties while they are in office, as well as on the properties of their campaign donors. Landholding mayors extensify production by expanding pasture (perhaps due to low supervisory costs); donors intensify production by expanding agriculture. At the municipality-level, close election of a mayor who received landholder donations increases deforestation, land conversion to agriculture, and registry of environmental violations. Landholder-financed mayors increase municipal spending on agricultural promotion and are more likely to receive matching grants for agriculture.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Katovich, Erik S. and Alexandre Gori Maia, The Relation Between Labor Productivity and Wages in Brazil: A Sectoral Analysis. *Nova Economia*, Vol. 28, No. 1, pg. 7-38 (2018).

Smith, Pamela J. and Erik S. Katovich, Are GMO Policies “Trade Related”? Empirical Analysis of Latin America. *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, Vol. 39, No. 2, pg. 286-312 (2017).

WORK IN PROGRESS

Can Natural Resources Promote Industrialization? Firms, Competition, and Spillovers from an Industrial Policy *(funded by STEG-CEPR PhD Research Grant—\$19,000)*

Creating Knowledge Economies: Innovative Firms and Skilled Workers After a Nation-Wide University Rollout *(with Ana Paula Melo)*

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

What Do We Really Know About the Impacts of Improved Grain Legumes and Dryland Cereals: A Critical Review of Impact Studies, *ICRAF Working Paper Series*, No. 295, World Agroforestry-Nairobi (2019) *(with Kai Mausch, Karl Hughes, Michael Hauser, and Andrew Feist)*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, *Growth and Development of Nations in the Global Economy*
Received University-wide *Early Excellence in Teaching Award*

Fall 2018

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Paul Dower, Emilia Tjernström, & Laura Schechter Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UW Madison	<i>2019-Present Madison, WI</i>
Visiting Researcher Institute of Economics, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro	<i>June-August 2019 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</i>
Impact Evaluation Fellow World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF)	<i>June-August 2018 Nairobi, Kenya</i>
Technical Training Grantee Unicamp, São Paulo Research Association (FAPESP)	<i>January-July 2017 Campinas, Brazil</i>
Fulbright Research Fellow Center for Agricultural and Environmental Economics, Unicamp	<i>February-December 2016 Campinas, Brazil</i>
Field Survey Coordinator Winrock International-Nepal	<i>June-August 2014 Kathmandu, Nepal</i>
Undergraduate Research Assistant to Pamela Smith Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota	<i>June-December 2012 St. Paul, MN</i>

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Bilingual Immigrant Legal Services Assistant International Institute of Minnesota	<i>September-December, 2015 St. Paul, MN</i>
Refugee and Immigrant Program Intern (asylum-seeker interviews) The Advocates for Human Rights	<i>June-December 2013 Minneapolis, MN</i>

CONFERENCES AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2022: NOVAFRICA (Scheduled), AERE (Scheduled), RIDGE Labor Workshop, PacDev; **2021:** Universidade Federal Fluminense-PPGE (Niteroi, Brazil), SEA, Universidade de São Paulo-FEA (São Paulo, Brazil), NEUDC, LACEA, Sovereign Wealth Fund of Niterói (Niterói, Brazil), Universidad de San Andrés (Buenos Aires, Argentina), AAEA, AERE, WEAI; **2019:** Hoover Institution (Washington D.C.); **2017:** ANPEC (Natal, Brazil); **2016:** COES-LSE (Santiago, Chile)

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Structural Transformation and Economic Growth PhD Research Grant (\$19,000)	<i>2021</i>
Doctoral Research Travel Grant, UW Madison (\$1,500)	<i>2021</i>
Tinker Nave Latin American Studies Field Research Grant, UW Madison (\$2,300)	<i>2019 & 2021</i>
IRIS Graduate Student Summer Fieldwork Award, UW Madison (\$3,000)	<i>2019</i>
University Graduate Fellowship, UW Madison (\$34,500×2)	<i>2017 & 2020</i>
Technical Training Grant, São Paulo Research Association (FAPESP) (\$1,000)	<i>2017</i>
Fulbright Research Grant to Brazil (\$16,000)	<i>2016</i>
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Grants (\$1,700×2)	<i>2012 & 2014</i>

AWARDS, MEMBERSHIP, AND SERVICE

Awards

Bromley Prize for Best Dissertation Paper, UW Madison AAE	2021
Early Excellence in Teaching Award, UW Madison	2020
Best Undergraduate Thesis, Minnesota Economic Association	2015
Gorence Endowed Scholarship in Economics, U of MN Economics	2013 & 2014
Presidential Merit Scholarship, U of MN	2011-2015
National AP Scholar	2011
National Merit Scholar	2011

Membership

Affiliate, Elections Research Center, UW-Madison	2021-present
Affiliate, Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies, UW-Madison	2020-present
Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association	2021-present
Agricultural and Applied Economics Association	2020-present
Association of Environmental and Resource Economists	2020-present

Service

Graduate Student Representative, Dept. of Agricultural and Applied Economics	2020-2021
Coordinator, Development and Political Economy Workshop, UW-Madison	2020-2021

Refereeing

Latin American Research Review

LANGUAGE AND COMPUTER SKILLS

Languages: English (native), Portuguese (fluent), Spanish (fluent)

Computer Skills: Stata, R, L^AT_EX, SurveyCTO, Git

REFERENCES

Ian Coxhead (Main Advisor)

Professor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Phone: + 1 608 262 6390
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Dominic Parker

Associate Professor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Phone: + 1 608 262 8916
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