Vasundhara Gaur

Applied Economist | Data and Policy Analyst | Energy, Environment, Land-use, and Resources

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Self-starter with 8+ years of research experience using multiple econometric techniques and software with a proven record of seeing projects through from inception to completion, including writing peer-reviewed publications, reports, and public presentation of results. Expertise and interests in energy, environmental, and resource economics, particularly policy-relevant analysis, surveys, hedonic housing price analysis, and non-market valuation.

EXPERIENCE

Institute for Policy Integrity, New York University School of Law, USA

October 2023 - Present

Economic Fellow, Energy and Environmental Justice

- Collaborating with lawyers and writing comment letters to agencies regarding energy/environmental justice (co-authored 4 comment letters since January 2024).
- Producing scholarly work (1 working paper and 1 report) on how agencies can conduct more rigorous distributional analyses.
- Engaging with community-based organizations and partners to provide technical and policy assistance by creating training materials through presentations.

The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

July 2021 - Present

Research Fellow (Postdoctoral)

- Leading project on local and global impacts of GM crop adoption on agricultural and environmental outcomes.
  - Constructed novel dataset by combining information scraped from over 300 webpages and the FAOSTAT dataset using Python,
  - Applied advanced econometric analysis skills by estimating models with quasi-experimental instrument variable (IV) regression for causal inference using R, and
  - Authored an academic paper (working paper) detailing the research results using Latex.

University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI, USA

September 2019 - June 2021

Research Assistant to Corey Lang

- Created a novel dataset combining housing, electric utility, and land-use data for studying the impact of solar installations on housing prices. This analytical effort involved more than 1,000,000 observations and utilized hedonic valuation theory, geospatial data analysis methods in ArcGIS, and advanced difference-in-differences regression techniques in Stata. Authored (as first author) an academic paper that garnered over 30 citations within a year, and presented it at 3 international conferences with a combined audience of 100 people. Contributed to the writing of a successful government-funded (USDA-NIFA) proposal on solar energy conflicts.
- Collaborated, designed, and deployed a state-wide mixed-mode survey to 3,000 residents in Rhode Island using Qualtrics to measure consumer preferences for solar array attributes. Enhanced the survey's accuracy by conducting and leading 5 focus groups (with 6-8 participants in each) and analyzed outcomes using logistic regression techniques in Stata. Authored a published paper (as first author) and also a non-technical report discussing project results for a broader audience.
- Assisted in data collection and visualization of a survey examining utility-scale solar array siting preferences, involving over 400 responses; expedited analysis by conducting a literature review and authoring the paper discussing results.
- Participated in a project evaluating onshore wind turbines' impacts on housing prices, wherein I developed a unique dataset combining housing price data with wind turbine information, involving over 1 million observations. My skills in data analysis and literature review were further supported by my role in this project, where my responsibilities included data processing, report writing, and literature review.

University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI, USA

May 2017 - August 2019

Research Assistant to Simona Trandafir

- Designed and implemented a survey on Qualtrics to understand tourists' recreational choices in the presence of United States' first offshore wind farm off the coast of Block Island. Organized and assisted in multiple focus groups to refine the survey. Conducted literature reviews and helped write published paper of results.
- Sole instructor of first-year graduate-level introductory mathematics course.

University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

January 2018 - March 2018

Undergraduate Student Mentor

- Requested by various faculty on multiple occasions to provide guidance to upper-level undergraduate students about doing literature reviews, designing and implementing a survey on an internet platform (Qualtrics), and conducting focus groups.

EDUCATION

University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI
2016 - 2021

Ph.D. Environmental and Natural Resource Economics

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi, India
2013 - 2015

M.S. Economics

Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi, India
2010 - 2013

B.A. (Honours) Economics

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Programming software:** Stata (Advanced), R (Proficient), Python (Basic), SQL (Beginner)
- **Spatial analysis software:** ArcGIS (Proficient), QGIS (Proficient)
- **Other software:** Qualtrics, Tableau, LaTeX, MS Office (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Association Of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE), 2022
- North American Regional Science Council (NARSC), 2020
- Association Of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE), 2020
- Northeast Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA), 2020
- International Conference on Managing Critical Resources: Food, Energy and Water (2015)

HONORS

University of Rhode Island, USA *2021*

Greg Lessne Award of Excellence: Recognized by faculty as the "Outstanding Environmental and Natural Resource Economics student who has studied the role of markets, marketing, or non-market valuation."

University of Rhode Island, USA *2020*

Graduate School Dean's Fellowship: Competitive fellowship awarded by the university (based on faculty recommendations) to three graduate students with the most academic promise.

University of Rhode Island, USA *2019*

Thomas Weaver Achievement Award: Recognized by faculty and peers as the "Environmental and Natural Resource Economics student that demonstrates high academic achievement and contributes to fellowship within the academic community."

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) University, New Delhi, India *2015*

Gold Medal: Highest academic standing at graduate level

RESEARCH OUTCOMES

Publications

- Noack, F., Engist, D., Gantois, J., **Gaur, V.,** Hyjazie, B. F., Larsen, A., M'Gonigle, L.K., Missirian, A., Qaim, M., Sargent, R.D., Souza-Rodrigues, E., & Kremen, C. (2024). Environmental impacts of genetically modified crops. Science, 385(6712), eado9340.
- **Gaur, V.,** & Lang, C. (2023). House of the rising sun: The effect of utility-scale solar arrays on housing prices. Energy Economics, 122, 106699.
- Dong, L., **Gaur, V.,** & Lang, C. (2023). Property value impacts of onshore wind energy in New England: The importance of spatial heterogeneity and temporal dynamics. Energy Policy, 179, 113643.
- **Gaur, V.,** Howard, G., Lang, C., Quainoo, R. (2022). When Energy Issues are Land Use Issues: Estimating Preferences for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Siting. *Land Economics*
- Trandafir, S., **Gaur, V.**, Behanan, P., Uchida, E., Lang, C., and Miao, H. (2020). How Are Tourists Affected By Offshore Wind Turbines? A Case Study Of The First US Offshore Wind Farm. *Journal of Ocean and Coastal Economics*, 7(1), 1.
- **Gaur, V.,** & Gupta, E. (2016). The determinants of Electricity Theft: An Empirical Analysis of Indian States. *Energy Policy*, 93, 127-136.

Manuscripts under Review

- Quainoo, R., Howard, G., **Gaur, V.**, Lang, C., Model Choice and Framing Effects: Does Discrete Choice Modeling Affect Loss Aversion Estimates? (Revise and resubmit: *Journal of Choice Modelling*)

Working Papers

- **Gaur, V.**, Noack, F., Souza-Rodriguez, E., Impact of New Crop Technology Adoption on a Global Scale.
- **Gaur, V.**, Howard, G., Lang, C., Quainoo, R., Are the loudest voices in the room different? Testing preferences for engaged versus random samples.
- Lang, C. & **Gaur, V.**, Is it NIMBYism or Land Use Priorities that Drive Utility-Scale Solar Siting Preferences? Evidence from a Municipal Referendum.