

Matthew Spitzer Brooks

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Davis	<i>in progress</i>
M.S. Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Davis	2024
B.A. Economics and Religion (double major), <i>summa cum laude</i> , Middlebury College	2017

RESEARCH FIELDS

Environmental Economics, Development Economics, Agricultural Economics

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](#).

Policy Publications:

- “Does An Innovation’s Reach Reveal Anything About Its Impact? Under The Right Conditions: Possibly.” 2025. Rome, Italy: Standing Panel on Impact Assessment. With Travis Lybbert and Madeleine Walker. [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 to PDF](#).
- “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](#).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher

University of California, Davis	2024–present
with Dr. Travis Lybbert	
with Dr. Ashish Shenoy	2023–2024

Research Analyst

Mathematica Policy Research, Cambridge, MA	2018–2022
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Policy and Communications Associate

Innovations for Poverty Action, New Haven, CT	2017–2018
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Research Assistant

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ and	
Busara Center for Behavioral Economics, Nairobi, Kenya	
with Dr. Jeremy P. Shapiro	2016–2017

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND 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

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Presentations & Invited Seminars

Occasional Workshop in Environmental & Resource Economics at UCSB (scheduled)	Oct. 2025
University of Massachusetts - Amherst, Resource Economics (scheduled)	Sep. 2025
Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting	Jul. 2025
Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi	Jul. 2025
Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Annual Conference	May 2025
Giannini Foundation of Agricultural and Resource Economics Student Conference	May 2025
University of Colorado Boulder Environmental & Resource Economics Workshop	Sep. 2024

Referee Service

<i>American Journal of Agricultural Economics</i>
<i>Energy Economics</i>

Departmental Service

Graduate Student Association Representative (Alternate)	2024-2025
Graduate Student Association Representative	2023-2024

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

TA for ARE 100B: Intermediate Microeconomics (UC Davis)

Winter 2025

ADDITIONAL

Technical skills:

R, Stata, Python, MATLAB, Julia, Google Earth Engine; \LaTeX

In-person fieldwork:

Kenya, Nepal, Liberia

Last updated: August 11, 2025