## ALEKSANDR MICHUDA

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#### APPOINTMENTS AND EXPERIENCE

2021+ Assistant Research Center for Data Science for Enterprise and Society, Cornell

Professor University

#### **EDUCATION**

2021 Agricultural and Resource Economics, UC Davis PhD

2014 Economics CUNY Hunter College BA/MA

2014 Philosophy CUNY Hunter College BA

#### References

Michael R. Carter

Distinguished Professor, UC Davis

Dissertation Chair

mrcarter@ucdavis.edu

Dalia Ghanem

Associate Professor, UC Davis Dissertation Committee Member

dghanem@ucdavis.edu

Travis Lybbert

Professor, UC Davis

Dissertation Committee Member

tlybbert@ucdavis.edu

Rachael Goodhue

Department Chair and Professor goodhue@primal.ucdavis.edu

#### Job Market Paper

## Urban Labor Supply Responses to Rural Drought Shocks: Uber in Uganda

Rural-urban linkages have long been a topic of study in the developing world. Remittances are often a key driver of these linkages and can act as insurance against rural weather shock risk, in the absence of availability and access to formal insurance products. The emergence of new technologies, such as gig economy platforms and mobile money, can be potentially transformative at allowing remittance flows to adjust more quickly to adverse shocks. I use a dataset of Uber driver labor supply and a rich dataset of weather indicators to estimate the effect of adverse weather shocks in rural areas on Uber drivers in Kampala, Uganda. Since I do not have explicit information on migrant status and rural connection, I leverage an external dataset of Ugandan voter registration and train a gradient boosting classifier on Ugandan surnames to predict which regions drivers are connected to. I develop a switching regression estimator to address the misclassification bias from the predictions. I find that a one standard deviation increase in the intensity of agricultural drought leads to an increase of 5.1 hours online in the month of the event (a 6% increase over average hours), providing suggestive evidence that Uber's flexibility is used to buffer against adverse weather shocks

### Working Papers

Tjernström, Emilia, Dalia Ghanem, Oscar Barriga Cabanillas, Travis J. Lybbert, Jeffrey D. Michler, and Aleksandr Michuda. "A Group Random Coefficient Approach to Modeling Heterogeneous Returns to Technology Adoption."

Identity, Location, and Voting in Uganda - With Samuel S. Bird

The Russian Mir - With Jonathan Conning

Michuda, Aleksandr, Rachael E. Goodhue, Krishna V. Subbarao, and Daniel Chellemi. "Evaluating a Systems Approach to Suppressive Crop Rotations in Strawberry Production." (2019).

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Development Economics**

Gupta, Anubhab, Heng Zhu, Miki Khanh Doan, Aleksandr Michuda, and Binoy Majumder. "Economic Impacts of the COVID-19 Lockdown in a Remittance-dependent Region." American Journal of Agricultural Economics.

## **Applied Econometrics**

Cabanillas, Oscar Barriga, Jeffrey D. Michler, Aleksandr Michuda, and Emilia Tjernström. "Fitting and interpreting correlated random-coefficient models using Stata." Stata Journal 18, no. 1 (2018): 159-173.

#### **Specialty Crops**

Michuda, Aleksandr, Rachael E. Goodhue, Mark Hoffmann, and Steven A. Fennimore. "Predicting Net Returns of Organic and Conventional Strawberry Following Soil Disinfestation with Steam or Steam Plus Additives." Agronomy 11, no. 1 (2021): 149.

Michuda, Aleksandr, Rachael Goodhue, Karen Klonsky, Graeme Baird, Lucinda Toyama, Margherita Zavatta, Joji Muramoto, and Carol Shennan. "The economic viability of suppressive crop rotations for the control of verticillium wilt in organic strawberry production." Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems 43, no. 9 (2019): 984-1008.

Michuda, Aleksandr, Rachael Goodhue, Joji Muramoto, and Carol Shennan. "Crop Rotations Can Increase Net Returns in Organic Strawberry and Vegetable Production Systems." ARE Update 20(6)(2017): 5-8. University of California Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics.

#### BOOK CHAPTERS

Carter, Michael R., and Aleksandr Michael. "The Distribution of Productive Assets and the Economics of Rural Development and Poverty Reduction." In The Palgrave Handbook of Development Economics, pp. 377-408. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham, 2019.

#### LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

English: Fluent

Russian: Fluent

Ukrainian: Basic Knowledge

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

Python, Stata, LaTeX, R, Github, Bash

#### EXPERIENCE

#### Uber - Data Science Intern - Economics and Pricing

- September 2019 December 2019
- Worked on causal inference in business facing team
- Evaluated policies using regression discontinuity design, difference-in-differences and treatment effect estimation
- Generated spatial and dynamic visualizations of driver behavior using Python and SQL

# BITSS Catalyst- Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences July 2017 - Present

- Organized workshops that teach reproducibility and transparency in social sciences.
- Taught Anonymization of data as well as replication techniques.
- Taught Jupyter Notebooks portion of dynamic documents (R Markdown, Jupyter Notebooks, Stata Markdown)

# Research Assistant (Optimal Nutritional Interventions across Space and Time)

- Advisor: Stephen Vosti
- Responsible for developing a python package that finds the optimal set of nutritional interventions across space and time
  - Using 24hr recall or household surveys
- Estimated optimal interventions of effective coverage and lives saved in Cameroon
- Developed dashboards for HKI (Hellen Keller International) to visualize Vitamin A intake in Kenya

## Research Assistant (Disease Suppressive Crop Rotations)

- Advisor: Rachael E. Goodhue July 2016 September 2019
- Responsible for data management and cleaning
- Regression and ANOVA analysis using Stata and Jupyter Notebooks
- Calibrating dynamic contract models in Python

# PEER REVIEW

- Journal of Agricultural and Food Economics
- American Journal of Agricultural Economics

#### Conferences

BITSS RT2 2020	Dynamic Documents with Jupyter Notebooks
AAEA Meetings 2019	Evaluating a Systems Approach to Suppressive Crop Rotations in Strawberry Production
AAEA Meetings 2018	Political Contributions and the Case of South African Land Reform
AAEA Meetings 2017	The Economic Viability of Suppressive Crop Rotations in Organic Strawberry Production
	Empirically Estimating the Impact of Weather on Agriculture
EEA Conference 2014	The Russian Mir and Agrarian Transition
CUNY's UGRC 2013	Large Frontiers and Coercion: An Economic Perspective

# SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

#### **UC** Davis

CC Davis	
Winter 2021	(CGIAR) SPIA small grant for agricultural innovations in Ethiopia
Fall 2014 - Spring 2016	Steindler Fellowship
Spring 2017	Henry A. Jastro Grant
Fall 2017	BITSS Catalyst Grant
2017	Graduate Student Association President
Hunter College	
Fall 2009 - Spring 2011	Philip and Aida Siff Educational Foundation Scholarship
Fall 2009 - Spring 2011	Vallone Scholarship

All Semesters

Dean's List

Spring 2012

Undergraduate Research Initiative

Fall 2012

Roosevelt House Faculty Associate Travel and Research Grant

Spring 2013

Phi Sigma Tau (Philosophy Honor Society) Member

Spring 2013

The Scholarship and Welfare Fund Graduate Scholarship

Fall 2013

JMS Scholarship

Fall 2013

Eastern Economic Association Member

Spring 2014 William S. Bryar Memorial Award