

# Wes Austin

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Environmental Protection Agency  
National Center for Environmental Economics  
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Updated November 2025

## 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, B.A. in History*

*Spring 2013*

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

## 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

1. Austin, W., Bardot, T., and El-Khattabi, A.R. (2025) Comparative Analysis of Service Area Boundaries and Disparities in Drinking Water Quality. *PLOS Water* 4(11): e0000421. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pwat.0000421
2. Petrusovich, 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. *Environmental Science and Technology*. DOI: 10.1021/acs.est.5c05873
3. Bardot, T., Austin, W., El-Khattabi, A.R. (2025) Disparities in drinking water quality across the United States. *PLOS Water* 4(10): e0000362. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pwat.0000362
4. Rivkin, S., Austin, W., Chen, B., Goldhaber, D., Hanushek, E., Holden, K., Koedel, C., Ladd, H., Luo, J., Parsons, E., Phelan, G., Sass, T., Turaeva, M. (2025) State differences in pathways to school leadership and in achievement growth. *Economics of Education Review*. DOI: 10.1016/j.econedurev.2025.102699
5. 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*. (Volume 989).
6. Austin, W., Mueller, R. (2025) Forever Chemicals: Challenges and Opportunities for Researchers. *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy*. (Vol. 19:1).
7. 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).
8. 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).
9. 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

- Haley, B., W. Austin, C. Wachter, J. Suter, J. Burkhardt, S. Pan, and S. Kolstoe. The Effects of Wildfires on Drinking Water Quality in the Western United States, 2000-2022.
- Walsh, P., Austin, W., and Parthum, B. (2025). Biosolids Application and PFAS Drinking Water Contamination.
- Austin, W. & Mueller, R. (2025). PFAS Reductions in Drinking Water and Perinatal Health.
- Austin., W., Pan, S., Parthum, B. (2024) When it Rains, it Pours: Severe Weather Events, Flooding, and Drinking Water Quality. NCEE Working Paper Series.
- Austin, W. (2020) 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.

### 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

ECON 4075: Environmental Economics, Dual Instructor with Adam Theising  
ECON 475: Environmental Economics, Dual Instructor with Bryan Parthum

2023 — 2025  
2022

### Department of Economics, Georgia State University

ECON 8720: Data Science, Dual Instructor with Jon Smith  
ECON 2105: Introductory Macroeconomics, Instructor of Record  
ECON 4300: Economics of Cities, Teaching Assistant

Spring 2020  
Spring 2018  
Fall 2015 — Spring 2016

### Certifications and Training

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

Current  
Spring 2019  
Spring 2017

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

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

**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  
International Journal of Sustainable Transportation  
International Journal of Epidemiology

## RELEVANT SKILLS

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

## FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

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US EPA Mason Hewitt Award for Excellence in Geographic Information Systems	
shared with Andrew Murray, Alex Hall, Nicholas Spalt, Chandler Klawitter, and Kim Balassiano	2025
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 404-413-0150 <a href="mailto:tsass@gsu.edu">tsass@gsu.edu</a>	Dan Kreisman Assistant Professor Department of Economics Georgia State University 404-413-0199 <a href="mailto:dkreisman@gsu.edu">dkreisman@gsu.edu</a>
Garth Heutel Associate Professor Department of Economics Georgia State University 404-413-0145 <a href="mailto:gheutel@gsu.edu">gheutel@gsu.edu</a>	Dajun Dai Associate Professor Department of Geosciences Georgia State University 404-413-5797 <a href="mailto:ddai@gsu.edu">ddai@gsu.edu</a>