

PRAKASH MISHRA

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WHARTON SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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Undergraduate Studies:

Bachelors of Science, Bachelors of Science in Engineering

Economics & Systems Engineering

[Dual Degree: Jerome Fisher Management & Technology Program]

University of Pennsylvania, *summa cum laude*, 2019

Graduate Studies:

Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, 2019-present

Thesis Title: Essays in Environmental Economics

Expected Completion Date: May 2025.

Thesis Committee and References:

Arthur van Benthem (Chair)

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Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary fields: Environmental Economics

Secondary fields: Industrial organization, trade

Teaching Experience:

Spring 2022, BEPP2500: Managerial Economics (Wharton)

2024 Head Teaching Assistant for Ulrich Doraszelski

Spring 2023 BEPP2630/7630: Energy and Environmental Economics and Policy (Wharton)

Teaching Assistant and Grader for Arthur van Benthem

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2024	Wharton Global Initiative Research Grant
2024	Wharton Climate Center Research Grant
2022, 2023	Wharton Risk Center (Former) Russell Ackoff Doctoral Grants
2022- 2024	Winkelman Fellowship

Research Papers:

The Global Allocative Efficiency of Deforestation [Job Market Paper]

This paper first quantifies a global measure of inefficient and spatially misallocated agricultural deforestation: carbon emissions-intensive deforestation on land with low agricultural yields. I use granular spatial data and a trade general equilibrium model to identify a joint global supply curve of agricultural production and deforestation-based carbon emissions. Under a Pigouvian tax with a \$190 per ton social cost of carbon, 97% of carbon emissions from deforestation since 1982 are inefficient. Strikingly, these emissions are produced by 13% of the most carbon emissions intensive global agricultural land. Consequently, preventing these emissions costs only 6% of status quo agricultural production. However, an equity-efficiency tradeoff results: the tax burden falls on the poorest landowners. Lastly, if countries with carbon pricing policy apply these prices to deforestation, they would deliver 5% of Pigouvian emissions reductions.

An evaluation of protected area policies in the European Union [In Submission]

(with Arthur van Benthem, Mathias Reynaert, and Tristan Grupp)

The European Union designates 26% of its landmass as a protected area, limiting economic development to favor biodiversity. This paper uses the staggered introduction of protected-area policies between 1985 and 2020 to study the selection of land for protection and the causal effect of protection on vegetation cover and nightlights. Our results reveal protection did not affect the outcomes in any meaningful way across four decades, all countries, protection cohorts, and a wide range of land and climate attributes. We conclude that European conservation efforts lack ambition because policymakers select land for protection not threatened by development.

Research Paper(s) in Progress:

Examining the effects of the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy

(with Arthur van Benthem, Augusto Ospital, and Mathias Reynaert)

We study the largest agricultural support program in the world, the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). We document large differences in CAP crop subsidy allocation across countries, types of farming, and even productivity of farmers. This variable allocation of subsidy money affects the spatial allocation of agricultural production. This results in spatially varying impacts on the environment through land use conversion and fertilizer use. We investigate these impacts and consider alternative policy designs using a general equilibrium approach which uniquely accounts for the subsidy on both land use decisions and a livestock industry.

Evaluating the private provision of conservation: the case of Africa Parks

(with Santiago Saavedra)

Since 2003, 18 national parks have been transferred to management by the African Parks non-governmental organization across the continent of Africa. African Parks invests heavily in infrastructure

to prevent poaching and resource extraction on parks, and thus can either increase local economic development through investments or depress local development by cutting off access to resources like timber or endangered species. We review this private management scheme on both environmental and development outcomes. We find privately managed parks experience declines in deforestation, but that there is strong selection on parks which had low deforestation to begin with. We next explore the development impacts of these major infrastructural investments on nearby communities through nightlights imagery.

Agriculture and Land Use in the Tropics

[Proposal accepted and in preparation for *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy*]

(with Jennifer Alix-Garcia, Juliano Assunção, Teevrat Garg, and Fanny Moffette)

This review article synthesizes research on the trade-off between agricultural production and environmental externalities from deforestation and land use conversion. We focus on the tropics, where potential tradeoffs between food production and environmental quality are particularly acute because much larger shares of the population depend upon agriculture for work and subsistence.

Technology, trade, and variety: has agricultural technology changed what we eat?

Professional Activities

[* Indicates an upcoming talk or activity]

Presentations

FREIT Empirical Investigations in International Trade Workshop, 2024*

The Occasional Workshop in Environmental and Resource Economics, UCSB, 2024*

14th Toulouse Conference on Climate and Energy, 2024

Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Conference, 2024

International PhD Workshop on Sustainable Development, 2022, 2024

The Workshop on Environmental Economics and Data Science (TWEEDS), 2023

Camp Resources XXIV, 2023

Discussant

International PhD Workshop on Sustainable Development, 2024

14th Toulouse Conference on Climate and Energy, 2024

Other Activities

Becker Friedman Institute, Price Theory Summer Camp, 2023

AEA Committee on the Status of LGBTQ+ Individuals in the Economics Profession Mentoring Workshop, 2023