

Libby Kula

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RESEARCH AREAS

Environmental/Natural Resource Economics, Spatial Analysis

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*.

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.

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*.

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 13th Conference*. Schenectady, NY.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

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