Aleksandr Michuda

Address: 602 Adams st. Apt. 18, Davis, CA 95616

Phone: 718-564-9741

Email: amichuda@ucdavis.edu

Appointments and Experience

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

Travis Lybbert
Professor, UC Davis
Dissertation Committee Member
tlybbert@ucdavis.edu

Dalia Ghanem
Associate Professor, UC Davis
Dissertation Committee Member
dghanem@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 Michuda. "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

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