

KELLY YUEXUAN WU

✉ kelwu@ucdavis.edu | ☎ +1 (608) 960 2275 | 🌐 [website](#)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Davis	2019 - 2025 (<i>expected</i>)
M.S. in Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2017 - 2019
B.A. in Economics (<i>with distinction</i>), China Agricultural University	2013 - 2017

RESEARCH FIELD

Environmental Economics, Development Economics

REFERENCES

Prof. Travis Lybbert

Agricultural & Resource Economics
University of California, Davis
envelope tlybbert@ucdavis.edu

Prof. Katrina Jessoe

Agricultural & Resource Economics
University of California, Davis
envelope kkjessoe@ucdavis.edu

Prof. James Sanchirico

Environmental Science & Policy
University of California, Davis
envelope jsanchirico@ucdavis.edu

JOB MARKET PAPER

Tropical forest protection and fires: Evidence from Indonesia

Abstract: Confronted with high rates of deforestation, fire, and carbon emissions, the Indonesian government implemented a forest moratorium to halt land conversions by firms within protected forests and peatlands (wetlands). This paper provides new evidence on its effect on fires, an environmental hazard closely associated with tropical deforestation. Using high-resolution satellite data and a matched difference-in-differences framework, I show that while the moratorium curbs deforestation, it does not reduce fire incidents. Protected peatlands within the moratorium boundaries exhibit an 18% higher burn probability after the moratorium compared to pre-treatment periods, relative to non-protected areas. The increase in fires is not attributed to direct illegal encroachment for oil palm plantations but rather to cross-boundary degradation pressures from neighboring plantations not sanctioned by the moratorium. Land conversions within these neighboring plantations weaken the natural fire resilience of adjacent protected peatlands, creating conditions for widespread fires across degraded, vulnerable landscapes. This highlights a critical policy concern: without complementary land management, conservation efforts may be compromised by increased fire externalities in the absence of private oversight.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- *Spatial, temporal, and cross-fishery spillovers in the U.S. West Coast Dungeness Crab Fishery* (with James Sanchirico)
- *Conservation impacts of China's coastal nature reserves* (with Kaiwen Wang)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Research Assistant** with James Sanchirico, University of California, Davis 2022 - Present
- Conduct simulations using revenue prediction models to evaluate coastal climate resilience and assess the effectiveness of fishery management strategies
- Intern**, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Bogor, Indonesia 2022
- Investigate land-clearing fires in peatlands linked to local agricultural practices and conduct interviews with officials, NGOs, and farmers
- Research Assistant** with Travis Lybbert, University of California, Davis 2021
- Examine psychological impacts of a record-breaking white male athlete on performances across races and genders
- Research Assistant** with Bradford Barham, University of Wisconsin-Madison 2018 - 2019
- Model the dynamics of women's intra-household bargaining power, household consumption, nutritional and health outcomes in Malawi

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Teaching Assistant**, University of California, Davis
- Intermediate Microeconomics (undergraduate) 2020, 2021
 - Economic Development (undergraduate) 2019, 2021, 2022

OTHER EXPERIENCE

- Fellow**, Diversity and Inclusion in Research, Education, and Career Training Program 2024

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Referee**, Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE)

PRESENTATIONS

- Western Economic Association International (WEAI) Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA 2024
- The Workshop in Environmental Economics & Data Science (TWEEDS), Portland, OR 2023
- Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, Washington DC 2023
- Sloan/Berkeley Summer School in Environmental and Energy, Berkeley, CA 2023
- Harmful Algal Bloom Grant Meeting with Transition Advisory Council, Seattle, WA 2023

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Henry A. Jastro Graduate Research Scholarship Award, UC Davis	2022, 2023, 2024
Summer Research Fellowship, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, UC Davis	2024
AAEA Travel Award	2023
Graduate Student Association Travel Award, UC Davis	2023
First-Class Scholarship for Excellent Students, China Agricultural University	2014, 2015

OTHER SKILLS

Programming	R, Stata, Python, ArcGIS
Languages	Mandarin Chinese (native), English (advanced)