

# MICHAEL (MIKE) GIBSON

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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<br>University of Maryland, College Park | May 2027 (expected) |
| M.S. in Economics<br>Tufts University  | May 2018            |
| B.A. in Economics,<br>Wheaton College (Massachusetts)                                | May 2016            |

## RESEARCH FIELDS

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Development Economics, Agricultural Economics, Applied Microeconomics

## WORKING PAPERS

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*Manuscripts may be available at [mtgibson.github.io](https://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

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

## TECHNICAL WRITING

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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

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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

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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

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### 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

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### 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**

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Language: English (native), Spanish (intermediate), French (beginner)

Software: Stata, R, MATLAB, ArcGIS, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

**SELECTED ABSTRACTS**

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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.