

MARK VALKOVCI

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EDUCATION

PhD	University of Colorado Boulder, Economics	August 2021
	Dissertation: "Three Essays on the Political Economy of the Environment"	
	Committee: Dr. Jonathan Hughes, Dr. Daniel Kaffine, Dr. Jeffrey Zax, Dr. Karen Gebhardt, Dr. Srinivas Parinandi	
MA	University of Colorado Boulder, Economics	May 2016
BA	Duquesne University, Economics Graduated Magna Cum Laude Graduate of Honors College	May 2013
BA	Duquesne University, Mathematics Graduated Cum Laude	May 2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Colorado Boulder , Boulder	Aug 2022 to Present
Teaching Assistant Professor , Economics Department & Student Academic Success Center	
• Courses: Principles of Microeconomics, Principles of Macroeconomics	
• Designed new course curriculum to support the diversity, equity and inclusion goals of the Student Academic Success Center	
• Integrated the gamification of learning pedagogical approach through comprehensive learning simulations that provided students with hands-on economic decision-making experience	
• Trained and oversaw the professional development of undergraduate instructional assistants in the university's diversity program	
• Co-lead a research initiative to determine the impacts of instructional assistantships on undergraduate student outcome	
• Average Instructor Rating: Not yet released	
University of Colorado Boulder , Boulder	Aug 2021 to Aug 2022
Lecturer , Economics	
• Instructed Principles of Macroeconomics, Intermediate Macroeconomics, Natural Resource Economics	
• Created unique lectures, assignments, and exams	
• Coordinated teams of 4-7 teaching assistants to maximize the effectiveness of lectures and recitations	
• Average Instructor Rating: 5.0	

University of Colorado Boulder , Boulder Graduate Instructor , Economics	May 2016 to May 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Courses: Principles of Macroeconomics (online and resident learning), Environmental Economics• Developed new course content for online lectures• First graduate instructor in department history to be given two simultaneous teaching positions (Summer 2019)• Average Instructor Rating: 5.4	

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary Fields: Environmental Economics, Natural Resource Economics, Political Economy
Secondary Fields: Macroeconomics, Industrial Organization

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

“Three Essays on the Political Economy of the Environment”, University of Colorado, Boulder 2016-2021

Advisor: Dr. Jonathan Hughes

- Estimated the impact of environmental legislation on multi-state firm outcomes
- Predicted the probability of interstate conflict due to national climatic events
- Determined the role of political affiliation on local environmental outcomes

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh PA

Advisor: Dr. Pavel Yakovlev

2011 to 2013

Honors Student

- Thesis project “The Probability of War and Alliance Power Concentration”
- Estimated the differential probability of armed conflict attributed to alliance power distribution

SKILLS

- Programming skills: STATA, Matlab, LaTeX, Excel, R
- Empirical Techniques: Triple difference estimation, long-panel analysis, Event study, Regression discontinuity

WORKING PAPERS

Firm Operational Flexibility as a Determinant of Compliance Cost

Abstract: The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 are widely viewed as the most prominent and cost-effective piece of environmental legislation adopted by the United States, yet little is known of the distribution of compliance costs or its determinants. By accounting for the variation in firm operational flexibility state-level Right-to-work laws provide, I estimate the differential impact of non-attainment under the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments on a novel dataset. The results suggest that firms with higher concentrations of polluting activities in Right-to-work states remained relatively more profitable over the first several years of regulation. Moreover, a modest agglomeration of non-attainment polluting activities into Right-to-work states implies the existence of an emission rebound effect in those states.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Toxic Politics: How Does Party Affiliation of Elected Official Affect Toxic Releases in the Local Area?

Mounting evidence suggests a steadily increasing divergence in environmental concern among Republicans and Democrats, yet few studies investigate whether this departure in ideals translates into differential environmental outcomes within and across jurisdictions governed by different political parties. This study takes a step toward filling this academic void by analyzing how the political party affiliation of elected officials impacts the amount of toxic chemical releases in their jurisdiction as reported in the Environmental Protection Agency's Toxic Release Inventory. Using a thirty-three-year panel of forty-nine states from 1987 to 2019, I find that Republican (relative to Democratic) State Legislatures and Governors are associated with substantially higher toxic emissions. Moreover, this effect appears to remain when analyzing the subset of chemicals with carcinogenic properties. This study provides preliminary evidence of unequal distribution in the release of toxic emissions based on the political party of state elected officials.

Conflict and Climate Lessons from Temperature and Rainfall Anomalies 1960-2000

Climate change and conflict pose the two most costly and least-understood phenomena facing the human race today and for the foreseeable future. Despite decades of work, no consensus has been reached concerning the potential role of climate change in conflict onset. I estimate the impact of abnormal and extreme climate-driven temperature and rainfall phenomena (CDPs) on the onset of militarized interstate disputes across all countries from 1960-2000, using historic monthly temperature and rainfall distribution to define abnormal and extreme CDPs. Varying ranges of distributions are implemented, imitating the differing expectation creation process used across decision makers. Employing both pooled and fixed effects logit as well as linear probability model specifications, I find that, in general, abnormal CDPs are associated with an increase in the probability of conflict onset while the opposite is true for extreme CDPs, and several potential mechanisms for this relationship are discussed

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Treasurer/Co-founder of Duquesne Chapter of Omicron Delta Epsilon (International Honors Economics Fraternity)
- Tophat Publishing Company, textbook co-author

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

RenoReady Inc, Johnstown, PA 2009 to 2012

CEO, Treasurer, and Cofounder

- Evaluated potential clients for online retail capability and compatibility
- Coordinated online procurement of complete mortgage services with focus on FHA 203K loans designed to help low-income families make affordable first-time home purchases

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Duquesne University

Orientation Chairperson, Organized Orientation Events and Activities for incoming freshmen class of 1200-1400 students, Pittsburgh PA, 2011-2013

Duquesne University

Orientation Team Leader, Responsible for 75 incoming freshmen, Pittsburgh PA, 2010-2011

REFERENCES

Dr. Jonathan Hughes, Associate Chair of Graduate Studies
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Shane Oshetski, Program Coordinator – Humanities and Social Sciences Program
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