

# ERIK S. KATOVICH

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## EDUCATION

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### University of Wisconsin-Madison

*Expected 2022*

PhD Candidate in Agricultural and Applied Economics

MS in Agricultural and Applied Economics

Dissertation: *Essays on Resource Governance and Development*

Committee: Ian Coxhead, Dominic Parker, Sarah Johnston, Steven Poelhekke, Rikhil Bhavnani

### Universidade Estadual de Campinas (Unicamp)

*2016-2017*

Fulbright Research Fellow

### University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

*2015*

BS in Economics, *summa cum laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa*

## RESEARCH FIELDS

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Development Economics, Resource Economics, Political Economy

## JOB MARKET PAPER

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### The Presource Curse? Anticipation, Disappointment, and Governance after Oil Discoveries

**Abstract:** Resource discoveries are often followed by long delays and heterogeneous production realizations. Post-discovery uncertainty creates challenges for governance: policymakers may alter present behavior in anticipation of future revenues or struggle to adapt to disappointed expectations. I exploit quasi-experimental subnational variation to estimate causal effects of offshore oil and gas discoveries on local governments in Brazil. Using an original geolocated dataset of 179 major discovery announcements, I estimate dynamic effects of discoveries on municipal public finances, public goods provision, and political competition, selection, and patronage. I develop a forecasting model to document that most municipalities (30 of 48) affected by discoveries ultimately fail to receive the revenues they could have expected. Relative to never-treated controls, these disappointed places suffer significant declines in per capita investment and public goods spending after ten years. In contrast, municipalities where discoveries are realized enjoy significant growth in per capita revenues and spending, but do not invest in economic diversification or improve real public goods provision. My findings identify how local governments and politicians respond to shocks to expectations and revenues across time. Methodologically, I highlight the importance of accounting for dynamic treatment effects and heterogeneity in discovery realizations after discovery announcements.

## WORKING PAPERS

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### Timing of Human Capital Investment and Career Outcomes: Evidence from an Oil Boom and Bust (*with Dominic Parker and Steven Poelhekke*)

**Abstract:** How are workers' careers shaped by exposure to a volatile sector? Drawing on employer-employee linked panel data covering the universe of formal workers in Brazil between 2003-2017, we identify workers who are poached or newly hired into oil-linked sectors (direct, upstream, and downstream) during periods of oil boom and bust. We estimate dynamic effects of exposure to the oil sector on wages, employment, promotion, and lifetime formal earnings, relative to (extremely) closely matched counterfactual

workers who are poached or newly hired into other sectors at the same time. Results show that timing of entry into oil matters: workers hired into oil-linked sectors at the beginning of Brazil's oil boom earn significantly more than matched workers hired into other sectors; workers hired immediately prior to or during busts suffer significant and persistent earnings and employment penalties. Furthermore, exposure to oil exerts dramatically heterogeneous effects on workers of differing education levels. High education workers earn more during boom years and are retained by firms during busts. Lower education workers never enjoy significant gains during the boom and are laid off during busts. Exploiting a complementary dataset on oil-linked graduates from higher education programs in Brazil, we document that the oil boom period was accompanied by rapid growth in oil-linked human capital investment, driven by growth in private-sector technical training programs.

### **Agricultural Elites, Special Interest Politics, and Deforestation in the Amazon**

*(with Fanny Moffette)*

**Abstract:** When economic incentives to clear land for agriculture run up against centralized efforts to combat deforestation, do local politicians intercede to promote their own economic interests or those of their campaign supporters? How does the behavior of local politicians and special interest groups change when centralized enforcement efforts are relaxed? By combining comprehensive land registries for the Brazilian Amazon, data on local political candidates and campaign donors in five municipal elections between 2000-2016, and satellite data on deforestation and land use, we construct an original panel dataset of annual tree cover loss on properties belonging to political candidates and campaign donors in the Brazilian Amazon between 2000-2020. Drawing on this dataset, we estimate event studies around close municipal elections to explore whether landowning candidates increase deforestation on their own properties before or after winning an election, and whether successful candidates reward landowning donors by allowing them to deforest more. Our findings inform debates over the decentralization of resource governance, elite capture, and resource conservation policy.

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

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Can Natural Resources Promote Industrialization? Firms, Competition, and Spillovers from an Industrial Policy in Brazil *(funded by STEG PhD Research Grant—\$19,000)*

Creating Knowledge Economies: Innovative Firms and Skilled Workers After a Nation-Wide University Rollout *(with Ana Paula Melo)*

## **PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

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The Relation Between Labor Productivity and Wages in Brazil: A Sectoral Analysis. *Nova Economia*, Vol. 28, No. 1, pg. 7-38 (2018). *(with Alexandre Gori Maia)*

Are GMO Policies “Trade Related”? Empirical Analysis of Latin America. *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, Vol. 39, No. 2, pg. 286-312 (2017). *(with Pamela Smith)*

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

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What Do We Really Know About the Impacts of Improved Grain Legumes and Dryland Cereals: A Critical Review of Impact Studies, *ICRAF Working Paper Series*, No. 295, World Agroforestry-Nairobi (2019) *(with Kai Mausch, Karl Hughes, Michael Hauser, and Andrew Feist)*

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Teaching Assistant, *Growth and Development of Nations in the Global Economy* Fall 2018  
Received University-wide *Early Excellence in Teaching Award*

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Research Assistant to Paul Dower, Emilia Tjernström, & Laura Schechter** 2019-Present  
Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UW Madison Madison, WI

**Visiting Researcher** June-August 2019  
Institute of Economics, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Impact Evaluation Fellow** June-August 2018  
World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) Nairobi, Kenya

**Technical Training Grantee** January-July 2017  
Unicamp, São Paulo Research Association (FAPESP) Campinas, Brazil

**Fulbright Research Fellow** February-December 2016  
Center for Agricultural and Environmental Economics, Unicamp Campinas, Brazil

**Field Survey Coordinator** June-August 2014  
Winrock International-Nepal Kathmandu, Nepal

**Undergraduate Research Assistant to Pamela Smith** June-December 2012  
Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota St. Paul, MN

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Bilingual Immigrant Legal Services Assistant** September-December, 2015  
International Institute of Minnesota St. Paul, MN

**Refugee and Immigrant Program Intern** (asylum-seeker interviews) June-December 2013  
The Advocates for Human Rights Minneapolis, MN

## CONFERENCES AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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**2021:** Universidade de São Paulo (Planned), Universidade Federal Fluminense (Planned), APPAM (Planned), SEA (Planned), NEUDC (Online), LACEA (Online), Sovereign Wealth Fund of Niterói (Niterói, Brazil), Universidad de San Andrés (Buenos Aires, Argentina), AAEA (Austin, Texas), AERE (Online), WEAI (Online); **2020:** U. of Minnesota Agronomy (Guest Lecture); **2019:** Hoover Institution (Washington D.C.); **2017:** ANPEC (Natal, Brazil); **2016:** COES-LSE (Santiago, Chile)

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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STEG PhD Research Grant, STEG CEPR (\$19,000) 2021  
Doctoral Research Travel Grant, UW Madison (\$1500) 2021  
Tinker Nave Latin American Studies Field Research Grant, UW Madison (\$2300) 2019 & 2021  
IRIS Graduate Student Summer Fieldwork Award, UW Madison (\$3,000) 2019  
University Graduate Fellowship, UW Madison (\$34,500×2) 2017 & 2020  
Technical Training Grant, São Paulo Research Association (FAPESP) (\$1,000) 2017  
Fulbright Research Grant to Brazil (\$16,000) 2016  
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Grants (\$1,700×2) 2012 & 2014

## AWARDS, MEMBERSHIP, AND SERVICE

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### Awards

Bromley Prize for Best Dissertation Paper, UW Madison AAE	2021
Early Excellence in Teaching Award, UW Madison	2020
Best Undergraduate Thesis, Minnesota Economic Association	2015
Gorence Endowed Scholarship in Economics, U of MN Economics	2013 & 2014
Presidential Merit Scholarship, U of MN	2011-2015
National AP Scholar	2011
National Merit Scholar	2011

### Membership

Affiliate, Elections Research Center, UW-Madison	2021-present
Affiliate, Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies, UW-Madison	2020-present
Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association	2021-present
Agricultural and Applied Economics Association	2020-present
Association of Environmental and Resource Economists	2020-present

### Service

Graduate Student Representative, Dept. of Agricultural and Applied Economics	2020-2021
Coordinator, Development and Political Economy Workshop, UW-Madison	2020-2021

### Refereeing

*Latin American Research Review*

## LANGUAGE AND COMPUTER SKILLS

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**Languages:** English (native), Portuguese (fluent), Spanish (fluent)

**Computer Skills:** Stata, R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, SurveyCTO, Git

## REFERENCES

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### Ian Coxhead (Main Advisor)

Professor  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Phone: + 1 608 262 6390  
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### Dominic Parker

Associate Professor  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Phone: + 1 608 262 8916  
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### Steven Poelhekke

Professor  
University of Auckland  
Phone: +64 9 923 5463  
Email: steven.poelhekke@auckland.ac.nz

### Alexandre Gori Maia

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Universidade Estadual de Campinas  
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