

David Ubilava

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RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Agricultural Economics, Commodity Markets, Conflict, Forecasting

CURRENT APPOINTMENT

2023- **Associate Professor** – School of Economics, University of Sydney

PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS

2017-2022 **Senior Lecturer** – School of Economics, University of Sydney

2014-2016 **Lecturer** – School of Economics, University of Sydney

2012-2013 **Lecturer** – Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Sydney

2010-2012 **Post-Doctoral Researcher** – Department of Agricultural Economics, Mississippi State University

2005-2010 **Graduate Research Assistant** – Department of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University

EDITORIAL ROLES

2018- **Co-Editor** – Food Policy (IF: **6.5**)

2022- **Associate Editor** – American J of Agricultural Economics (IF: **4.2**; ABDC: **A***)

2020-2021 **Associate Editor** – Australian J of Agricultural and Resource Economics (IF: **3.2**)

EDUCATION

2010 **Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics** – Purdue University (USA)

2006 **M.S. in Agricultural Economics** – Purdue University (USA)

2003 **B.S. in Economics** – Georgia State Agrarian University (Georgia)

RESEARCH IMPACT

Google Scholar citations: 1127, h-index: **18**.

Scopus citations: 570, h-index: **14**.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

2025 **Quality of Research Discovery Award** – Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society

2024 **Research Collaboration Award** – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney

2017 **Teaching Excellence Award** – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- (25) Hastings, J. V. and D. Ubilava (2025). Agricultural Roots of Social Conflict in Southeast Asia. *Journal of Peace Research* (in press). <https://doi.org/10.1177/00223433241305990>.
- (24) Ubilava, D. (2024). Climate, Crops, and Postharvest Conflict. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* (in press). <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajae.12503>.
- (23) Ubilava, D., J. V. Hastings, and K. Atalay (2023). Agricultural Windfalls and the Seasonality of Political Violence in Africa. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 105(5), 1309–1332. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajae.12364>.
- (22) Ferguson, S. and D. Ubilava (2022). Global Commodity Market Disruption and the Fallout. *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* 66(4), 737–752. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8489.12497>.
- (21) Ubilava, D. (2022). A Comparison of Multistep Commodity Price Forecasts Using Direct and Iterated Smooth Transition Autoregressive Methods. *Agricultural Economics* 53(5), 687–701. <https://doi.org/10.1111/agec.12707>.
- (20) Hastings, J. V., S. G. Phillips, D. Ubilava, and A. Vasnev (2022). Price Transmission in Conflict-Affected States: Evidence from Cereal Markets of Somalia. *Journal of African Economies* 31(3), 272–291. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jae/ejab012>.
- (19) Angus, S. D., K. Atalay, J. Newton, and D. Ubilava (2021). Geographic Diversity in Economic Publishing. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* 190, 255–262. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jebo.2021.08.005>.
- (18) Atalay, K., R. Edwards, S. Schurer, and D. Ubilava (2021). Lives Saved During Economic Downturns: Evidence from Australia. *Health Economics* 30(10), 2452–2467. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hec.4394>.
- (17) Ubilava, D., N. B. Villoria, and J. B. Tack (2019). Smooth Transitions Across Latitudes and Longitudes: An Application of a Nonlinear Panel Regression to the Climate–Economics Nexus. *Economics Letters* 182, 114–117. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econlet.2019.06.011>.
- (16) Ubilava, D. and M. Abdolrahimi (2019). The El Niño Impact on Maize Yields is Amplified in Lower Income Teleconnected Countries. *Environmental Research Letters* 14, 054008. <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ab0cd0>.
- (15) Ubilava, D. (2019). On the Relationship between Financial Instability and Economic Performance: Stressing the Business of Nonlinear Modelling. *Macroeconomic Dynamics* 23(1), 80–100. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1365100516001127>.
- (14) Ubilava, D. (2018). The Role of El Niño Southern Oscillation in Commodity Price Movement and Predictability. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 100(1), 239–263. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajae/aax060>.
- (13) Smith, S. C. and D. Ubilava (2017). The El Niño Southern Oscillation and Economic Growth in the Developing World. *Global Environmental Change* 45, 151–164. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2017.05.007>.
- (12) Ubilava, D. (2017). The ENSO Effect and Asymmetries in Wheat Price Dynamics. *World Development* 96, 490–502. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2017.03.031>.
- (11) Tack, J. B. and D. Ubilava (2015). Climate and Agricultural Risk: Measuring the Effect of ENSO on U.S. Crop Insurance. *Agricultural Economics* 46(2), 245–257. <https://doi.org/10.1111/agec.12154>.
- (10) Ubilava, D. (2014). El Niño Southern Oscillation and the Fishmeal–Soya Bean Meal Price Ratio: Regime-Dependent Dynamics Revisited. *European Review of Agricultural Economics* 41(4), 583–604. <https://doi.org/10.1093/erae/jbt033>.
- (9) Tack, J. B. and D. Ubilava (2013). The Effect of El Niño Southern Oscillation on U.S. Corn Production and Downside Risk. *Climatic Change* 121(4), 689–700. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-013-0918-x>.
- (8) Ubilava, D. and C. G. Helmers (2013). Forecasting ENSO with a Smooth Transition Autoregressive Model. *Environmental Modelling & Software* 40(1), 181–190. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsoft.2012.09.008>.
- (7) Ubilava, D. and M. T. Holt (2013). El Niño Southern Oscillation and its Effects on World Vegetable Oil Prices: Assessing Asymmetries using Smooth Transition Models. *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* 57(2), 273–297. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8489.2012.00616.x>.

- (6) Ubilava, D. (2012). El Niño, La Niña, and World Coffee Price Dynamics. *Agricultural Economics* 43(1), 17–26. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1574-0862.2011.00562.x>.
- (5) Ubilava, D. (2012). Modeling Nonlinearities in the U.S. Soybean-to-Corn Price Ratio: A Smooth Transition Autoregression Approach. *Agribusiness: an International Journal* 28(1), 29–41. <https://doi.org/10.1002/agr.20292>.
- (4) Ubilava, D., B. J. Barnett, K. H. Coble, and A. Harri (2011). The SURE Program and Its Interaction with Other Federal Farm Programs. *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* 36(3), 630–648. <https://jareonline.org/articles/the-sure-program-and-its-interaction-with-other-federal-farm-programs/>.
- (3) Ubilava, D., K. A. Foster, J. L. Lusk, and T. Nilsson (2011). Differences in Consumer Preferences when Facing Branded versus Non-branded Choices. *Journal of Consumer Behaviour* 10(2), 61–70. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cb.349>.
- (2) Ubilava, D., K. A. Foster, J. L. Lusk, and T. Nilsson (2010). Effects of Income and Social Awareness on Consumer WTP for Social Product Attributes. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change* 77(4), 587–593. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techfore.2009.02.002>.
- (1) Ubilava, D. and K. A. Foster (2009). Quality certification vs. product traceability: Consumer preferences for informational attributes of pork in Georgia. *Food Policy* 34(3), 305–310. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2009.02.002>.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Work in Progress

- (2) Amarasinghe, A., J. D. Merfeld, and D. Ubilava (in preparation). *Roads and Riots*.
- (1) Richards, T. J., M. Polyviou, and D. Ubilava (in preparation). *Market Concentration and Resilience in Agricultural Supply Chains*.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Australian Research Council

2024-2026 Discovery Project (\$AU 190,000; Lead CI)

Other Sources

2022 Sydney Southeast Asia Centre Collaborative Research Grant (\$AU 18,094; Co-PI)

2017-2018 FASS Collaborative Research Scheme (\$AU 39,963; Co-PI)

2015 FASS Research Support Scheme (\$AU 7,818)

2014 FASS Research Incubator (\$AU 4,984)

RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT

Media Appearance

“Why India’s export ban and the looming El Niño spell big trouble for global rice stocks,” *The Telegraph*, 26 July 2023

“Food Prices Are Soaring Faster Than Inflation and Incomes,” *Bloomberg*, 1 March 2021

“Winter Is Coming: La Niña Poised to Storm the Markets,” *The Wall Street Journal*, 23 December 2015

Popular Writings

- “Harvest season is also peak time for conflict in rural societies,” *Sydney Business Insights*, September 2023
- “What this year’s El Niño means for wheat and global food supply,” *The Conversation*, 14 July 2023
- “Higher cereal prices can fuel political violence linked with a harvest season in the croplands of Africa,” *VoxEU*, 22 May 2022
- “Russia’s war on Ukraine is driving up wheat prices and threatens global supplies of bread, meat and eggs,” *The Conversation*, 15 March 2022
- “Editorial boards of leading economics journals show high institutional concentration and modest geographic diversity,” *VoxEU*, 31 July 2021
- “So you think economic downturns cost lives? Our findings show they don’t,” *The Conversation*, 25 November 2020
- “Lives saved during economic downturns: Evidence from Australia,” *VoxEU*, 2 November 2020

Invited Seminars and Conference Presentations (*=virtual)

- 2024 AARES 2024 Annual Meeting (Canberra AUS); Economic Impacts of Climate Change Workshop (Sydney AUS); University of Auckland (Auckland NZ); Conflict Research Society Annual Conference (Edinburgh UK); IAMO/ISSET International Workshop (Tbilisi GEO).
- 2023 Monash Environmental Economics Workshop (Melbourne AUS); Econometric Society Australasian Meeting 2023 (Sydney AUS); IAMO 2023 Forum (*Haale GER); Australian Development Economics Workshop (Sydney AUS); Canadian Agri-Food Policy Conference (*Ottawa CAN).
- 2022 *Virginia Tech (USA).
- 2021 AAEA 2021 Annual Meeting (*Austin USA); Econometric Society Australasian Meeting 2021 (*Melbourne AUS).
- 2020 Strengthening Understanding of the Economic Impacts of Climate Change (*LSE UK); *Australian National University; International Symposium on Forecasting (*Rio de Janeiro BRA); ANZESG 2020 Annual Meeting (Melbourne AUS).
- 2019 2019 Workshop on Energy Economics (Seoul, Korea); AAEA 2019 Annual Meeting (Atlanta USA); AARES 2019 Annual Meeting (Melbourne AUS).
- 2018 AAEA 2018 Annual Meeting (Washington DC); ANZESG 2018 Annual Meeting (Brisbane AUS); AARES 2018 Annual Meeting (Adelaide AUS).
- 2017 Kansas State University (USA); UC Davis (USA); UC Berkeley (USA); Climate Econometrics 2017 Annual Meeting (Oxford UK).
- 2016 Oklahoma State University (USA); University of Illinois (USA); University of Minnesota (USA); AAEA 2016 Annual Meeting (Boston USA); Econometric Society Australasian Meeting 2016 (Sydney AUS).
- 2015 University of Adelaide (AUS); University of Pretoria (ZAF); Tbilisi State University (GEO); ANZESG 2015 Annual Meeting (Brisbane AUS).
- 2014 Aarhus University (DEN); University of New South Wales (AUS); USDA/ERS (Washington DC); AAEA 2014 Annual Meeting (Minneapolis USA); IAMO 2014 Forum (Haale GER); IIF 2014 International Symposium (Rotterdam NLD).
- 2013 AAEA 2013 Annual Meeting (Washington DC); AARES 2013 Annual Meeting (Sydney AUS).
- 2012 SCC-76 2012 Annual Meeting (Pensacola USA); SAEA 2012 Annual Meeting (Birmingham USA).

TEACHING

Current Courses

2018–	Agricultural Markets
2013–	Forecasting for Economics and Business

Previous Courses

Agribusiness Marketing (2013-2014); Commodity Market and Price Analysis (2015-2017); Econometric Analysis (2015-2019); Environmental Economics (2016,2019-2021); Industrial Organization (2013-2014,2016); Introduction to Econometrics (2021); Research Exercises (2012-2013)

PhD Supervising

2017-2024	Maryam Abdolrahimi (PhD)
2014-2017	Jan Orlowski (PhD)

Honours and Masters Thesis Supervising

2022	Jesse Yu, Aiden Cheney
2021	Blanca Perrin, Timothy Simic
2019	Blake Velkovski (Second Class/Division 1)
2018	Andrew Gaffney (First Class/Academic Merit Prize)
2015	Sarah Smith (First Class/University Medal; Best Thesis – AARES), Edward Tan

SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY

2024-2025	Academic Board Member , <i>University of Sydney</i>
2017-2019	Undergraduate Coordinator , <i>School of Economics, University of Sydney</i>
2016-2017	Seminar Coordinator , <i>School of Economics, University of Sydney</i>

SERVICE TO DISCIPLINE

Editorship

2022–	Associate Editor , <i>American Journal of Agricultural Economics</i>
2018–	Co-Editor , <i>Food Policy</i>
2020-2021	Associate Editor , <i>Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics</i>

Refereeing

Australian Research Council (2019,2020,2022)

Agribusiness: an International Journal; Agricultural Economics; American Journal of Agricultural Economics; Applied Economics Perspectives and Policy; Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics; Climatic Change; Ecological Economics; Empirical Economics; Environmental Management; Environmental Modelling & Software; Environmental Research Letters; Energy Policy; European Review of Agricultural Economics; Food Policy; Global Environmental Change; International Food and Agribusiness Management Review; International Journal of Climatology; Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics; Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics Association; Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics; Journal of Development Economics; Journal of Commodity Markets; Journal of Econometrics; Journal of Environmental Economics and Management; Nature Communications; Nature Food; Nature Sustainability; Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics; Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences; Technological Forecasting & Social Change; The World Economy; World Development.

Organized conferences, workshops, seminars

- 2024 **Workshop Co-organizer**, *School of Economics, University of Sydney*: “Social Conflict and Political Economy (SCoPE)”
- 2023 **Workshop Co-organizer**, *School of Economics, University of Sydney*: “Semi-Periodic Agricultural & Development Economics Research Symposium (SPADERS)”
- 2021 **Local Organizing Committee, Chair of Papers Sub-Committee**, *Australian Agricultural & Resource Economics Society 2021 Annual Meeting*
- 2020 **Session Organizer**, *Agricultural & Applied Economics Association 2020 Annual Meeting*: “Causal vs. Structural” and “Forecasting Techniques”
- 2019 **Workshop Co-organizer**, *Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney*: “Market Integration in Failed States”
- 2018 **Session Organizer**, *Agricultural & Applied Economics Association 2018 Annual Meeting*: “Climate Econometrics—New Regression Methods and Practices”

Professional Leadership

- 2018-2020 **Chair-Elect/Chair**, *Econometrics Section, Agricultural & Applied Economics Association*
- 2017-2018 **Secretary/Treasurer**, *Econometrics Section, Agricultural & Applied Economics Association*

Professional Membership

Agricultural & Applied Economics Association; Australian Agricultural & Resource Economics Society.