

KAYLEE K. WELLS

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign *(expected) 2025*
Ph.D. Agricultural and Applied Economics GPA: 3.84/4.0
Dissertation: "Grassland restoration and recreation in the U.S.: Valuation and its relationship to climate change beliefs and projected impacts"
Major Advisor: Amy W. Ando
Committee Members: Shadi S. Atallah, Sahan T. M. Dissanayake, and Jared Hutchins

Mississippi State University - Starkville, MS *2019*
M.S. Agricultural Economics GPA: 4.0/4.0
Major Advisor: Matthew G. Interis

Mississippi State University - Starkville, MS *2017*
B.S. Environmental Economics and Management GPA: 4.0/4.0
Summa Cum Laude

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary: Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
Secondary: Non-Market Valuation, Big Data, and Environmental Justice

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant *2020 - 2023*
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics
Courses: ACE 255 The Economics of Food and Environmental Justice; ACE 310 Natural Resource Economics; ACE 500 Applied Economic Theory (grader)

Instructor *August 2023*
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics
Course: M.S./MAAE Math Camp

Graduate Research Assistant *2020 - 2022*
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics
Supervisor: Amy W. Ando

Graduate Research Assistant
Mississippi State University
Department of Agricultural Economics
Supervisor: Matthew G. Interis

2017 - 2019

Student Worker
Mississippi State University
Department of Agricultural Economics
Supervisor: James N. Barnes

Summer 2017

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Netusil, N. R., S. T. M. Dissanayake, L. Lavelle, A. W. Ando, and **K. K. Wells** .2023. “Does presentation matter? An analysis of images and text in a choice experiment of green roofs.” *Q Open*, 3(1): 1-23. doi: 10.1093/qopen/qoad010

WORK IN PROGRESS

“U.S. grassland recreation under climate change: Evidence from big data and weather” (**Job Market Paper**)

“The recreational value of grasslands in the Tallgrass Prairie region of the United States”

“The value of restoring culturally and historically significant sites in Mississippi: Three case studies”
with Matthew G. Interis

“Public access, ecological integrity, and people’s heterogeneous values of grassland restoration”
with Amy W. Ando, Sahan T. M. Dissanayake, Rich Iovanna, and Sarah Cline

“Grassland restoration at the landscape level: Value based on a nationally representative sample”
with Amy W. Ando, Sahan T. M. Dissanayake, and Rich Iovanna

EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS

Wells, K. K. and J. N. Barnes. 2017. “Local food system economies for Mississippi.” *Mississippi State University Extension*, Publication 3164.

Wells, K. K. and J. N. Barnes. 2017. “Local food system economies for Mississippi counties.” (n=82). *Mississippi State University Extension*, Publication 3164-1 to 3164-82.

PUBLISHED DATASETS

Martinez, C., G. Pena, and **K. K. Wells**. 2024. “Prairie Directory of North America” (2013) Entries for the Tallgrass, Mixed Grass, and Shortgrass Prairie Regions of the United States. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. doi: 10.13012/B2IDB-0421892_V1

PRESENTATIONS

Project: “U.S. grassland recreation under climate change: Evidence from big data and weather”

Presented at

- Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Sessions at the Western Economic Association International Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, June 2024
- Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Summer Conference, Washington, DC, May 2024
- Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop, Urbana, IL, October 2023
- USDA-NIFA W5133 Multistate Hatch Research Group Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, March 2023

Project: “Grassland restoration at the landscape level: Value based on a nationally representative sample”

Presented at

- USDA-NIFA W5133 Multistate Hatch Research Group Annual Meeting, Fort Collins, CO, February 2024

Project: “The recreational value of grasslands in the Tallgrass Prairie region of the United States”

Presented at

- Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Sessions at the Midwest Economics Association Annual Meeting, Cleveland, OH, March 2023
- Southern Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Oklahoma City, OK, February 2023
- Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA, July 2022 (poster)
- USDA-NIFA W4133 Multistate Hatch Research Group Annual Meeting, Hood River, OR, April 2022

Project: “The value of restoring culturally and historically significant sites in Mississippi: Three case studies”

Presented at

- Southern Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Birmingham, AL, February 2019
- Southern Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL, February 2018 (poster)
- Mississippi State University Graduate Research Symposium, Starkville, MS, 2018 (poster)

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Graduate College Mentoring Certificate

2023

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program

Spring 2023

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Undergraduate Student: Evan Smith

Prairie Directory of North America Data Compilation Project

Fall 2022

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Undergraduate Students: Carlos Martinez and Gisselle Pena

MEDIA MENTIONS

Gregory, N. 2021. "Preserving the past: Study analyzes benefits of restoring cultural structures." *Mississippi Landmarks* 17(2): 6-7.

NON-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Intern

Summer/Fall 2016

Strategic Conservation Solutions

Washington, D.C.

SERVICE

Reviewer

2021-present

American Journal of Agricultural Economics (3 articles) | Applied Economics Perspectives and Policy (1 article) | Ecological Economics (1 article) | Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics (1 article) | Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Summer Conference 2023 (abstracts) | Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Sessions at the Western Economics Association International Annual Meeting 2024 (abstracts) | Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Summer Conference 2024 (abstracts)

Graduate Student Representative

2022-2024

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Judge (posters)

2023

Undergraduate Research Symposium

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Mentor

2022-2023

Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Student Coordinator Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	<i>2022</i>
Secretary Graduate Student Organization Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	<i>2021-2022</i>
Student Coordinator program in Environmental and Resource Economics (pERE) Seminar Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	<i>2021-2023</i>
Student Leader Mississippi Delta Alternative Spring Break Mississippi State University	<i>Spring Break 2016 & 2017</i>

AWARDS AND HONORS

Outstanding PhD Student Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	<i>2022</i>
Illinois Distinguished Fellowship Graduate College University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	<i>2019</i>
Three Minute Thesis Competition - People's Choice Award Mississippi State University	<i>2018</i>
Graduate Student Case Study Competition - 2nd Place Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting	<i>2018</i>
Social and Behavioral Sciences Poster Competition (Master's Division) - 2nd Place Mississippi State University	<i>2018</i>
Stephen D. Lee Scholar Mississippi State University	<i>2017</i>
William A. Demmer Scholar Mississippi State University/Michigan State University	<i>Summer 2016</i>
Volunteer Spirit Award Mississippi State University	<i>2016</i>
Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Mississippi State University	<i>2015</i>

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming/Software: Stata, R, and ArcGIS

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association
Association of Environmental and Resource Economists
Southern Agricultural Economics Association

REFERENCES

Amy W. Ando

Department Chair and Professor
Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics
The Ohio State University
2120 Fyffe Road, 250P
Columbus, OH 43210
Email: ando.21@osu.edu
Phone: (614) 292-1714

Sahan T. M. Dissanayake

Associate Professor
Department of Economics
Portland State University
506 SW Mill Street, 450F
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Jared Hutchins

Assistant Professor
Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
1301 Gregory Drive, 312
Urbana, IL 61801
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