

Wes Austin

Environmental Protection Agency
National Center for Environmental Economics
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Updated June 2025

EDUCATION

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*

POSITIONS

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

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

Department of Economics, Georgetown University

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

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

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

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 talk), Environmental Justice in Drinking Water Mini-Conference (internal EPA), Social Cost of Water Pollution Workshop, Society for Benefit Cost Analysis Annual Conference

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

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

RELEVANT SKILLS

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

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

Tim Sass (Chair)
Distinguished University Professor
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Georgia State University
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Garth Heutel
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Dan Kreisman
Assistant Professor
Department of Economics
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404-413-0199
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Dajun Dai
Associate Professor
Department of Geosciences
Georgia State University
404-413-5797
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