

Ph.D. Research Assistantships

Important Dates: Application deadline is February 15, 2018 for full funding consideration.

Apply online: <https://www.applyweb.com/ugagrad/>

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Ph.D. program begins: August 2018.

The Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics (AAE) at the University of Georgia (UGA) is recruiting Ph.D. students to participate in research projects in the areas of: Agricultural Production, Marketing, and Farm and Agribusiness Management; Environmental and Natural Resource Economics (ENV-NR); Food Economics and Policy Analysis; International Development Economics; and Human Capital Development.

Recipients of an Agricultural Production assistantship will identify, in agreement with their chosen advisory committee, specific research topics, which may focus on (but are not limited to) issues related to row crop, fruit and vegetable, ornamental horticulture, or livestock production or marketing; farm, agribusiness, or cooperative management; impacts of agricultural policy at the farm and agribusiness levels; or other policy-relevant topics.

Recipients of an ENV-NR assistantship will work closely with supervising faculty members to identify research topics related to non-market valuation of environmental goods and services, agricultural water policy and management, economics of natural disasters, interaction between human and natural coastal systems, design and evaluation of water quality policies, experimental design methods, and impacts of climate change on urban and rural communities.

Recipients of a Food Economics and Policy Analysis assistantship will work closely with supervising faculty members to identify research topics related to U.S. and global nutrition policy, price and demand analysis, U.S. food assistance programs, nutrition labeling, and food marketing.

Recipients of an International Development Economics assistantship will work with AAE faculty members who have ongoing and future projects in Bangladesh, China, Ghana, Haiti, Kenya, Nepal, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Uganda. Topics of research include agricultural technology adoption, food safety, food price and demand, nutrition and obesity, agricultural labor and structural transformation, risk and insurance, market integration of smallholder farmers, and anti-poverty programs.

Recipients of a Human Capital Development assistantship will work closely with supervising faculty members to identify research topics related to Pk-12 and post-secondary education and labor market outcomes. Topics include intertemporal decision making, risk preferences, the use of field experiments and institutional impacts on student educational outcomes.

Requirements: Students should have a record of success in university-level calculus and economics. A Master of Science in Agricultural Economics or related field is a plus, but not necessary. Students with interdisciplinary backgrounds are also encouraged to apply.

The Research Assistantship includes:

- Stipend up to \$2,200/month, for up to 4 years, depending on qualifications
- Full tuition waiver
- Medical insurance

About AAE at UGA

We offer a rigorous curriculum in microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics in cooperation with the Economics Department in the Terry College of Business. Students select from field courses in development economics, environmental economics, natural resource economics, advanced econometrics, and consumer theory. Students work closely with faculty on research throughout their program of study. Along with rigorous training in economic theory and empirical analysis critical to success as a professional economist, Ph.D. students are provided opportunities to develop instructional skills relevant to a career in academia.

The program prepares students for careers in academia, government, NGOs, and the private sector. More information about the program can be found here:

<http://www.caes.uga.edu/departments/ag-econ/graduate.html>.

UGA, the nation's oldest public university, is located in Athens, Georgia, 65 miles east of Atlanta. Athens is a cultural hub in the South, featuring a rich musical history, vibrant art scene, numerous festivals, and SEC athletics.

The research team of supervising faculty for these positions includes:

Dr. John Bergstrom (Environmental and Natural Resource Economics): Professor Bergstrom's research is focused on economic valuation of natural resources and application of values to policy and management. He has conducted applied research for multiple federal and state resource management agencies including the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the TVA. His current research emphasis is ecosystem service valuation and management.

Dr. Joshua Berning (Food Economics and Policy Analysis): Professor Berning conducts research on the economics of food marketing, food systems, and consumer health. He has investigated policy issues related to food advertising and marketing to children, the role of health and nutrition information on consumer behavior, and direct-to-consumer supply channels like farmers' markets. More recently, he has been working on topics related to the economics of the U.S. beer industry. He uses a wide variety of data for his work including experiments, consumer surveys, and large secondary data sets.

Dr. Brady Brewer (Agricultural Production, Marketing and Agribusiness): Professor Brewer's research interests include farm agribusiness, agricultural finance, production economics,

and policy analysis. He works on problems concerning agricultural credit markets, farmers' choice of lending institutions, land values, agricultural bank efficiencies, and credit migration rates. Professor Brewer teaches courses in agribusiness management and agricultural finance.

Dr. Ben Campbell (Agricultural Production, Marketing and Agribusiness): Professor Campbell's research and extension program focuses on green industry (greenhouses, nurseries, turf) production, marketing and consumer issues. His program mainly focuses on evaluating production strategies and costs at the producer level, estimating economic impacts, and consumer preference and willingness to pay at the consumer level. His work has been cited at the local and national level, including TIME.com, the Huffington Post, and the National Post Newspaper, among others. Professor Campbell has published over 40 journal articles as well as providing extension related output to industry associations and media outlets.

Dr. Gregory Colson (Food Economics and Policy Analysis): Professor Colson's research focuses on understanding consumer and producer decision-making related to agriculture, energy, and the environment. Employing choice experiments, experimental auctions, and survey methods, he has explored an array of issues including consumer acceptance of genetically engineered foods, country of origin labeling and geographical indications for food, and risk perceptions in agriculture.

Dr. Jeffrey H. Dorfman (Agricultural Production, Marketing, and Farm and Agribusiness Management; Food Economics and Policy Analysis): Professor Dorfman works on all areas of agricultural and applied economics. He works on food security, government program evaluation and improvement, the economic impact of land use patterns, statistics and applied econometrics, particularly Bayesian econometrics, futures markets and commodity prices, productivity and efficiency measurement, the economics and management of restaurants and supermarkets, regional economics, and both domestic and international rural development.

Dr. Cesar Escalante (Agricultural Production, Marketing and Agribusiness): Professor Escalante has a research, teaching, and extension appointment in the areas of agricultural finance and agribusiness management. Professor Escalante's research and outreach activities focus on issues related to the relationship of borrowers and lenders, credit risk assessment, and the delivery of credit services to various borrowing sectors in the farm industry. His current projects investigate, among others, the demand-supply conditions in the farm labor market, health access and work turnover issues among farm workers, and possible modifications of the existing farm guest worker (H2A) visa program.

Dr. Susana Ferreira (Environmental and Natural Resource Economics): Professor Ferreira's research seeks to better understand the economic causes and consequences of natural disasters. She is also interested in improving the measurement of economic and social progress to better capture quality of life and sustainability. Her current research in this area explores the link between the natural environment and subjective well-being.

Dr. Greg Fonsah (Agricultural Production, Marketing and Agribusiness): Professor Fonsah is an extension agricultural economist with statewide, national, and international responsibilities including farm management, production economics, agricultural marketing and consumer demand, agribusiness management, marketing, and international trade and policy of fruits and

vegetables. He also assists in transferring new and innovated technologies to agribusiness companies, and large, medium, and limited resource farmers producing fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops in the state of Georgia and beyond. Professor Fonsah is also the team leader of over a dozen scientists involved in the UGA, Auburn, and FAMU Banana Research Project.

Dr. Jeff Jordan (Human Capital Development): Professor Jordan's research is focused on education and human capital development among children and young adults. Using field experiments conducted among students as well as individual-level data from state resources, he is concerned with exploring issues of student drop outs, the impact of charter schools on educational outcomes, the issue of remedial course work at the post-secondary level, teacher quality evaluation and the role of time and risk preferences in the decision making process of students.

Berna Karali (Agricultural Finance, Risk Management, Applied Econometrics)

Professor Karali's research focuses on commodity price analysis with special emphasis given to futures markets to better understand underlying factors behind high volatility of agricultural commodity prices to improve production and risk management decisions. She is also examining the value and impact of public information relative to private information on commodity markets, and developing methods to improve public forecasts of crop production and prices.

Dr. Genti Kostandini (International Development Economics): Professor Kostandini's international development research focuses on the impact of new technologies (including drought tolerant crops) on reducing risk and improving the welfare of smallholder farmers. He is also looking at other mechanisms that increase the resilience of poor smallholder farmers in the face of climate change. His current ongoing research is in sub-Saharan Africa and Haiti.

Dr. Warren Kriesel (Environmental and Natural Resource Economics): The theme of Professor Kriesel's research is how an area's natural resources influence the well-being of nearby communities. His latest research has focused on Georgia coastal counties with topics that include land use, marshland valuation, beach conditions, and hurricane resiliency. This research has been supported by a Sea Grant and NOAA.

Dr. Craig Landry (Environmental and Natural Resource Economics): Professor Landry's research focuses on the assessment of nonmarket values and natural resource economics. He applies stated preference and revealed preference techniques to value coastal systems with an emphasis on the effects of coastal erosion, storm surge and flooding, wind damage, insurance, and mitigation. He also has an active research program investigating recreation demand and ecosystem services.

Dr. Nick Magnan (International Development Economics): Professor Magnan's research spans several areas of development economics, focusing on the rural poor. Specific areas of interest include technology adoption, market access, resource conservation, and anti-poverty programs. He has ongoing projects in Kenya and Nepal, and has also conducted research in Bangladesh, Ghana, Haiti, India, Morocco, and Tanzania.

Dr. Ellen McCullough (International Development Economics): Professor McCullough's research focuses on large scale structural change processes in African economies, and the pathways that link agricultural productivity growth and poverty reduction. She is particularly

interested in how labor shifts out of agriculture as economies develop. Her current ongoing research addresses shifting occupational choices in sub-Saharan Africa, agricultural labor demand, labor productivity, and climate-smart agriculture.

Dr. Jeff Mullen (Environmental and Natural Resource Economics): Professor Mullen's research is focused on water quantity and water quality issues. On the water quantity front, he is interested in agricultural water demand, farmer adoption of irrigation and information technologies, crop growth simulation models, and the spatial impacts of climate change on agricultural production and natural water systems. On the water quality front, he is interested in the efficacy and efficiency of storm-water and wastewater management infrastructure.

Dr. Adam N. Rabinowitz (Agricultural Production, Marketing and Agribusiness): Professor Rabinowitz focuses his research and extension program on peanuts and other small grains including corn, soybeans, and wheat. While production and agricultural marketing are key areas for his work, he also engages in other areas along the supply chain from grower to consumer. His work emphases are state and federal policy, including the Farm Bill which is due for reauthorization in 2018. He also works closely with faculty across disciplines, performing economic analysis on crop trials and production practices. Current research projects involve the economics of irrigation practices, crop rotation, and sustainability. He is also a member of a public policy education research group.

Dr. Octavio Ramirez (Risk Management, Crop Insurance, Applied Econometrics): Most of Professor Ramirez's research focuses on key issues affecting the actuarial performance and the levels of producer participation in crop insurance programs in the US and abroad, the efficacy of crop insurance as a risk management tool for agricultural producers, and designing risk management alternatives that can be effective with lower government subsidies.

Dr. Levi A. Russell (Agricultural Production, Marketing and Agribusiness): Professor Russell's research and extension program focuses on beef cattle, dairy, poultry, and other livestock production and marketing, as well as agricultural policy and public choice issues in agriculture. He works with faculty in Animal and Dairy Science, Soil and Crop Science, and Veterinary Science on issues relevant at the state and national level, including beef cattle price analysis, cattle production systems, and livestock farm management. Additionally, Professor Russell conducts research on the effects of regulatory policies on farmers and consumers and examines public policy design through the lens of public choice.

Dr. Travis Smith (Food Economics and Policy Analysis): Professor Smith conducts research in the areas of diet and nutrition, consumer choice, and applied econometrics. He has investigated how participants in the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program) respond to the monthly benefit provision and studied how school food programs impact child dietary quality. Methodologically, his research takes a distributional approach, analyzing impacts of policies for vulnerable subpopulations that fall within the tails of the distribution.

Dr. Chen Zhen (Food Economics and Policy Analysis, International Development Economics): Professor Zhen develops advanced yet practical quantitative techniques to inform food and nutrition policy in the U.S. and globally. His models of consumer food demand are often

estimated with retail and household scanner datasets with millions of observations. He has published a series of articles using demand system models and U.S. scanner data to predict the effect of sugar-sweetened beverage taxes on food demand, nutrition, and obesity. His current research including evaluating a major shelf nutrition labeling system on the U.S. market, predicting the effect of restricting the types of food eligible under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, estimating a complete food demand system using the USDA FoodAPS data, and simulating the effects of attribute-based tobacco policies.