

ALI NIAZI

University of Calgary, Department of Economics
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Energy and Environmental Economics, Empirical Industrial Organization, Applied Microeconomics

EDUCATION

University of Calgary — Ph.D. in Economics *Expected 2026*

Dissertation: Essays on Energy Markets and Energy Transition

Committee: Blake Shaffer (Chair), Erica Myers, Lucija Muehlenbachs, David Brown

Sharif University of Technology — M.Sc. in Economics *2020*

Ferdowsi University of Mashhad — B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering *2016*

JOB MARKET PAPER

Strategic Behavior in Deregulated Power Markets with Renewable Expansion

Using unit-level marginal costs and offer stacks from Alberta's energy-only market, I decompose hourly prices into costs and strategic markups. Wind lowers prices in every hour, with about 40% of the effect operating via reduced markups. Solar lowers midday prices but raises prices during morning and evening ramp periods, with about 30% operating via higher markups. Counterfactuals reveal that renewables concentrate scarcity value into fewer hours, favoring flexible resources. The findings suggest that competitive decarbonization requires transmission expansion, flexible generation, and robust market design in addition to renewable capacity.

WORKING PAPERS

Do Gasoline Prices Influence Electric Vehicle Usage? Evidence from the U.S.
with Blake Shaffer

Electric Vehicle Charging and Driving Behavior
with David Brown, Blake Shaffer, and Mallika Sharma

PUBLICATIONS

“Credit Rating Agencies During Credit Crunch” (with Ali Ebrahim Nejad and Saeid Hoseinzade). *Review of Financial Economics* 42 (2024): 124–147. <https://doi.org/10.1002/rfe.1192>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Calgary — Research Assistant *2021–2025*
Blake Shaffer (2023–2025); Scott Taylor (2021–2023); Trevor Tombe (2022); Aidan Hollis (2022)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) — Market Fundamentals Analyst *2025–present*

Energy Futures Lab — Research Analyst *2024–2025*

Smart Prosperity Institute — Research Analyst *2024–2025*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Calgary — Instructor 2024, 2025
Computer Applications in Economics

University of Calgary — Teaching Assistant 2021–2024
Computer Applications in Economics (6 terms); Principles of Microeconomics (3 terms); Macroeconomics II (2 terms); Engineering Economics (1 term)

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

2025: Canadian Economics Association Annual Conference (Montreal); University of Calgary Economics Seminar; Electricity Lunch Research Seminar (Calgary)

2024: Canadian Economics Association (Toronto); Canadian Resource and Environmental Economics Association (London, ON); Electricity Lunch Research Seminar (Calgary)

2023: Canadian Economics Association (Winnipeg); Canadian Resource and Environmental Economics Association (Winnipeg)

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Referee for *Canadian Journal of Economics* 2024
- Researcher, Net Zero Electricity Research Initiative 2022–present
- Co-organizer, Grid Forward Conference 2024
- Co-organizer, Electricity Camp in the Rockies 2023–2025
- Founder, Graduate Economics Buddy Program 2022–2025
- VP Finance, Economics Graduate Association 2023–2024

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Eyes High International Doctoral Scholarship, University of Calgary 2025–present
- Doctoral Research Scholarship, University of Calgary 2023–2025
- International Tuition Award, University of Calgary 2020–2025
- Macroeconomics Prize, University of Calgary 2021
- Economics Scholarship, Agriculture Bank of Iran 2017–2018
- Excellence Scholarship, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad 2015

SKILLS

Programming: R, Python, Stata, Matlab, Julia

Languages: English (Fluent), Persian (Native), French (Pre-intermediate)

REFERENCES

Blake Shaffer (Supervisor)
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Lucija Muehlenbachs
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