

Matthew Braaksma

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environment and Resource Economics · Land Use Economics · Development Economics

EDUCATION

University of Minnesota

Doctor of Philosophy: Applied Economics

Twin Cities, MN

Aug 2022 – Present

San Diego State University

Master of Arts: Economics

San Diego, CA

Aug 2020 – May 2022

Eastern Washington University

Bachelor of Arts: Business Administration

Minor: Economics, Visual Communication Design

Cheney, WA

Sept 2013 – June 2017

SKILLS

Languages and Tools

Proficient: Python, R, Bash, Python GIS

Intermediate: Git, LaTeX

CURRENT RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Minnesota

Research Assistant, Supervised by Dr. Justin Johnson

Twin Cities, MN

June 2024 – Present

- Developed “A Framework for Measuring African Ecosystem Services Impacts from Land-Related Policies” with collaborators from the European Commission Joint Research Centre, and Wageningen University & Research.
- Contributed to the development of an integrated modeling framework combining a computable general equilibrium (CGE) model with spatially explicit ecosystem service models to evaluate the economic and ecological consequences of land use change in Kenya.
- Utilized Python and geospatial tools (SEALS, InVEST) to simulate land allocations, analyze ecosystem service outcomes, and assess policy impacts aligned with Kenya’s climate and biodiversity goals.

NatCap TEEMs (The Earth-Economy Modelers)

Student Member

Twin Cities, MN

August 2022 – Present

- Contribute to collaborative research improving Earth-Economy models that integrate ecological, climate, and economic data.
- Support efforts to align economic systems with environmental stewardship to inform sustainable development policy.

RESEARCH

Working Papers

Dave, Dhaval, Yang Liang, Catherine Maclean, Joseph Sabia, and Matthew Braaksma. “Can Anti-Vaping Policies Curb Drinking Externalities? Evidence from E-Cigarette Taxation and Traffic Fatalities”. No. w30670. *National Bureau of Economic Research*, 2022.

Publications

McWay, Ryan, and Matthew Braaksma. 2025. “The Political Consequences of Resource Scarcity: Targeted Spending in a Water-Stressed Democracy. A Replication Study of Mahadevan and Shenoy (Journal of Public Economics, 2023)”. *World Development Perspectives* 39: 100707. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wdp.2025.100707>

Conference Presentations “A Framework for Measuring African Ecosystem Services Impacts from Land-Related Policies.” 28th Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis: “Accelerating Economic Transformation, Resilience, Diversification, and Job Creation.” Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP), Kigali, Rwanda, June 25–27, 2025.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Minnesota Twin Cities, MN
Teaching Assistant Spring 2025
APEC 3002: Managerial Economics Dr. Frances Homans

- Designed and led labs focused on applying economic models to real-world contexts.
- Developed a memo-based assignment on ecosystem services to connect theory with practice.

University of Minnesota Twin Cities, MN
Teaching Assistant, PhD-level Spring 2024
APEC 8213: Econometric Analysis III Dr. Paul Glewwe
APEC 8214: Econometric Analysis IV Dr. Marc Bellemare

- Led R-based labs to help students develop fluency in estimation, diagnostics, and presentation.
- Assisted students in applying econometric methods through problem sets and coding support.

University of Minnesota Twin Cities, MN
Teaching Assistant, PhD-level Fall 2023
APEC 8001: Applied Microeconomic Analysis of Consumer Choice and Consumer Demand Dr. Paul Glewwe
APEC 8002: Applied Microeconomic Analysis of Production and Choice Under Uncertainty Dr. Rodney Smith

- Created recitation slides and guided discussion sections to clarify core theoretical concepts.
- Provided detailed feedback on assignments to support student mastery of technical material.

RECOGNITIONS

Teaching Assistant Award for 3000/4000 Level Classes
University of Minnesota, Applied Economics 2024–2025

Teaching Assistant Award for Graduate Classes
University of Minnesota, Applied Economics 2023–2024

Graduate Fellowship
University of Minnesota, Applied Economics 2022

Presidential Graduate Research Fellowship
San Diego State University 2020

McCuen Endowed Economics Scholarship
San Diego State University 2020

Transfer Achievement Scholarship
Eastern Washington University 2013