

AMOUNT OF TIME AS AN ACTIVE RESEARCHER

I was awarded my PhD 13 years ago in 2010 and in that period, I have experienced no career interruptions.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

In graduate school, I was awarded the Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship, which was a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State. This highly competitive award, designed for students from post-Soviet countries, allowed me to enrol into, and subsequently complete, the doctorate program in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University – one of the top programs in the field. During my doctorate studies, I was afforded opportunities to interact with renowned scholars in my area of expertise, which includes my advisory committee and, specifically, my major advisor, and subsequent co-author, Prof Matt Holt.

During 2010-2012 I was employed as a post-doctoral research associate at Mississippi State University. This was a 100% research appointment, with some minor administrative responsibilities. In this role, I was reporting to my advisor, Prof Keith Coble, and also was given an opportunity to interact with a team of collaborators at the United States Department of Agriculture. This interaction allowed me to appreciate the symbiotic relationship between academic sector and governmental policymakers.

Since 2012, I have been employed at the University of Sydney, first as a Lecturer (2012-2016), then as a Senior Lecturer (2017-2022), and most recently as an Associate Professor (2023-present). In all instances, my appointment has been a standard continuing academic staff position (40% teaching, 40% research, and 20% governance, leadership, and engagement). As part of the academic promotions and development program, I have had a benefit of receiving valuable academic advice from the senior colleagues, which revolved around all three dimensions of my appointment, including research.

RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Over time, I developed the program of research that advances knowledge by applying state of the art econometric techniques to granular data on markets and prices. More recently, my program branched out into urgent to society topics, such as causes and consequences of conflict and political violence, with specific focus on market disruptions and inefficiencies.

One of the vivid examples of my contribution in advancing of knowledge in the field is my recently accepted article in the American Journal of Agricultural Economics (AJAE), where my co-authors and propose the seasonal model of agrarian violence and examine this model using over two decades of geographically rich data across Africa. Another example is my 2018 article in the AJAE, where I examine the predictive power of climate shocks, induced by the El Nino Southern Oscillation cycle in a large set of primary commodity prices. To date I have published twenty-three refereed journal articles, including the recent article in the Journal of African Economies that, together with the aforementioned two articles, is of direct relevance to the research question in this application.

My published articles and conference proceedings have been impactful in the scholarly world. My research has been cited more than 850 times, and has led to h-index 15 (as per Google Scholar): both high measures by standards in the field of economics.

The primary outlet of my research dissemination is peer-reviewed academic journals. Of my twenty-three refereed journal articles, majority appear in A* and A category journals (based on ABDC journal ranking list). These include American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Health Economics, and Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organization, all top field journals, as well as other highly regarded journals such as Global Environmental Change, Economics Letters, and Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

I have actively disseminated my research at invited seminar series and conferences within Australia and overseas. I regularly attend and present at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) meetings in the United States, and at the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) meetings in Australia. I have also presented my research at various other conferences and seminar series in different universities around the world.

My research has attracted the interest of national and international media. I have been quoted in well-known outlets, such as The Wall Street Journal, have published, and have provided expert opinion to broader audiences by participating in radio shows (ABC Nightlife) and TV news (CAN News). I have disseminated my work to non-academic community, via commentaries in The Conversation and Vox EU.

I have made contributions to research by enabling the advancement of knowledge through my roles as a journal editor and a referee. Since 2018, I serve as a co-editor of Food Policy – one of the top journals in my field of expertise. Since 2023, I also serve as an associate editor of American Journal of Agricultural Economics – the top field journal. In these roles, I handle more than 80 submissions per year.

I have served as a referee to many leading general interest and field journals, including Journal of Econometrics, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Climatic Change, and many others. In a calendar year, I generally review up to 20 manuscripts, which is in addition to my editorial duties described above.

I have created opportunities for research to junior colleagues. During my tenure at the University of Sydney, I have supervised two PhD students, a Master of Science student, and nearly twenty Honours students. Two of my Honours students are recipients of the University Medal. I have published peer-reviewed articles co-authored with my PhD student and a former Honours student.

During 2018-2020, I served as a chair-elect and then chair of econometrics section of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association. In this role I oversaw the sections activities leading to the annual meetings of the Association, which included organizing and coordinating multiple track sessions in different areas of applied econometrics.

In 2014 I served as the president of the NSW branch of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society.