

# Ahmad Z. Wahdat

---

## EDUCATION

**Purdue University**, West Lafayette, Indiana USA

PhD in Agricultural Economics

August 2021

*Fields:* Behavioral Economics, Agricultural & Food Economics, Consumption Behavior, Household Finance, Natural Disasters

*Specialization:* Computational Science

*Econometrics/Data Science Courses:* Probability & Statistics, Econometrics, Nonparametric Econometrics, Microeconometrics, Mathematical Programming, Statistical & Machine Learning, Data Engineering, Linear Algebra for Data Science

**Tufts University**, Medford, Massachusetts USA

M.S. Economics

May 2012

**Oberlin College**, Oberlin, Ohio USA

B.A. Economics (Honors)

May 2010

## EXPERIENCE

**EPG Group (on-hire to Purdue University)**, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

*Research Scientist (Lead Economist)*

March, 2025 - Present

**Purdue University**, Department of Agricultural Economics, West Lafayette, IN USA

*Research Scientist (Lead Economist)*

January, 2024 - February, 2025

*Postdoctoral Research Associate*

August, 2021 - December 2023

*Graduate Research Assistant*

August, 2017 - August, 2021

**The World Bank**, The Development Impact Evaluation Unit (DECIE), Washington, D.C. USA

*Consultant to the Integrated Agricultural Productivity Project (IAPP)*

April, 2016 - August, 2017

**Harvard Business School**, Boston, Massachusetts USA

*Research Associate*

Sept., 2013 - March, 2016

**MIT Sloan School of Management**, Cambridge, Massachusetts USA

*Research Assistant*

Sept., 2012 - August, 2013

## STARTUPS

**Data for Afghanistan** (<https://dataforafghanistan.org>)

*Founder*

August, 2024 - Present

## PEER-REVIEW ARTICLES

Wahdat, Ahmad Z., and Sam Polzin. 2025. "Of Storms and Fires: Understanding Heterogenous Relationship of Food Insufficiency and Disaster Displacement in the United States." *Economics of*

*Disasters and Climate Change*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41885-025-00174-8>

Wahdat, Ahmad Z., Bryant, Elijah H., Hubbell, Caitlinn B., Balagtas, Joseph V. 2025. "The Role of Risk Preferences and Risk Perceptions in Risky Food Behaviors: Evidence from the US." *Journal of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association*, 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jaa2.70025>

Wahdat, Ahmad Z., and Jayson L. Lusk. 2025. "Understanding the Determinants of Consumer Grocery Stockpiling Behavior." *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics/Revue canadienne d'agroeconomie*, 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cjag.12379>

Wahdat, Ahmad Z., and Jayson L. Lusk. 2024. "Extreme Weather Events, Food Shopping Behavior, and Card Spending." *Journal of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association*, 3, 673-689. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jaa2.140>

Polzin, Sam S., Lusk, Jayson L., and Ahmad Zia Wahdat. 2023. "Measuring Sustainable Consumer Food Purchasing and Behavior." *Appetite*, 180, 106369. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.appet.2022.106369>

Wahdat, Ahmad Z., and Jayson L. Lusk. 2023. "The Achilles Heel of the U.S. Food Industries: Exposure to Labor and Upstream Industries in the Supply Chain." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 105(2): 624-643. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajae.12331>

Wahdat, Ahmad Z. 2022. "Economic Impact Payments and Household Food Insufficiency during COVID-19: The Case of Late Recipients." *Economics of Disasters and Climate Change*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41885-022-00115-9>

Wahdat, Ahmad Z., Michael A. Gunderson, and Jayson L. Lusk. 2021. "Farm Producers' Household Consumption and Individual Risk Behavior after Natural Disasters." *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review*, 50(1), 127-149. <https://doi.org/10.1017/age.2021.2>

Wahdat, Ahmad Z., and Michael A. Gunderson. 2021. "Principal Operators' Farm Risk Attitudes in Hot and Cold Climates." *Agricultural Finance Review*, 82(5), 797-814. <https://doi.org/10.1108/AFR-06-2021-0087>

#### ARTICLES UNDER JOURNAL REVIEW

Wahdat, Ahmad Z. "Income Shocks and Loss Aversion in Consumption Expenditures: Evidence from Australia." (submitted to journal)

Wahdat, Ahmad Z. "Household Financial Hardship and Coping Behavior after Disaster Displacement: Evidence from Natural Disasters in the US" (submitted to journal)

Wahdat, Ahmad Z., Yuansen Li, and Jayson L. Lusk. "Spatial Vulnerability of the U.S. Meatpacking Industry." (submitted to journal)

Wahdat, Ahmad Z., and Michael S. Delgado. "A Decade of U.S. Natural Disasters and Household Food-at-Home Consumption and Quality: A Quasi-Experimental Study." (Working paper)

#### PEER REVIEWER

American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Finance Review, Agricultural and Resource Economics Review, Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics, Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics

#### RESEARCH GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Principal Investigator on a \$649,517 USDA-NIFA grant project, "Alternative Data to Measure Food-Away-from-Home Markets and their Resiliency." (with Tor Tolhurst, Jayson Lusk, Joseph Balagtas, and Valerie Kilders) 2023-2026

**University of Melbourne**, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economics, Melbourne, Victoria  
*Visiting Researcher* February-May, 2020

**Princeton University**, School of Public and International Affairs, New Jersey, USA  
*Non-Resident Fellow* October, 2023 - July, 2024

**AWARDS**

**Ornella Maietta Best Paper Award (runner-up)**, 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Italian Association of Agricultural and Applied Economics July 2023

**Yirgou Endowment Travel Award (\$500)**, Purdue University September 2019

**Hicks Grant (\$300)**, Agricultural Economics, Purdue University March 2019

**PhD Tuition & Stipend**, Agricultural Economics, Purdue University 2017-2021

**Fulbright Scholarship**, Oberlin College 2007 – 2010

**TEACHING**

**Lecturer**, AGECE 217 Macroeconomics (Score=4/5), Summer 2021, Purdue University

**Teaching Assistant**, AGECE 217 Macroeconomics, Fall/Spring 2020-21, Purdue University

**Teaching Assistant**, MS-MBA Quantitative Methods (4.9/5), Fall 2018 & 2019, Purdue University

**DIGITAL & SURVEY PRODUCTS**

Balagtas, Joseph, Elijah Bryant and Ahmad Zia Wahdat. 2024. "Consumer Food Insights." Report. Volume 3, Issue 11. Center for Food Demand Analysis & Sustainability, Purdue University. Access: [https://ag.purdue.edu/cfdas/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Report\\_202411-1.pdf](https://ag.purdue.edu/cfdas/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Report_202411-1.pdf)

Subramaniam, Annapurni, Ahmad Z. Wahdat, and Jayson L. Lusk. 2022. "Economic Profile of Food Service Industries." Data Dashboard. Center for Food Demand Analysis & Sustainability, Department of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University. Access: <https://ag.purdue.edu/cfdas/resource-library/economic-profile-of-food-service-industries/>

Wahdat, Ahmad Z., and Jayson L. Lusk. 2021. "Food Industries' Vulnerable Input Purchases via Exposure to Upstream Industries and Labor Occupations." Data Dashboard. Center for Food Demand Analysis & Sustainability, Purdue University. Access: <https://ag.purdue.edu/cfdas/resource-library/food-industries-vulnerable-input-purchases-via-exposure-to-upstream-industries-and-labor-occupations/>

Wahdat, Ahmad Z., and Jayson L. Lusk. 2021. "Food and Beverage Industries' Value Added by U.S. State." Data Dashboard. Center for Food Demand Analysis & Sustainability, Purdue University. Access: <https://ag.purdue.edu/cfdas/resource-library/food-and-beverage-industries-value-added-by-u-s-state/>

Wahdat, Ahmad Z., and Jayson L. Lusk. 2021. "Food and Beverage Industries' Covid-19 Vulnerability Index by U.S. State and Counties." Data Dashboard. Center for Food Demand Analysis & Sustainability, Purdue University. Access: <https://ag.purdue.edu/cfdas/resource-library/food-and-beverage-industries-covid-19-vulnerability-index-by-u-s-state-and-counties/>

d-and-beverage-industries-covid-19-vulnerability-index-by-u-s-state-and-counties/

MEDIA ARTICLES	<p>Joseph Balagtas, Elijah Bryant, Caitlinn Hubbell, Ahmad Wahdat. 2024. "Consumer risk attitudes and risk perceptions influence food safety" Chew on This! Blog Series. <a href="https://ag.purdue.edu/cfdas/chew-on-this/consumer-risk-attitudes-and-risk-perceptions-influence-food-safety/">https://ag.purdue.edu/cfdas/chew-on-this/consumer-risk-attitudes-and-risk-perceptions-influence-food-safety/</a></p> <p>Polzin, Sam, Ahmad Z. Wahdat, and Jayson L. Lusk. 2022. "Why food insecurity among Gen Z is so much higher than for other age groups." The Conversation. <a href="https://theconversation.com/why-food-insecurity-among-gen-z-is-so-much-higher-than-for-other-age-groups-187736">https://theconversation.com/why-food-insecurity-among-gen-z-is-so-much-higher-than-for-other-age-groups-187736</a></p> <p>Ahmad Z. Wahdat. 2022. "Hurricanes and Consumers: The Power of Granularity in Understanding Consumer Behavior" Facteus. <a href="https://www.facteus.com/money-talks/hurricanes-and-consumers-the-power-of-granularity-in-understanding-consumer-behavior">https://www.facteus.com/money-talks/hurricanes-and-consumers-the-power-of-granularity-in-understanding-consumer-behavior</a></p> <p>Wahdat, Ahmad Z., Michael A. Gunderson, and Jayson L. Lusk. 2020. "Specialty Farm Households' Consumption and Risk Behavior after Natural Disasters." Special Edition: COVID-19 Impact on Agriculture, Purdue Agricultural Economics Report, Purdue University. <a href="https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag/home/paer-article/specialty-farm-households-consumption-and-risk-behavior-after-natural-disasters/">https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag/home/paer-article/specialty-farm-households-consumption-and-risk-behavior-after-natural-disasters/</a></p> <p>Wahdat, Ahmad Z. 2019. "A Decade of US Weather Disasters: Hazards, Exposure, and Vulnerability." Medium.com. <a href="https://medium.com/data-science/a-decade-of-u-s-weather-disasters-hazards-exposure-and-vulnerability-7eeef46b3699">https://medium.com/data-science/a-decade-of-u-s-weather-disasters-hazards-exposure-and-vulnerability-7eeef46b3699</a></p>
INDUSTRY COLLABORATIONS	<p><b>Princeton School of Public and International Affairs:</b> Ahmad Z. Wahdat. 2024. "The Correlates of Food Insecurity in Afghanistan." <a href="https://spia.princeton.edu/sites/default/files/2024-06/Wahdat%20-%20June2024%20-%20SPIA-APL%20-%20The%20Correlates%20of%20Food%20Insecurity%20in%20Afghanistan.pdf">https://spia.princeton.edu/sites/default/files/2024-06/Wahdat%20-%20June2024%20-%20SPIA-APL%20-%20The%20Correlates%20of%20Food%20Insecurity%20in%20Afghanistan.pdf</a></p> <p><b>AgriNovus Indiana:</b> Center for Food Demand Analysis &amp; Sustainability. 2023. "Tackling and Solving Food Insecurity with Private Sector Innovations". <a href="https://agrinovusindiana.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/HungerTech_AgriNovus_Whitepaper0329.pdf">https://agrinovusindiana.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/HungerTech_AgriNovus_Whitepaper0329.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Facteus:</b> Ahmad Z. Wahdat. 2022. "Hurricanes and Consumers: The Power of Granularity in Understanding Consumer Behavior". <a href="https://www.facteus.com/money-talks/hurricanes-and-consumers-the-power-of-granularity-in-understanding-consumer-behavior">https://www.facteus.com/money-talks/hurricanes-and-consumers-the-power-of-granularity-in-understanding-consumer-behavior</a></p>
CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS	<p>CFDAS Seed Grant Workshop, Purdue University (2024)</p> <p>12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Italian Association of Agricultural and Applied Economics (2023)</p> <p>183<sup>rd</sup> European Association of Agricultural Economists Seminar (2022)</p> <p>Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Conference (2019, 2020, 2024)</p> <p>Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society Conference (2020, 2024)</p> <p>Workshop on Field Experiments, World Bank (2017)</p> <p>International Carroll Round Conference, Georgetown University (2011)</p>
PRESENTATIONS & CHAIRED SESSIONS	<p>Speaker at the 79<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly Side Event, 2024, New York. "Aid Effectiveness in Afghanistan: Centering Women and Girls in the Fight Against Food Insecurity"</p> <p>Speaker at the joint event by the Afghanistan Policy Lab (APL) at Princeton School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) and the Georgetown Institute for Women Peace and Security (GIWPS),</p>

2024, Washington, D.C. “Three Years Later: The Dire State of Afghanistan and Global Strategies for Ways Forward”

Presenter at Center for Food Demand Analysis & Sustainability Seed Grant Workshop, 2024, West Lafayette, Indiana — “The Role of Risk Preferences and Risk Perceptions in Risky Food Behaviors: Evidence from the US”

Presenter at Australasian Agricultural & Resource Economics Society Conference, 2024, Canberra, Australia — “Investigating the Causal Effect of Natural Disasters on Household Food Insufficiency in the US”

Presenter at 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Italian Association of Agricultural and Applied Economics, 2023, Milan, Italy

Presenter at 183<sup>rd</sup> EAAE Seminar on Experimental and Behavioural Economics Research in Agri-Food and the Environment, 2022, Zagreb, Croatia — “Grocery Shortages and Consumer Shopping Behavior”

Presenter at Purdue Experimental Economics Brown Bag, 2022 — “Grocery Shortages and Consumer Shopping Behavior”

Session Chair & Organizer at AAEA, 2020 — “Specialty Crop Producers’ Managerial Decisions and Risk Preferences: Responding to Consumer Tastes and Natural Disasters”

Presenter at AAEA, 2020 — “Specialty Producers’ Household Consumption and Individual Risk Behavior after Natural Disasters”

Presenter at AARES, 2020 — “U.S. Agricultural CEOs’ Farm-Operation Risk Attitudes between Hot and Cold Temperature Climates”

## SKILLS

*Computer Languages:* Python, SQL, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

*Statistical Programming:* Stata, R, Matlab

*Application Software:* Microsoft Packages, MySQL, Tableau, PowerBI, ArcGIS, GAMS

*Fluent Languages:* Pashto, Dari (Farsi), Urdu, Hindi, English, Arabic (Intermediate)