

# Wes Austin

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Environmental Protection Agency  
National Center for Environmental Economics  
Office of the Administrator – Office of Policy  
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Updated June 2025

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## EDUCATION

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### Georgia State University

*Ph.D. in Economics*

*Summer 2020*

Dissertation: Essays on Pollution, Health, and Education

Committee: Tim Sass (chair), Garth Heutel, Dan Kreisman, and Dajun Dai

Fields: Environmental Economics, Labor Economics, Health Economics

*M.A. in Economics*

*Spring 2016*

Masters Thesis: A Visual Approach to Spatial Mismatch in Atlanta

### University of Georgia

*B.A. in Economics, History*

*Spring 2013*

Concentration in Public Policy, Minor in French, *cum Laude*

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## POSITIONS

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### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

*Economist, National Center for Environmental Economics*

*August 2020 – Present*

### Georgetown University

*Adjunct Professor*

*August 2022 – Present*

### Georgia State University

*Research Assistant, Georgia Policy Labs*

*Fall 2018 – Summer 2020*

*2nd Century Initiative Research Fellow*

*Fall 2016 – Summer 2020*

*Research Assistant, Urban Studies Institute*

*Fall 2017 – Spring 2019*

*Research Assistant, Economics Department*

*Fall 2014 – Fall 2016*

### Georgia Department of Education

*Research Assistant, State Charter Schools Commission*

*Fall 2015 – Fall 2016*

## RESEARCH

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### Publications

- Wachter, C., J. Suter, J. Burkhardt, W. Austin, B. Haley, B. Parthum, S. Pan, & S. Kolstoe. (2025). Characterizing Community Water Systems Exposed to Wildfire in the Western U.S. *Science of the Total Environment*. *forthcoming*
- Austin, W., Mueller, R. (2025) Forever Chemicals: Challenges and Opportunities for Researchers. *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy*. (Vol. 19:1).
- Austin, W., Figlio, D., Goldhaber, D., Hanushek, E. A., Kilbride, T., Koedel, C., Sean Lee, J., Lou, J., Özek, U., Parsons, E., Rivkin, S. G., Sass, T. R., & Strunk, K. O. (2023). Academic mobility in U.S. public schools: Evidence from nearly 3 million students. *Journal of Public Economics*. (Vol. 228, p. 105016).
- Austin, W., Carattini, S., Gomez-Mahecha, J., & Pesko, M. F. (2023). The effects of contemporaneous air pollution on COVID-19 morbidity and mortality. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*. (Vol. 119, p. 102815).
- Austin, W., Heutel, G., & Kreisman, D. (2019). School bus emissions, student health and academic performance. *Economics of Education Review*. (Vol. 70, pp. 109–126).

### Working Papers

- Petrusevich, M., Austin, W., Zheng, J., Evans, M., Ma, L., & Olmstead, S. (2025). Impacts of the SDWA Arsenic Rule on Arsenic Occurrence in U.S. Drinking Water.
- Austin, W., Bardot, T., and El-Khattabi, A. (2024) Comparative Analysis of Service Area Boundaries and Disparities in Drinking Water Quality. NCEE Working Paper Series.
- Austin, W., Pan, S., Parthum, B. (2024) When it Rains, it Pours. NCEE Working Paper Series.
- Austin, W. (2020) Throwing the Baby out with the Ashwater? Coal Combustion Residuals, Water Quality, and Fetal Health.
- Austin, W. (2019) School Bus Diesel Retrofits, Air Quality, and Academic Performance: National Evidence Using Satellite Data.
- Austin, W., Chen, B., Goldhaber, D., Hanushek, E., Holden, K., Koedel, C., Ladd, H., Luo, J., Parsons, E., Phelan, G., Rivkin, S., Sass, T., Turaeva, M. (2019) Path to the Principalship and Value Added: A Cross-state Comparison of Elementary and Middle School Principals. *CALDER Working Paper* No. 213-0119-1.

### Policy Reports

- Sass, T., Austin, W. (2017) An Analysis of the Effects of Implementing Personalized Learning Connections in Broward County Schools. *The National Center on Scaling up Effective Schools*.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND CERTIFICATIONS

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### Department of Economics, Georgetown University

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| ECON 4075: Environmental Economics, Dual Instructor with Adam Theising | 2023 — 2025 |
| ECON 475: Environmental Economics, Dual Instructor with Bryan Parthum  | 2022        |

### Department of Economics, Georgia State University

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| ECON 8720: Data Science, Dual Instructor with Jon Smith      | Spring 2020             |
| ECON 2105: Introductory Macroeconomics, Instructor of Record | Spring 2018             |
| ECON 4300: Economics of Cities, Teaching Assistant           | Fall 2015 — Spring 2016 |

### Certifications and Training

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|---|-------------|
| CITI Human Subjects Research Training — Group 2 and Group 3 Modules | Current     |
| Policy Viz Data Visualisation Workshop, Jon Schwabish               | Spring 2019 |
| Proficiency in Teaching Class and Exam, Economics Department, GSU   | Spring 2017 |

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

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**2025:** Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA) Annual Conference, Society for Benefit Cost Analysis Annual Conference

**2024:** Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Annual Conference, Social Cost of Water Pollution Workshop, Southern Economics Association  
Conference, Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Annual Conference, Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Annual Conference

**2023:** Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Annual Conference (plenary session), Environmental Justice in Drinking Water Mini-Conference (internal EPA), Social Cost of Water Pollution Workshop

**2022:** Environmental Justice in Drinking Water Mini-Conference (Internal EPA – Leading Presentation), Social Cost of Water Pollution Workshop, Society for Benefit Cost Analysis Annual Conference

**2021:** Social Cost of Water Pollution Workshop, Society for Benefit Cost Analysis Annual Conference

**2020:** Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA) Annual Conference, Georgia State University Sustainability Speaker Series.

**2019:** Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA) Annual Conference, Association for Environmental and Resource Economics, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, Georgia State University Summer Labor Series, Association for Public Policy and Management, Southern Economics Association, CenREP Camp Resources, Colorado University Agricultural and Resource Economics Workshop.

**2018:** Association for Education Finance and Policy, Southern Economics Association, Georgia State University Summer Labor Series.

**2017:** Southern Economics Association.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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American Economic Association  
Society for Benefit Cost Analysis  
Southern Economic Association  
Association of Environmental and Resource Economists  
Agricultural & Applied Economics Association  
Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management

## REFeree SERVICE

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Journal of Environmental Economics and Management  
Journal of Health Economics  
Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economics  
Economics and Human Biology

## RELEVANT SKILLS

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Data Analysis: *Stata, R, SAS, Qlik, Python*  
Software: *Latex, ArcGIS, Adobe Sign (for Official Agreements)*  
Other: Cost-Benefit Analysis, Regulatory Impact Assessment, Program Evaluation, Environmental Justice Analysis, Statistical Methods, Causal Inference, Geospatial Analysis, Database Development, Grant-Writing

## FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

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|---|-----------------------|
| Office of the Administrator Rookie of the Year Award          | 2021                  |
| Andrew Young School of Policy Studies Dissertation Fellowship | \$10,000              |
| Second Century Initiative University Doctoral Fellowship      | Fall 2016 – Fall 2020 |

## REFERENCES

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Tim Sass (Chair)  
Distinguished University Professor  
Department of Economics  
Georgia State University  
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Garth Heutel  
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Department of Economics  
Georgia State University  
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Dajun Dai  
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Department of Geosciences  
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