

Wes Austin

Environmental Protection Agency
National Center for Environmental Economics
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Updated October 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, B.A. in 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

1. 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
2. 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
3. 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
4. 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).
5. Austin, W., Mueller, R. (2025) Forever Chemicals: Challenges and Opportunities for Researchers. *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy*. (Vol. 19:1).
6. 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).
7. 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).
8. 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tim Sass (Chair) Distinguished University Professor Department of Economics Georgia State University 404-413-0150 tsass@gsu.edu	Dan Kreisman Assistant Professor Department of Economics Georgia State University 404-413-0199 dkreisman@gsu.edu
Garth Heutel Associate Professor Department of Economics Georgia State University 404-413-0145 gheutel@gsu.edu	Dajun Dai Associate Professor Department of Geosciences Georgia State University 404-413-5797 ddai@gsu.edu