Faculty of Land and Food Systems
University of British Columbia

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Vasundhara Gaur
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Current Appointment

Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of British Columbia, Canada 2021 – present
Leading project estimating the local and global impacts of genetically modified (GM) crop adoption on agricultural and environmental outcomes. Solely responsible for building novel dataset by combining information scraped from multiple webpages and the FAOSTAT dataset, and estimating models using Bartik-style, shift-share instrument variable (IV) regression techniques.

Education

Ph.D. Environment and Natural Resource Economics 2021
University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI, USA

M.S. Economics (specialization in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics) 2015
The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) School of Advanced Sciences,
New Delhi, India

B.A. (Honors) Economics 2013
Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi, New Delhi, India

Research

Publications

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.

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.**, Erlacher, S., Is it NIMBYism or Land Use Priorities that Drive Utility-Scale Solar Siting Preferences? Evidence from a Municipal Referendum.

Quainoo, R., Howard, G., **Gaur, V.**, Lang, C., Model Choice and Framing Effects: Does Discrete Choice Modeling Affect Loss Aversion Estimates? (Revise and resubmit – *Environmental and Resource Economics*)

Research Experience

Research Assistant to Corey Lang, 2019 – 2021

Helped write funded USDA-NIFA proposal on solar energy siting conflicts IN THE STATES OF Massachusetts (MA) and Rhode Island (RI). Responsible for creating novel dataset by combining housing data from Zillow, electric utility data from the EIA, and land-use data from USGIS. Took lead in analyzing the results using hedonic valuation theory, geospatial data analysis methods in ArcGIS, and difference-in-differences regression techniques.

Lead the design and implementation of a state-wide (RI), web-push, mixed-mode choice experiment survey to quantify consumer preferences for attributes of utility-scale solar arrays.

Aided in project evaluating the impacts of onshore wind turbines on housing prices in RI and MA, USA. Solely responsible for building unique dataset combining housing price data from Zillow and information on the location and characteristics of wind turbines from the US Wind Turbine Database (USWTDB). Assisted in data analysis and report writing, including literature review.

Research Assistant to Simona Trandafir, 2017 – 2019

Designed and implemented a survey to understand tourists' recreational choices in the presence of United States' first offshore wind farm off the coast of Block Island, Rhode Island. Organized and assisted in multiple focus groups to refine the survey.

Research Assistant to Annette Bourbonniere, Fall 2017

Recruited to conduct focus groups for the purpose of reviewing and discussing questions for an experiment to be used in further research that examines the barriers to employment for persons with spinal cord injuries.

Teaching and Mentoring Experience

Instructor: EEC518 – Mathematics for Economists University of Rhode Island, Fall 2017

Sole instructor of first-year graduate-level introductory mathematics course.

Teaching Assistant: multiple undergraduate courses University of Rhode Island, 2016 – 2017

Mentoring Roles: Undergraduate Student Mentor University of Rhode Island, Spring 2019

Requested by faculty to provide guidance to upper-level undergraduate students about preparing for graduate school, including introduction to research, doing literature review, designing and implementing a survey on an internet platform (Qualtrics), and conducting focus groups.

Conference Presentations

2023 Gaur, V., Noack, F., and Souza-Rodriguez, E., (2023), "Local and Global Impacts of Genetically Modified (GM) Crop Adoption".
Paper presented at the Association Of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE) Summer Conference in Portland, ME.

2022 Gaur, V., Howard, G., Lang, C., Quainoo, R. (2022), "When Energy Issues are Land Use Issues: Estimating Preferences for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Siting".
Paper presented at the Association Of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE) Summer Conference in Miami, FL.

2020 Gaur, V., Lang, C. (2020), "House of the Rising Sun: The Effect of Utility-Scale Solar Arrays on Housing Prices".
Paper presented at three conferences:

- *North American Regional Science Council (NARSC) – North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) Virtual conference.*
- *Association Of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE) Virtual Summer conference.*
- *Northeast Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA) Virtual conference.*

2015 Gaur, V**.,** and Choudhary, U. (2015), "Examining the Potential for Greener Power Generation at Sites with Inefficient Existing Capacity"
Paper presented at the International Conference on Managing Critical Resources: Food, Energy and Water, Centre for Development and Environment Policy (CDEP), Kolkata, India.

Awards and Honors

Greg Lessne Award of Excellence University of Rhode Island, 2021
Awarded to the outstanding Environmental and Natural Resource Economics student who has studied the role of markets, marketing, or non-market valuation.

Graduate School Dean's Fellowship University of Rhode Island, 2020
Competitive fellowship awarded by the university (based on faculty recommendations) to three graduate students with the most academic promise.

Thomas Weaver Award University of Rhode Island, 2019
Recognized by faculty and peers as the Environmental and Natural Resource Economics graduate student that demonstrates high academic achievement and contributes to fellowship within the academic community.

Gold Medal TERI School of Advanced Studies, 2015
Awarded to the graduate student with the highest academic standing in their program.

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)

References

Corey Lang (dissertation advisor)
Professor
Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
Coastal Institute 213, University of Rhode Island
1 Greenhouse Rd, Kingston, RI 02881
Email: clang@uri.edu
Office phone: (401) 874-4569

Frederik Noack (current supervisor)
Assistant Professor
Food and Resource Economics
MacMillan 331, 2357 Main Mall
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1Z4
Email: frederik.noack@ubc.ca
Office phone: (604) 822-2619

Simona Trandafir (TA/RA supervisor)
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Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
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