

2022 Young Scholars Symposium  
Participant Bios

**Parrish Bergquist**, Assistant Professor at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy; [parrish.bergquist@georgetown.edu](mailto:parrish.bergquist@georgetown.edu); <https://www.parrishbergquist.com/>

Parrish Bergquist studies the political dimensions of environmental policymaking, primarily in the United States. Her research aims to reveal broadly applicable insights about American political behavior and public policy processes, while also highlighting how the particularities of the American political system shape debates and outcomes in the environmental policy arena. Her work has been published in journals such as *Thinking & Reasoning*, *Global Environmental Change*, *Journal of Public Policy*, and has been accepted for publication at *British Journal of Political Science* and *Nature Energy*. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science and Urban and Regional Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2019.

Representative Publications: [Parrish Bergquist - Google Scholar](#)

- Parrish Bergquist, David M Konisky, John Kotcher. "Energy policy and public opinion: patterns, trends and future directions." 2020. *Progress in Energy*.
- Parrish Bergquist, Stephen Ansolabehere, Sanya Carley, David Konisky. "Backyard voices: How sense of place shapes views of large-scale energy transmission infrastructure." 2020. *Energy Research & Social Science*.

**Ellen Bruno**, Assistant Professor of Cooperative Extension at the University of California - Berkeley; [ebruno@berkeley.edu](mailto:ebruno@berkeley.edu); <https://ellen-bruno.com/>

Ellen Bruno's research blends theoretical and empirical economic modeling to inform policy discussions on issues relevant to California's agriculture and natural resources. Her research centers on evaluating policies to improve the allocation of water across users in the face of a changing climate. Her research has been published in journals such as *Environmental Research Letters*, *Annual Review of Resource Economics*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, and *Journal of Environmental Management*. She received her Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of California, Davis in 2018.

Representative Publications: [Ellen Bruno - Google Scholar](#)

- Ellen M Bruno, Richard J Sexton. "The gains from agricultural groundwater trade and the potential for market power: Theory and application." 2020. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*.
- Alyssa J DeVincentis, Samuel Sandoval Solis, Ellen M Bruno, Amber Leavitt, Anna Gomes, Sloane Rice, Daniele Zaccaria. "Using cost-benefit analysis to understand adoption of winter cover cropping in California's specialty crop systems." 2020. *Journal of Environmental Management*.

**Rhiannon Jerch**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics and a Fellow in the Public Policy Lab at Temple University; [rhiannon.jerch@temple.edu](mailto:rhiannon.jerch@temple.edu); <https://rhiannonjerch.com/>

Rhiannon Jerch's research uses empirical methods to understand the relationship between urban growth dynamics, public goods provision, and environmental regulation. Much of her work uses environmental shocks in conjunction with novel data sources, like river flow patterns or electrical blackouts, to elicit causal estimates of public goods and services on welfare and growth outcomes. Her work has been published by the *Journal of Public Economics*, and is under revision for *The Journal of Urban Economics*. She received her Ph.D. in Applied Economics & Management from Cornell University in 2019.

Representative Publications: [Rhiannon Jerch - Google Scholar](#)

- Rhiannon Jerch, Matthew E Kahn, Shanjun Li. "The efficiency of local government: The role of privatization and public sector unions." 2017. *Journal of Public Economics*.
- Rhiannon Jerch. "The local benefits of federal mandates: Evidence from the clean water act." Working Paper.

**Akshaya Jha**, Assistant Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the Heinz College at Carnegie Mellon University; [akshayaj@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:akshayaj@andrew.cmu.edu); <https://akshayajha.wordpress.com/>

Akshaya Jha's research uses a combination of economic modeling and causal inference techniques to quantify the economic and environmental costs and benefits of a wide range of policies impacting wholesale electricity supply. In recent work, he has examined the introduction of financial trading to California's wholesale electricity market, the phase-out of nuclear power in Germany, the dramatic growth of rooftop solar capacity in Western Australia, and the determinants of electricity blackouts in India. He recently won the United States Association for Energy Economics' Young Professional Research Competition. His work has been published in *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Resource and Energy Economics*, *Energy Journal*, and more. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University in 2015.

Representative Publications: [Akshaya Jha - Google Scholar](#)

- Akshaya Jha, Nicholas Z Muller. "Can forward commodity markets improve spot market performance? Evidence from wholesale electricity." 2018. Forthcoming at *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*.
- Akshaya Jha, Nick Muller. "Handle with care: The local environmental costs of coal piles at U.S. power plants." 2018. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*.

**Meera Mahadevan**, Assistant Professor at the University of California - Irvine's Department of Economics; [meera.m@uci.edu](mailto:meera.m@uci.edu); <https://sites.google.com/view/meeram/home>

Meera Mahadevan's research examines issues at the intersection of Development and Energy/Environmental Economics. She studies ways to improve energy and water access in developing countries where a lack of electricity and declining water levels are significant sources of economic losses, often exacerbating poverty and inequality. She studies topics ranging from the policy environment around energy provision in developing countries to how poor countries can transition towards cleaner sources of energy. Her work was recently published in *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*. She received her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Michigan in 2019.

Representative Publications: [Meera Mahadevan - Google Scholar](#)

- Meera Mahadevan, Catalina Franco. "Behavioral Dynamics in Transitions from College to the Workforce." 2021. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*.
- Meera Mahadevan. "The price of power: Costs of political corruption in Indian electricity." Working paper.

**Frederik Noack**, Assistant Professor in the Food and Resource Economics Group at University of British Columbia; [frederik.noack@ubc.ca](mailto:frederik.noack@ubc.ca); <https://frederiknoack.landfood.ubc.ca/>

Frederik Noack's research focuses on the interaction of economic development and the environment. In particular, he is interested in the impacts of improved market access, property rights and technological progress on land use and natural resources such as fish stocks, forests and biodiversity. He uses mathematical models to guide his empirical analysis and to derive testable predictions. His work has been published in journals such as *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Environmental Research Letters*, *Nature Sustainability*, and *Economic Development & Cultural Change*. He received his Ph.D. in Economics in 2013, from the University of Kiel (Germany).

Representative Publications: [Frederik Noack - Google Scholar](#)

- Frederik Noack, Ashley Larsen, Johannes Kamp, and Christian Levers. "A bird's eye view of farm size and biodiversity: The ecological legacy of the iron curtain." 2021. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*.
- Frederik Noack & Ashley Larsen. "The contrasting effects of farm size on farm incomes and food production." 2019. *Environmental Research Letters*.

**Louis Preonas**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Maryland, College Park; [lpreonas@umd.edu](mailto:lpreonas@umd.edu); <http://www.louispreonas.com/>

Louis Preonas is an energy and environmental economist, and much of his research focuses on interacting market distortions in U.S. energy markets. His recent work studies market power in U.S. coal transportation, and analyzes the extent to which decreasing coal markups may lead to incomplete pass-through of a carbon tax. His work has been published in journals such as the *Journal of Political Economy*, *Marine Resource Economics*, *Environmental and Resource Economics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, and more. He received his Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of California at Berkeley in 2018.

Representative Publications: [Louis Preonas - Google Scholar](#)

- Louis Preonas, Fiona Burlig. “Out of the Darkness and Into the Light? Development Effects of Rural Electrification.” Forthcoming in *Journal of Political Economy*.
- Louis Preonas, H. Jo Albers, Tabaré Capitán, Elizabeth Robinson, Róger Madrigal-Ballesteró. “Optimal Siting, Sizing, and Enforcement of Marine Protected Areas.” 2020. *Environmental and Resource Economics*.

**Jennifer Raynor**, Assistant Professor of Natural Resource Economics at the University of Wisconsin - Madison; [jennifer.raynor@wisc.edu](mailto:jennifer.raynor@wisc.edu); <https://jenniferraynor.wordpress.com/>

Jennifer Raynor’s research focuses on the economics of fisheries and wildlife management, with an emphasis on measuring the feedback between human and natural systems. She strives to inform on-the-ground decision-making and works closely with state and federal resource managers to design and evaluate conservation policies. Her main topical interests include human-carnivore coexistence, marine spatial planning, and non-market valuation. Her work has been published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Nature Communications*, and *Endangered Species Research*, among other journals. She received her Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Wisconsin - Madison in 2017.

Representative Publications: [Jennifer Raynor - Google Scholar](#)

- Raynor, J., C. Grainger, and D. Parker. “Wolves make roadways safer, generating large economic returns to predator conservation.” 2021. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.
- Raynor, J. and D. Phaneuf. “Can Native Species Compete with Valuable Exotics? Valuing Ecological Changes in the Lake Michigan Recreational Fishery.” 2020. *Journal of Great Lakes Research*.

***Shaoda Wang***, Assistant Professor at the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy; [shaoda@uchicago.edu](mailto:shaoda@uchicago.edu); <http://www.sdwang.org/>

Shaoda Wang is an applied economist with research interests in development economics, environmental economics, and political economy. His main research agenda aims at understanding the political economy of public policy, with a regional focus on China. Specifically, he has been working on the political economy of environmental regulation in China, and how the government, citizens, and firms interact with each other in this process. His work has been published in journals such as the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* and *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in 2019.

Representative Publications: [Shaoda Wang - Google Scholar](#)

- Shaoda Wang, Guojun He, Bing Zhang. "Watering Down Environmental Regulation in China." 2020. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.
- Shaoda Wang, Guojun He. "Do College Graduates Serving as Village Officials Help Rural China?" 2017. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*.

***Casey Wichman***, Assistant Professor in the School of Economics at the Georgia Institute of Technology; [wichman@gatech.edu](mailto:wichman@gatech.edu); <http://caseyjwichman.com/>

Casey Wichman is an applied microeconomist working on issues at the intersection of environmental and public economics. His research focuses on how people interact with the natural and built environment, and what that behavior reveals about the value of environmental resources. His research spans water and energy demand, valuation of environmental goods and services, urban transportation, public goods provision, outdoor recreation, climate change, and applied econometrics. His work has been published in *Environmental and Resource Economics*, *International Review of Environmental and Resource Economics*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, and more. He received his Ph.D. in Agriculture & Resource Economics from the University of Maryland in 2015.

Representative Publications: [Casey Wichman - Google Scholar](#)

- Cunningham, Brandon, Jacob LaRiviere, and Casey J. Wichman. "Clustered into control: Heterogeneous causal impacts of water infrastructure failure." 2021. *Economic Inquiry*.
- Eyer, Jonathan and Casey J. Wichman. "Does water scarcity shift the electricity generation mix toward fossil fuels? Empirical evidence from the United States." 2018. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*.