

# Libby Kula

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## RESEARCH AREAS

Environmental/Natural Resource Economics, Spatial Analysis

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## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. Applied Economics, University of Minnesota**, St. Paul, Minnesota.

ADVISORS: Stephen Polasky & Justin A. Johnson

DISSERTATION: *Essays on the Spatial, Temporal, and Socioeconomic Distribution of Urban Ecosystem Services in the United States*

EXPECTED COMPLETION: May 2026

**B.S. Economics & Mathematics, St. Catherine University**, St. Paul, Minnesota, 2019. *Summa cum laude*.

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## PUBLICATIONS

*Refereed Journal Publications:*

Caroline Krafft, Kristine West, Ashley McFarlane, **Elizabeth Kula**, Fardowsa Abdinoor, Morgan Weyrens-Welch, and Karri Drain. 2022. "Virtually nonexistent: Gender and racial representation in online K-12 economics lessons." *Eastern Economic Journal*.

Caroline Krafft, **Elizabeth Kula**, and Maia Sieverding. 2021. "An investigation of Jordan's fertility stall and resumed decline: The role of proximate determinants." *Demographic Research* 45(19): 605-652.

*Un-refereed Publications:*

Christina Ewig, Youngmin Chu, **Libby Kula**, and Joseph Ritter. 2022. "2022 Status of Women & Girls In Minnesota." Women's Foundation of Minnesota and the Center on Women, Gender, and Public Policy of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Report.

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## SELECTED RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

"Urban ecosystem services in decline: The cost of urban expansion in U.S. metropolitan areas from 2001 to 2021" with Ben Janke, Justin A. Johnson, Yanxu Long, Eric Lonsdorf, Chris Nootenboom, and Stephen Polasky. *Submitted*.

"How equitably are ecosystem services distributed in U.S. metropolitan areas?" *In progress*.

"Gross Ecosystem Product" with [NatCap TEEMs](#). *In progress*.

"Sustainability indices: A review, taxonomy, and research agenda for transformative change" with Nfamara K. Dampha, Stephen Polasky, Michelle Heyn, Haku Bo, Yanxu Long, Adriana Castillo Castillo, Justin Johnson, Sumil Thakar, and Saleh Mamun. *In progress*.

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## PRESENTATIONS

"How Equitably Are Ecosystem Services Distributed in U.S. Metropolitan Areas?" (Dec. 2024). *A Community on Ecosystem Services Conference*. Austin, TX.

"Distributional ecosystem accounts: Incorporating environmental justice into federal Natural Capital Accounting." (June 2024). *United States Society for Ecological Economics 13<sup>th</sup> Conference*. Schenectady, NY.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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**Graduate Research Assistant**, U. of Minnesota. 2025  
Project: "Spatial Economic Allocation Landscape Simulator for Net Zero Brazil."  
Supervisor: Justin A. Johnson

**Graduate Research Assistant**, Dept. of the Interior, Office of Policy Analysis. 2023 -2024  
Project: "Accounting for Environmental Justice & Equity within Natural Capital Accounts."  
UMN Supervisor: Stephen Polasky  
DOI Supervisor: Robert Richardson

**Graduate Research Assistant**, U. of Minnesota, Center on Women, Gender, & Public Policy. 2021  
Project: "Status of Women & Girls in Minnesota Report."  
Supervisor: Christina Ewig

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**Full-Time Instructor**, Economics & Political Science Dept., St. Catherine University. 2024 - 2025  
ECON 1090: Statistical Analysis for Decision-making (5 sections)  
ECON/CARR 2012: Personal Financial Fitness  
CORE 1000W: The Reflective Woman

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Applied Economics Dept., U. of Minnesota. 2021 - 2022  
APEC 8001-02: Applied Microeconomic Analysis  
APEC 1101 & 1101H (honors): Principles of Microeconomics

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**Graduate Scholar Program**, Institute on the Environment, U. of Minnesota. 2023 - 2024  
**Berkeley/Sloan Summer School in Environmental and Energy Economics**, UC Berkeley. 2023

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

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**Women in APEC**, Dept. of Applied Economics, U. of Minnesota. 2023 – Present  
**NatCap The Earth Economy Modelers**, U. of Minnesota. 2020 – Present  
**Advisory Board**, Minnesota Center for Diversity in Economics (MCDE). 2020 – Present  
**Communications Committee**, Dept. of Applied Economics, U. of Minnesota. 2022 – 2023  
**C-FEM Mentorship Program** (for a total of 15 young women in economics), MCDE. 2020 – 2023

## **HONORS & AWARDS**

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**2025 Borealis Award for Exemplary Student Organization (graduate)**. College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, U. of Minnesota.

**2022-2023 Graduate Assistant Teaching Award**. College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, U. of Minnesota.

**2021-2022 Teaching Assistant Award for 1000 Level Classes**. Dept. of Applied Economics, U. of Minnesota.

**2020-2021 Mary A. and Robert B. Litterman Endowed Fellowship**. Dept. of Applied Economics, U. of Minnesota.

## **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

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Programming Languages: Python, R, TeX.  
Software & Platforms: QGIS, Google Earth Engine, HPC Systems (e.g., MSI Supercomputer), Stata.