

BILLY FERGUSON

[Personal Website](#)

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(913)-638-0687

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of California, Berkeley *2025 - present*
S.V. Ciriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics

EDUCATION

Stanford Graduate School of Business *2019 - 2025*
PhD in Economic Analysis and Policy
Committee: Ali Yurukoglu, Paul Milgrom, and Lanier Benkard.
Stanford University *2015 - 2019*
BS in Mathematics

PUBLICATIONS

1. "Market Design for Surface Water" with Paul Milgrom. Forthcoming in *New Directions in Market Design*, NBER Volume.
2. "What Explains Temporal and Geographic Variation in the Early US Coronavirus Pandemic?" with Hunt Allcott, Levi Boxell, Jacob Conway, Matthew Gentzkow, and Benny Goldman. *Review of Economic Design* (29). December 2024.
3. "Estimating Experienced Racial Segregation in US Cities using Large-Scale GPS Data" with Susan Athey, Matthew Gentzkow and Tobias Schmidt. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 118(46). November 2021.

WORKING PAPERS

3. "Trade Frictions in Surface Water Markets" (Job Market Paper).
4. "Assessing the Sensitivity of Synthetic Control Treatment Effect Estimates to Misspecification Error" with Brad Ross. (Reject and Resubmit at *The Review of Economics and Statistics*).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

6. "Local Economic Spillovers from Water Trade" with Zane Kashner.
7. "Harnessing the World Trading System to Fight Climate Change" with Robert Staiger and Ali Yurukoglu.
8. "Robust Rights to the Commons" with Bing Liu.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

S.V. Ciriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellow

Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability Accelerator Grant

Gerald H. Blum Fellowship

Gustav H. Benkendorf and Elizabeth Benkendorf Scholarship

The Institutional Venture Partners Fellowship

Stanford in Government Stipend

Undergraduate Advising and Research Major Grant

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

2026: AEA/ASSA Spatial Environmental Economics Session (scheduled)

2025: Wharton BEPP Applied Economics Workshop, NYU Stern Economics, Harvard Economics, Yale Economics, UC Berkeley ARE, Washington University in St. Louis, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, UC Davis Groundwater Markets Workshop

2024: Advancing Sustainable Water Management Conference at Stanford, Columbia Business School DRO, Law of the Colorado River Conference

REFEREE SERVICE

AER: Insights, Journal of Public Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Dynamics, Journal of Institutional Economics, Nature Sustainability