Adam E. Theising

427 Lorch Court · Madison, WI 53706 · (317) 909 9746 · theising@wisc.edu

Education:

Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, May 2021 (expected)
Primary research fields: environmental and resource economics, applied microeconomics
M.Sc. in Environment and Resource Economics, Toulouse School of Economics, Nov. 2014
B.S. in Mathematics, **B.A.** in Economics, Arizona State University, May 2012

Research Papers:

[1] Using urban migration flows to infer nonmarket value, **Job Market Paper**, revise & resubmit at *JAERE* (w/ D.J. Phaneuf, 2020)
[2] Lead pipes, prescriptive policy and property values, *Env. and Resource Economic*s (2019)
[3] When is airborne lead pollution salient and costly to homeowners? National evidence from sales near US airports (in progress)
[4] Consideration sets, characteristic salience, and the marginal utility of income in national sorting models: evidence from a national survey (w/ D.J. Phaneuf, in progress)
[5] The macroeconomic impact of structural policies on labour market outcomes in OECD countries: a reassessment, *OECD Working Paper #1271* (w/ P. Gal)

Research Experience

Research Assistant to D. Phaneuf, UW-Madison, 2015 – present
Consultant, World Bank Group, 2020
Consultant, OECD, 2014-2015

Teaching Experience

TA: UW-Madison, Spring 2020, AAE643: Foundations of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
TA: UW-Madison, Summer 2019, AAE875: Fundamentals of OOP and Data Analytics using Python [avg. eval 5/5]
TA: UW-Madison, Spring 2019, AAE343: Environmental Economics [avg. eval 4.7/5]
TA: UW-Madison, Spring 2018, AAE637: Applied Econometric Analysis II [avg. eval 4.9/5]
TA: Univ. Toulouse 1, Fall 2013, Introductory Microeconomics

External presentations:

2020 European Association of ERE Summer Conference
2019 21st Colorado University Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop (invited), Heartland Environment and Resource Economics Workshop, 7th Workshop on Nonmarket Valuation, AEA/ASSA Meetings (invited)
2018 World Congress of Environment and Resource Economists
2017 Association of Environment/Resource Economists Summer Conference

Honors and Awards:

UW-Madison Student Research Grant Competition Award (2018, 2019)
Barbara Forrest Award (Best 2nd year PhD paper in UW-Madison AAE) (2017)
Co-author on winning UW-Madison Fall Competition Grant: "The economic value of removing lead water pipes: evidence from the Madison replacement program" (2017)
ASU National Merit Scholarship (2008-2012)
ASU Study Abroad Scholarship (2010)

Service and Affiliations:

Peer review for *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*, *Land Economics*
Professional membership: AERE, EAERE

Miscellany:

Languages: English, French (CEFL B2/C1)
Software languages and skills

- Regular use: R, Stata, MATLAB, MS Office, Latex
- Proficient: Python, GIS, Git
- Previous experience: SQL, EViews, SAS, HTML, Java

Citizenship: USA

Adam E. Theising
427 Lorch Court · Madison, WI 53706 · (317) 909 9746 · theising@wisc.edu

Research paper abstracts:

Using urban migration flows to infer nonmarket amenity value *(JMP, R&R @ JAERE, w/ D. J. Phaneuf)*
Economists often use a household's residential location as a revealed preference for place. This paper studies what a household's previous location – their residence during the migration decision – can add to our understanding of tastes for regionally-varying environmental amenities. We show evidence of heterogeneous migration propensities across space and find a correlation between the "stickiness" of a place and its quality of life. This motivates our development and estimation of a generalized national-level sorting model that accommodates heterogeneity in migration costs across origins. Our demand framework uses structure similar to gravity models of migration. We leverage this structure to identify our key parameters from variation in spatial differences of migration flows across origins and destinations. As a result, this model exists in a single temporal cross-section; notably, our flow approach produces credible estimates without relying on temporal variation. In our empirical application, we estimate our model on a national sample of US households who sort amongst metropolitan statistical areas, and report marginal willingness to pay values for climate amenities and air quality.

Lead pipes, prescriptive policy, and property values *(2019, Environmental and Resource Economics)*
Several recent incidences of severe waterborne lead exposure have public authorities and communities across the US rethinking their strategies to address aging water infrastructure. One common question: who should pay for updates? This paper provides evidence of positive property value capitalization effects following remediation of private lead service lines in Madison, WI. Using a 16-year panel of property transactions data and a universal and prescriptive policy change, I identify an average post-replacement price effect on the order of 3–4% of a property's value. This implies a more than 75% average return on public and private remediation costs, suggesting homeowners strongly value the benefits of lead reduction in publicly supplied drinking water.

When is airborne lead pollution salient and costly to homeowners? National evidence from sales near US airports *(In preparation for submission)*
While the US Environmental Protection Agency phased out use of leaded gasoline prior to the year 2000, an exemption for aviation gasoline remains in place to date. Leaded avgas's use is widespread – around 500,000 gallons/day in the US – and its pollution is centralized at thousands of airports. Using quasi-experimental methods, I study how information shocks about this environmental hazard affect housing prices in the vicinity of US general aviation airports. I find little evidence that local prices respond to substantial changes in federal ambient lead standards, monitoring requirements, or variations in local lead emission levels from aviation traffic. I do find strong price responses following (i) reported violations of ambient lead standards and (ii) litigation-generated local disclosure letters. In ongoing work using a similar research design, I tie these findings to the environmental justice literature by studying new information's effect on the longer-run evolution of racial, educational, and income compositions in airport-adjacent neighborhoods.

Consideration sets, characteristic salience, and the marginal utility of income in national sorting models *(In progress, w/ D. J. Phaneuf)*
National spatial equilibrium models require some assumptions to gain tractability. When the end goal is nonmarket valuation, such modelling decisions can measurably affect estimates of interest. We assess the plausibility of several common assumptions and consider their empirical consequences. We collect basic migration data on a national sample of recent mover households, then survey a random subsample about specifics of their migration decision. Survey results show that 95% of households consider 3 or fewer destinations, while many households have inaccurate perceptions of local air quality, though this varies with household's self-rated taste for clean air. These findings and others from the survey motivate ongoing work: we estimate a national sorting model where we revisit measurement of marginal utility from income, incorporate novel household-specific migration costs, and think through welfare implications when households mis-assess amenity levels.