

Steven W. Wilcox

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Education

Cornell University 2015 to present (Expected graduation: May 2022)
Ph.D. candidate in Applied Economics and Management

Dissertation title: “Three Essays on the Economics of Agricultural Production Behavior, Renewable Natural Resources, and Welfare Dynamics”.

Bard College 2005
M.S. in Environmental Policy

Utah State University 2002
B.A. *cum laude* in American Studies, Spanish, Geology

Research Interests

Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
Agricultural and Development Economics
Food, Agriculture, Land Use, Conservation and Policy
Risk and Uncertainty
Renewable Natural Resources
Remote Sensing Applications in Applied Economics

Working Papers

“Decomposing Deforestation after a Food Price Shock: Evidence from Cambodia”, with David R. Just and Ariel Ortiz-Bobea, *under review*. (Job market paper)

Abstract: Cash crop markets are commonly assumed to be primary drivers of agricultural expansion associated with deforestation. An alternative mechanism that has received scant attention, which may drive cash crop expansion and deforestation, is staple food markets. In this paper, we use the 2008 global staple food price shocks to study high rates of deforestation in Cambodia over 2004-2014. Using a shift-share instrumental variables strategy we estimate elasticities of 2-5 for the effect of local mean rice prices on deforestation; estimates for price standard deviation are 3-4 times smaller. Furthermore, we show that households were likely rice net-buyer dominant, and that household agricultural expansion is positively associated with local deforestation.

Works in Progress

“To (rent) bees or not to (rent) bees? An examination of the farmer’s question”, with Miguel I. Gómez, Heather Grab, David R. Just, and C.-Y. Cynthia Lin Lawell.

“Farm Level Pollination Strategies among New York Apple Farmers”, with Bryan N. Danforth, Miguel I. Gómez, Heather Grab, David R. Just, C.-Y. Cynthia Lin Lawell, and Maria Van Dyke.

“The Environmental Impacts of Microfinance: An Empirical Study of Index-Based Livestock Insurance and East African Rangelands”, with Christopher B. Barrett, Patrick E. Clark, Francesco P. Fava, Nathaniel D. Jensen, Njoki Kahiu, Benjamin Porter, Gerardo E. Soto, Ying Sun.

“Remote Sensing Advances in the Measurement of East African Rangeland Conditions.”, with Gerardo E. Soto (lead author), Christopher B. Barrett, Patrick E. Clark, Francesco P. Fava, Nathaniel D. Jensen, Njoki Kahiu, Chuan Liao, Benjamin Porter, Ying Sun.

“Long Run Trends in East African Rangeland Quality.”, Gerardo E. Soto (lead author), with Christopher B. Barrett, Patrick E. Clark, Francesco P. Fava, Nathaniel D. Jensen, Njoki Kahiu, Chuan Liao, Benjamin Porter, Ying Sun.

“Rangeland Quality in Mongolia: Comparing Impacts of Livestock and Climate Change.”, with Avralt-Od Purevjav and Tumenkhusel Avrimed (lead authors), and Christopher B. Barrett.

Grants

- 2021 – Environmental Impacts of Agricultural Intensification, CGIAR-Standing Panel on Impact Assessment-emLab (Phase II, \$76,679). “Rangeland Health and Index-Based Livestock Insurance: Innovations in Measurement and Evaluation.” Principal Investigator: Christopher B. Barrett. Co-Principal Investigators: Ying Sun, Nathaniel D. Jensen. Collaborators: Dr. Patrick E. Clark, Dr. Francesco P. Fava, Dr. Njoki Kahiu, Dr. Chuan Liao, Diba Galgallo, Oscar Naibei, Dr. Gerardo E. Soto, and **Steven W. Wilcox**.
- 2020 – Environmental Impacts of Agricultural Intensification, CGIAR-Standing Panel on Impact Assessment-emLab (Phase I, \$127,799). “Rangeland Health and Index-Based Livestock Insurance: Innovations in Measurement and Evaluation.” Principal Investigator: Christopher B. Barrett. Co-Principal Investigators: Ying Sun, Nathaniel D. Jensen. Collaborators: Dr. Patrick E. Clark, Dr. Francesco P. Fava, Dr. Njoki Kahiu, Dr. Chuan Liao, Diba Galgallo, Oscar Naibei, Dr. Gerardo E. Soto, and **Steven W. Wilcox**.
- 2019 – Engaged Cornell Supplemental Academic Venture Fund Grant (\$10,000). “Sustainable Agricultural Pollination Resource Investment and Management for New York Apple Farmers.” Principal Investigator: David R. Just. Co-Principal Investigators: Bryan N.

Danforth, Miguel I. Gómez, and C.-Y. Cynthia Lin Lawell. Collaborators: Dr. Heather Grab, Craig Kahlke, Maria van Dyke, and **Steven W. Wilcox**.

- 2019 – Academic Venture Fund (AVF) Award, Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future (\$101,327). “Sustainable Agricultural Pollination Resource Investment and Management for New York Apple Farmers.” Principal Investigator: David R. Just. Co-Principal Investigators: Bryan N. Danforth, Miguel I. Gómez, and C.-Y. Cynthia Lin Lawell. Collaborators: Dr. Heather Grab, Craig Kahlke, Maria van Dyke, and **Steven W. Wilcox**.
- 2018 – Sustainable Biodiversity Fund Grant, Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future (\$7,600). “Optimal Investment in a Pollination Resource Stock Under Uncertainty”. Principal Investigator: **Steven W. Wilcox**. Collaborators: David R. Just, C.-Y. Cynthia Lin Lawell, Miguel I. Gómez.
- 2017 – Richard Bradfield Research Award (\$3,500), College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University. Principal Investigator: **Steven W. Wilcox**. Collaborators: David R. Just and Ariel Ortiz-Bobea.

Presentations

“Decomposing Deforestation after a Food Price Shock: Evidence from Cambodia.”.

2019: Development and SEERE seminars at Cornell University (February, March, and April); Global Food Symposium, University of Göttingen – April 2020 (canceled due to covid-19).
2020: Development Seminar at Cornell University (September); NEUDC (November).
2021: Utah State University invited seminar (March); Cornell graduate seminar (November).

“To (rent) bees or not (to rent) bees? An examination of the farmer’s question”.

2019: Atkinson Center and Dyson School Seminars at Cornell University (April, October).
2020: Food Studies International Conference (October); CURB - Innovative Perspectives on the Environment Symposium (October).
2021: SEERE seminar at Cornell University (April).

“Insuring the Herd but Degrading the Range?”

An Empirical Study of Index-Based Livestock Insurance and Rangeland Health”.

2020: CGIAR-SPIA-USCB-emLab – Workshop on Environmental Impacts of Agricultural Intensification, with Chris Barrett and Nathan Jensen (August).
2021: Development seminar at Cornell University (April, October).
2022: Development seminar at Cornell University (March).

Awards and Honors

- 2020 – Cornell Dyson Graduate Student Outstanding Engaged Research Award.
- 2018 to Present – Research Fellow, David R. Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, Cornell University.

- 2003-2005 – Bard Center for Environmental Policy Fellowship, Bard College.
- 2001 – N.A. Pederson and Alice Tippets Scholarships, Utah State University.

Media Citations

“Dyson celebrates 2020 faculty, staff, and student award recipients”. *Dyson Business Feed*.
22 June 2020.

Teaching Experience and Research Advising

Research Supervision for 5 Undergraduate RAs Spring 2020 to Present

Honors Undergraduate Thesis Co-Supervision Fall 2020 - Spring 2021
Thesis Co-Supervisor with Professor Christopher B. Barrett

AEM 4500 / ECON 4810: Resource Economics Spring Semester 2019
Teaching Assistant for Professor Cynthia Lin Lawell

AEM 2350: Introduction to the Economics of Development Fall Semester 2016, 2018
Teaching Assistant for Professor Steve Kyle

AEM 2300: International Trade and Finance Spring Semester 2018
Teaching Assistant for Professor David R. Lee

Economics Research Experience

Research Assistant for Professor Christopher B. Barrett Summer 2020 to present

Research Assistant for Professor David R. Just Fall 2019, 2021, Spring 2020

Graduate Research Associate 5/2018 to present
Cornell University Think-tank for Resources, Energy, and the Environment:
Science and Policy-related Economic Analysis and Research (TREESPEAR)

Research Assistant for Professor Jennifer Ifft Fall 2017

Code, Computers, etc.

I do the majority of my coding in R and Matlab and I often use spatial and remote sensing platforms like Google Earth Engine.

Languages

Spanish (fluent speaking and writing); English (native speaker).

Other Work Experience

State Wetland Restoration Specialist 1/2013 to 7/2015

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Salt Lake City, Utah
Duties: Provide lead technical assistance to field offices throughout Utah for the Wetland Reserve Program as a member of the NRCS-Utah State Resources Staff.

Spanish Translator 1/2007 to 2/2007

Intermountain West Joint Venture, Salt Lake City, Utah and Nayarit, Mexico
Duties: Provide translation services in Utah and Mexico for a workshop on avian survey protocols, conservation planning, and monitoring for the Marismas Nacionales, Nayarit, Mexico.

Habitat Biologist 7/2006 to 1/2013

USDA-NRCS and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR), Ogden and Price, Utah
Duties: Provide technical conservation planning and habitat restoration assistance to NRCS field offices regarding wildlife and habitat, coordinate additional assistance from the UDWR.

Forestry Technician multiple seasons, 2002-2003, 2005

USDA-Forest Service (USDA-FS) and Montana State University (MSU)
Duties: Carry out forest stand surveys for research on aspen regeneration in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (for USDA-FS and MSU), and as a part of the USDA-FS Forest Inventory and Analysis Program (FIA). Field locations in Wyoming, Montana, and Nevada.

Research Intern 7/2004 to 12/2004

Proyecto Campanario, San Jose and Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica
Duties: Implement an economic feasibility analysis for a proposed private trail system in the buffer zones of national parks and protected lands in the Osa Peninsula.

Professional Service

Sustainable Biodiversity Fund Award reviewer, Atkinson Center, Cornell University 2019

STAARS Fellowship application reviewer, Cornell University, 2018 to present

NEUDC submission reviewer, Cornell University 2018

Member, Technical Advisory Committee, Jordan River Commission, Utah 2011 to 2015

For Fun

When not working or studying, here are some of things I enjoy doing for fun and sanity: spending time with my immediate-family (wife Sasha, kids Axel and Wren) and extended families; anything to do with climbing (bouldering, trad and sport climbing, mountaineering); backpacking; skiing (telemark, backcountry, skate skiing); fly-fishing; music (studying, playing, writing); reading and writing; gardening and construction work.

References

David R. Just (PhD committee chair)

Susan Eckert Lynch Professor in Science and Business

Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management

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Christopher B. Barrett (minor member, PhD committee)

Stephen B. and Janice G. Ashley Professor

Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management

340D Warren Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA

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C.-Y. Cynthia Lin Lawell (minor member, PhD committee)

Associate Professor and Robert Dyson Sesquicentennial Chair in Environmental, Energy and Resource Economics

Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management

407 Warren Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-4203, USA

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Ariel Ortiz-Bobea (minor member, PhD committee)

Associate Professor and CoBank/Farm Credit East Sesquicentennial Faculty Fellow in Economics and Management of Agricultural Production Sustainability

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439 Warren Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA

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Miguel I. Gómez (research collaborator)

Associate Professor and Robert G. Tobin Professor of Food Marketing

Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management

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Patrick E. Clark, PhD (research collaborator)
Rangeland Scientist USDA-ARS
800 Park Blvd., Suite 105
Boise, Idaho 83712
email: pat.clark@usda.gov; phone: (208) 422-0717

Casey Burns (co-worker/supervisor at NRCS)
Wildlife and Threatened & Endangered Species Lead
Bureau of Land Management - Alaska
email: ctburns@blm.gov; phone: 907-726-3291

Gautam Sethi (master's thesis chair)
Associate Professor of Economics and Econometrics
Bard Center for Environmental Policy
005 Hegeman Science Hall, Bard College
Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504, USA
email: sethi@bard.edu; phone: 845-758-7386