Lifeng Ren

Lifeng Ren is a PhD student who is a member of the 2021 PhD cohort. Prior to joining the department, Lifeng earned both MS in Applied Mathematics and Agr. And Resource economics from UC Davis as well as a BS in Agr. Economics and Mathematics with Computer Science from Purdue University. Working closely with Steve Polasky and Justin Johnson, his research interests focus on natural resource economics and the impacts of climate change. While Quarto is a new application, Lifeng has experience working in R and Python having just recently taught the R Coding camp for 2023.

Charlotte Ambrozek

“Networking for the Job Market and Beyond”

Charlotte Ambrozek is an assistant professor that joined the Applied Economics department in 2022. Charlotte earned her PhD at UC Davis with research focused on Nutrition and food policy. Charlotte has presented at and networked through several nationally recognized conferences for the AAEA, SEA, WEAI, and AERE. With her recent success on the job-market, Charlotte is well positioned to provide insight into networking for the academic job-market.

Terry Hurley

“Writing Theory for Reduced Form Models”

Terry Hurley in the Interim division head for the applied economics department and Austin A. Dowell Professor. Terry's research focuses on profitability, risk, and regulation of emerging agricultural technologies. Terry has written several empirical and theoretical papers that have published in Nature, the Journal of Public Economics, Science, the American Journal of Agricultural Economics, and Food Policy amongst others. Having taught several years of the PhD microeconomics sequence, Terry is a champion of reduced form models being applied in PhD dissertations, as well as published research more broadly.

Libby Kula

“Intro to Zotero and Efficient Literature Review Practices”

Libby Kula is a PhD student who is a member of the 2020 PhD cohort. Prior to joining the department, Libby earned her BS in Economics and Mathematics at St. Catherine University, as well as undertaking a predoctoral fellowship with Dr. Kristine West. Libby has also worked as a program coordinator for the Minnesota Center for Diversity in Economics as well as a research assistant for gender and public policy at the Humphrey school. Libby's research interests focus on inequality and the environment, working closely with Steve Polasky and Justin Johnson. Libby has extensive experience working in the research process and using Zotero as a tool for creating efficiency in the literature review process.

Haseeb Ali

“Git, Github, Batch Files, and Unix Shell”

Haseeb Ali is a PhD student who is a member of the 2016 PhD cohort. Prior to joining the department, Haseeb earned a MS in economics from the university of british columbia as well as at Lahore University of Management Sciences having started out with a Mechanical engineering degree from Worcester Polytchnic Institute. Haseeb's has worked extensively as a research assistant at UMN for the past 6 years. For the past 2 years Haseeb has worked as a senior data scientist for Securian Financial, and currently is an industry job market candidate. As a data scientist by trade, Haseeb has developed skills with Git, Github, and other tools to improve workflow and reproducibility of results.

Matt Bombyk

“Advancements in the Difference in Differences Literature”

Matt Bombyk is a job market candidate who is a member of the 2017 PhD cohort. Matt earned his bachelors in economics and biology from UM-Morris prior to joining the department, and has earned his masters in applied economics while attending the program. Matt has worked in Mongolia for the Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, and the Minnesota Population Center (MPC). Working closely with Marc Bellemare, Matt's research focuses on labor economic issues. While working on his dissertation, Matt has developed an expertise in the current state of the difference in differences literature and it's application for applied economists.