

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 to PDF](#).

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

TEACHING

TA for ARE 100B: Intermediate Microeconomics (Winter 2025)

REFeree SERVICE

American Journal of Agricultural Economics

ADDITIONAL

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

Last updated: June 11, 2025