

Matthew Spitzer Brooks

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Agricultural and Resource Economics
University of California, Davis, *in progress*

M.S., Agricultural and Resource Economics
University of California, Davis, 2024

B.A., Economics and Religion, *summa cum laude*
Middlebury College, 2017

PUBLICATIONS *Peer reviewed:*

- “A Taste for Taxes: Minimizing Distortions Using Political Preferences.” 2019. *Journal of Public Economics*, vol. 180, p. 104055. With Andrea Robbett and Emiliano Huet-Vaughn. [Link](#).

Reports at Mathematica Policy Research:

- “Maternal Health Care Quality Improvement in Rajasthan, India: Insights from a Development Impact Bond Verification Agent.” 2021. Washington, DC: Mathematica. With So O’Neil, Divya Vohra, Shveta Kalyanwala, and Dana Rotz. [Link to PDF](#).
- “Jordan Refugee Livelihoods Development Impact Bond Evaluation Framework.” 2021. Washington, DC: Mathematica. With Evan Borkum, Paolo Abarcar, and Laura Meyer. [Link to PDF](#).
- “Maternal Health Care Quality and Outcomes Under the Utkrisht Impact Bond: Midline Findings and Insights.” 2020. Washington, DC: Mathematica. With So O’Neil, Divya Vohra, Dana Rotz, and Shveta Kalyanwala. [Link to PDF](#).
- “Evaluation of the Liberia Power Compact’s Mt. Coffee Hydropower Plant Rehabilitation and Capacity Building and Sector Reform: Baseline and Interim Findings.” 2020. Washington, DC: Mathematica. With Candace Miller, et al. [Link to PDF](#).
- “Evaluation of the Liberia Compact’s Mt. Coffee Hydropower Plant Rehabilitation and Capacity Building and Sector Reform: Findings from the Final Round.” 2024. Washington, DC: Mathematica. With Candace Miller, et al. [Link](#).

EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher for Dr. Travis Lybbert
University of California, Davis

2024–present

Graduate Student Researcher for Dr. Ashish Shenoy
University of California, Davis

2023–2024

<i>Research Analyst</i> Mathematica Policy Research, Cambridge, MA	2018–2022
<i>Policy and Communications Associate</i> Innovations for Poverty Action, New Haven, CT	2017–2018
<i>Research Assistant for Dr. Jeremy P. Shapiro</i> Princeton University, Princeton, NJ and Busara Center for Behavioral Economics, Nairobi, Kenya	2016–2017

AWARDS

ARE Graduate Travel Award, UC Davis, 2025
 SurveyCTO Primary Data Collection Research Grant Honorable Mention, 2024
 Henry A. Jastro Graduate Research Award, \$3,000, UC Davis, 2024
 ARE Graduate Summer Research Fellowship, \$4,000, UC Davis, 2024
 Provost’s Fellowship in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, UC Davis, 2022
 Phi Beta Kappa, Middlebury College, 2017
 Highest Honors in Economics, Middlebury College, 2017
 Highest Honors in Religion, Middlebury College, 2017
 Religion Departmental Prize, Middlebury College, 2017
 Dirks Award (Economics senior of high promise), Nominee, Middlebury College, 2017
 Fulbright Study/Research Grant Nepal, Semi-Finalist, 2017
 Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, Semi-Finalist, 2017
 Kellogg Fellow, \$5,000 grant for senior thesis, Middlebury College, 2016
 College Scholar, Middlebury College 2013-2017

PRESENT- ATIONS

Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Summer Conference, May 2025
 Giannini Foundation of Agricultural and Resource Economics Student Conference, May 2025
 University of Colorado Boulder Environmental & Resource Economics Workshop, September 2024

ADDITIONAL

Technical skills: Python, R, Stata, MATLAB, Julia, Google Earth Engine; L^AT_EX
In-person fieldwork: Kenya, Nepal, Liberia.

Last updated: May 25, 2025