

MICHAEL (MIKE) GIBSON

Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics
University of Maryland
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Last Update: November 2024
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EDUCATION

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| Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics University of Maryland, College Park | May 2027 (expected) |
| M.S. in Agricultural and Resource Economics University of Maryland, College Park | May 2025 |
| M.S. in Economics Tufts University | May 2018 |
| B.A. in Economics, Wheaton College (Massachusetts) | May 2016 |

RESEARCH FIELDS

Development Economics, Agricultural Economics, Applied Microeconomics

WORKING PAPERS

Manuscripts may be available at mtgibson.github.io; selected paper abstracts are available at the end.

1. **Gibson, M.** “Do natural resource booms lead to resource curses? The impact of avocado export restrictions on Michoacán”

WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. **Gibson, M.** “(P)rice floors: Changes in the composition of rice farmer productivity in India”

TECHNICAL WRITING

1. “[Introduction to randomized evaluations](#)” (Joint with Anja Sautmann, contributions from Laura Feeney and Claire Walsh) Jameel Poverty Action Lab
2. “[The elements of a randomized evaluations](#)” (Joint with Anja Sautmann, contributions from Laura Feeney and Claire Walsh) Jameel Poverty Action Lab
3. “[Survey programming](#)” (Joint with Wim Louw, contributions from Kathryn McDermott) Jameel Poverty Action Lab
4. “[Data quality checks](#)” (Contributions from Ben Morse) Jameel Poverty Action Lab
5. “[Implementation monitoring](#)” (Contributions from Arnesh Chowdhury, Maya Duru, Lipika Kapoor, Sarah Kopper, Wim Louw, Tithee Mukhopadhyay, and Clare Sachsse) Jameel Poverty Action Lab
6. “[Resources for conducting remote surveys](#)” (Joint with Sarah Kopper, contributions from Marifatul Amalia, Saurabh Bhajibhakare, Putul Gupta, and Wim Louw) Jameel Poverty Action Lab

INVITED TALKS

1. **Gibson, M.** “Do natural resource booms lead to resource curses? The impact of avocado export restrictions on Michoacán”
Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) 2024 Winter Graduate Seminars 2024

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. **Gibson, M.** “Do natural resource booms lead to resource curses? The impact of avocado export restrictions on Michoacán”
Western Economic Association International 99th Annual Conference, Seattle 2024

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund (SIEF) Fellow, World Bank

Dr. Alaka Holla & Dr. Anja Sautmann Jun. 2023 - current

Research Assistant, University of Maryland

Dr. Erik Lichtenberg & Dr. Lars Olson Dec. 2023 - Sept 2024
Dr. Lori Lynch May. 2022 - Jun. 2023

Masters Thesis, Tufts University

Dr. Melissa McInerney Sept. 2017 - May 2018
[Contingency Plans: The Effects of Dependent Coverage Mandate on the Contingent Workforce Decisions of Young Adults](#)

Research Assistant, Tufts University

Dr. Jenny Aker Sept. 2017 - May 2018
[Harvesting the rain: The adoption of environmental technologies in the Sahel](#)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, University of Maryland, College Park

Undergraduate-level

AREC 241: Environment, Economics and Policy; Fall 2024
Dr. Lars Olson

AREC 280: Big Data and Climate Change; Fall 2023
Dr. Lars Olson

ECON/AREC 481: Environmental Economics; rating: **3.5/4** (N=7) Spring 2022
Dr. Robertson Williams, III

AREC 240: Introduction to Environmental Economics; rating: **3.4/4** (N=17) Spring 2022
Dr. Robertson Williams, III

AREC 365: World Hunger, Population, and Food; rating: **3.3/4** (N=3) Fall 2021
Dr. Ken Leonard

Head Teaching Assistant, Tufts University

Undergraduate-level

EC 05: Introduction to Economics

Fall 2017, Spring 2018

Teaching Assistant, Tufts University

Undergraduate-level

EC 05: Introduction to Economics

Fall 2016, Spring 2017

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Wheaton College (Massachusetts)

Macroeconomics I

Spring 2015

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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| Paper Accelerator Grant, (\$5,000) Institute for Humane Studies | 2023 |
| Dean's Fellowship, University of Maryland | 2021 |

SERVICE

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| Graduate Representative for AREC, University of Maryland , College Park | 2023, 2024 |
| Graduate Student Government Member, University of Maryland, College Park | 2023, 2024 |
| Global Applications International Network Mentor | 2021, 2022, 2024 |

LANGUAGE AND SKILLS

Language: English (native), Spanish (intermediate), French (beginner)
Software: Stata, R, MATLAB, ArcGIS, L^AT_EX

SELECTED ABSTRACTS

1. **Gibson, M.** "Do natural resource booms lead to resource curses? The impact of avocado export restrictions on Michoacán"

This paper documents the joint impacts of an export restriction and anti-drug trafficking policy on municipalities in avocado-producing states. I show theoretically that the policies could increase the profitability of avocado production in municipalities but expose them to cartel exploitation. Using a difference-in-difference approach, I show that after the policies are enacted, high-suitability municipalities expand avocado production yet experience only short-term income benefits. Consistent with the model, these municipalities are roughly 24% more likely to face cartel occupation after the policies are enacted. I rule out several alternative explanations and mechanisms for the lack of long-term benefits.