

# 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 (2020)

Dissertation: *Essays on Resource Governance and Development*

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

### Universidade Estadual de Campinas (São Paulo, Brazil)

*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, Environmental and 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 outcomes. 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 study how local governments and politicians react to offshore oil and gas discoveries in Brazil. I exploit quasi-experimental subnational variation in discoveries and subsequent production realizations to identify causal effects of news and revenue shocks on municipal public finances, public goods provision, and political competition, selection, and patronage. Relative to never-treated controls, places that experience discovery announcements but never receive anticipated windfalls suffer significant declines in per capita investment and public goods spending after ten years. In contrast, places where discoveries are realized enjoy significant growth in per capita revenues and spending, but do not invest in economic diversification or improve public goods provision. Findings reveal inefficient windfall spending and adjustment costs after disappointment as two faces of the resource curse, and highlight the importance of accounting for heterogeneity in production outcomes after discovery announcements.

## WORKING PAPERS

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### Labor Reallocation, Human Capital Investment, and “Stranded Careers”: Evidence from an Oil Boom and Bust *(with Dominic Parker and Steven Poelhekke)*

**Abstract:** Sectoral expansions and contractions have significant worker-level and distributional consequences. Using linked employer-employee panel data from Brazil—a country that experienced oil booms and busts during the 2000s and 2010s—we estimate dynamic effects of being hired into the volatile oil and gas sector on workers’ subsequent wages, employment, and earnings. We find that oil generates inequality

both between and within worker cohorts. Highly-educated early entrants capture nearly all the earnings benefits of the oil boom and are insulated from downturns by seniority and accumulation of institutional knowledge in professional roles within firms. Later high-education entrants must compete with a glut of new graduates from oil-specific degree programs, and suffer from “stranded careers” after oil busts. Low-education workers never enjoy earnings premiums during booms and lose their jobs during busts. Our findings contribute evidence on the job-creation potential of energy sectors and the distributional consequences of energy transitions.

### **Agricultural Elites, Special Interest Politics, and Deforestation: Property-Level Evidence from the Amazon** *(with Fanny Moffette)*

**Abstract:** How do local political incentives affect tropical deforestation and land use? We combine individually identified land cadasters for the Brazilian Amazon, registries of political candidates and campaign donors, and remote sensing data to construct a panel of land use change on properties belonging to municipal politicians and donors between 2000-2020. We estimate event studies around close mayoral elections and find that deforestation weakly decreases on successful candidates’ properties while they are in office, but increases on the properties of their campaign donors. Mayors shift existing cleared land from pasture to soy. Decreased deforestation on candidates’ properties is driven by the 2004-2012 elections, when federal anti-deforestation efforts were high, while increased deforestation on donors’ properties is driven by the 2016 election, when federal efforts relaxed. At the municipality-level, close election of a mayor who received landowner donations is associated with increased deforestation and land-conversion to agriculture. Landowner-financed mayors increase municipal spending on agricultural promotion and cut spending on environmental protection. Our findings inform debates over decentralization of resource governance, special interests and campaign finance, and conservation policy.

## **PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

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

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

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

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

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

## **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*  
Received University-wide *Early Excellence in Teaching Award*

*Fall 2018*

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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<b>Research Assistant to Paul Dower, Emilia Tjernström, &amp; Laura Schechter</b> Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UW Madison	<i>2019-Present Madison, WI</i>
<b>Visiting Researcher</b> Institute of Economics, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro	<i>June-August 2019 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</i>
<b>Impact Evaluation Fellow</b> World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF)	<i>June-August 2018 Nairobi, Kenya</i>
<b>Technical Training Grantee</b> Unicamp, São Paulo Research Association (FAPESP)	<i>January-July 2017 Campinas, Brazil</i>
<b>Fulbright Research Fellow</b> Center for Agricultural and Environmental Economics, Unicamp	<i>February-December 2016 Campinas, Brazil</i>
<b>Field Survey Coordinator</b> Winrock International-Nepal	<i>June-August 2014 Kathmandu, Nepal</i>
<b>Undergraduate Research Assistant to Pamela Smith</b> Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota	<i>June-December 2012 St. Paul, MN</i>

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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<b>Bilingual Immigrant Legal Services Assistant</b> International Institute of Minnesota	<i>September-December, 2015 St. Paul, MN</i>
<b>Refugee and Immigrant Program Intern</b> (asylum-seeker interviews) The Advocates for Human Rights	<i>June-December 2013 Minneapolis, MN</i>

## CONFERENCES AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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**2022:** PacDev (Scheduled), APPAM (Scheduled); **2021:** Universidade Federal Fluminense-PPGE (Niteroi, Brazil), SEA, Universidade de São Paulo-FEA (São Paulo, Brazil), NEUDC, LACEA, Sovereign Wealth Fund of Niterói (Niterói, Brazil), Universidad de San Andrés (Buenos Aires, Argentina), AAEE, AERE, WEAI; **2019:** Hoover Institution (Washington D.C.); **2017:** ANPEC (Natal, Brazil); **2016:** COES-LSE (Santiago, Chile)

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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Structural Transformation and Economic Growth PhD Research Grant (\$19,000)	<i>2021</i>
Doctoral Research Travel Grant, UW Madison (\$1,500)	<i>2021</i>
Tinker Nave Latin American Studies Field Research Grant, UW Madison (\$2,300)	<i>2019 &amp; 2021</i>
IRIS Graduate Student Summer Fieldwork Award, UW Madison (\$3,000)	<i>2019</i>
University Graduate Fellowship, UW Madison (\$34,500×2)	<i>2017 &amp; 2020</i>
Technical Training Grant, São Paulo Research Association (FAPESP) (\$1,000)	<i>2017</i>
Fulbright Research Grant to Brazil (\$16,000)	<i>2016</i>
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Grants (\$1,700×2)	<i>2012 &amp; 2014</i>

## 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

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University of Auckland  
Phone: +64 9 923 5463  
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### Alexandre Gori Maia

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Universidade Estadual de Campinas  
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