February 2023 Volume 45, Issue 4

Exchange

AAEA News

Announcing the Incoming Editors for AJAE

Congratulations to our incoming editors:

Nicholas Magnan, University of Georgia



Christian Langpap, Oregon State University



Their duties will begin January 2024.

Call for submissions: AAEA invited paper sessions at the 2024 ASSA Annual Meeting

President-Elect Rudy Nayga is soliciting proposals and suggestions for AAEA invited paper sessions at the 2024 Allied Social Sciences Association (ASSA) Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX, January 5-7, 2024.

The objective of AAEA sessions at the ASSA Annual Meeting is to share new knowledge of interest to economists. The AAEA encourages sessions that will draw widely from ASSA attendees, including sessions jointly sponsored with other ASSA member associations.

A subcommittee of the AAEA Board will review all proposals. Preference will be given to proposals that

- 1) Cover issues of national and international importance,
- 2) Expand capabilities and tools for economic research,
- 3) Promise a high-quality collection of papers suitable for publication.

Papers in approved Invited Paper sessions are eligible to be peer reviewed for publication in the proceedings issue of the *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policies*. Authors will be contacted by the *AEPP* editors with manuscript submission details.

Proposed formats for the 2-hour sessions may include either three papers with one discussant or else four papers with no discussant. All proposals must include a plan for fostering participant interaction.

Proposals should include the session title and paper titles, as well as the names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of the session organizer, moderator, paper presenters, and discussants. Proposal text should begin with a short justification of the session, followed by one paragraph abstracts describing the objective and contributions of each paper. The organizer is responsible for ensuring that all individuals identified in the proposal are willing to participate.

All speakers and discussants must be members of AAEA, although the proposal may request a membership waiver under special circumstances. Participants must register for the ASSA meeting.

Please send proposals by May 24, 2023, in Word or PDF format to Mary Annen at mannen@aaea.org.

Call for Papers on Machine Learning, Big Data and Applications in Applied Economics

We invite submissions to a special issue on "Machine Learning and Big Data Applications in Applied Economics", in the journal Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy (AEPP). With this special issue, we aim to extend the evidence based on big data and machine learning (ML) methods across a wide range of academic disciplines and industry sectors, including the agricultural sector, food value chains, and nutrition applications.

The editors encourage the use of a diverse range of big data and ML methods for addressing issues like product pricing, trade, food security, forecasting approaches, crop production, and environmental and resource evaluations. We will also consider theoretical studies that provide empirically testable and/or policy-relevant insights. Studies using data from various sources, including household surveys, simulation models, and systematic reviews are welcome. Papers whose focus is not explicitly listed above but that fit well the overall objective of this call will also be considered.

The issue will be guest-edited by Ashok k. Mishra, Arizona State University; Alexis Villacis, Arizona State University and Kathy Baylis, University of California Santa Barbara.

A two-tier selection procedure will be used for this special issue. Part 1 is an extended abstract submission. Extended abstracts (max. 2 pages) should describe the proposed study and approach. Please be sure to include all authors and a title with the abstract. Abstracts must be submitted by **March 5, 2023**, via email to Ashok Mishra, Ashok.k.Mishra@asu.edu.

Guest editors will review the abstracts and select papers for submission. Full papers need to be submitted by June 30, 2023. If you have question of comments, please reach out to Ashok Mishra, Email: Ashok.k.Mishra@asu.edu

Preview of AAEA 2023 Annual Meeting Workshops

Registration will open in March; registration is required for all workshops. *Additional details for each workshop coming soon*

Pre-Conference Workshops
Saturday, July 22, 2023
BEER Section Craft Industry Tour

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

(Note: will depart prior to 1:00 pm)

US Agricultural and environmental policy: opportunities and challenges

8:30 am - 4:30 am

Marriott Marquis

Brief Description: While economists recommend using market incentives, there is the widespread use of regulation to achieve agricultural and environmental resource management objectives. We propose to hold a workshop to explain this reality using multiple vantage points including, political economy, irreversibility, and supply chain perspectives. With these perspectives in mind, we will overview the policy choices of environmental and agricultural policies in the US, followed by a roundtable and a public discussion.

Relevance to AAEA Members/Meeting Attendees: Concerns about climate change, the environment, food security and resilience, and the agricultural sector's economic viability have led to various government interventions. The proposed workshop will offer alternative explanations to these policy choices, where the presenters are distinguished association members.

Numerical Methods in Agricultural Economics

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Marriott Marguis

Brief Description: The workshop will focus on practical applications of numerical methods to the formulation, solution, and analysis of stochastic dynamic optimization models. The workshop will introduce participants to the MATLAB CompEcon Toolbox developed to accompany "Applied Computational Economics and Finance", a book by Mario J. Miranda and Paul W. Fackler.

Relevance to AAEA Members/Meeting Attendees:

Methods of computational economics provide an extensive toolkit that can be used in research in all field of agricultural and applied economics. Potential areas of application include but are not limited to agribusiness, agricultural finance, resource economics, firm-level decision making, risk management etc.

Understanding and utilizing USDA's Economic Research Service trade data

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Marriott Marguis

Brief Description: The objective of the workshop is to provide an overview of the trade data generated by USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS). This includes, but not limited to, the Foreign Agricultural Trade of the U.S. data, State Trade Data, and Agricultural Trade Multipliers.

Relevance to AAEA Members/Meeting Attendees: The focus will be on why this data is generated and how it is used to inform policymakers and the public. At the end of the workshop attendees will have a solid understanding of ERS's data availability, how to access it, and how to potentially collaborate on joint research projects with ERS

Conferencing Like a Pro: Strategies for a Successful Conference Experience 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm Marriott Marquis

Brief Description: The main goal of the workshop is to provide guidance for (new) AAEA members and young scholars on productive conference participation and to engage them in the research community. In the first half of the workshop a panel consisting of various AAEA members will share their own strategies for making a conference attendance successful. For example, at AAEA this might include attending section business meetings, networking events, receptions, and presenting their work. Afterwards, a quick conference orientation will be provided including, e.g., AAEA meeting policies and on–site resources. The remainder of the workshop is a networking event. The workshop is aimed to help graduate students (both Ph.D. students and MS students) and junior faculty feel welcome, engaged and included at AAEA's annual meeting as well as introducing them to more experienced colleagues. In addition, the workshop will promote existing resources at AAEA that support endeavors of beginning researchers and prohibit inappropriate behavior.

Relevance to AAEA Members/Meeting Attendees: In 2021–2022, a team of researchers from Arizona State University in collaboration with the AAEA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force conducted a survey on the barriers that young scholars face pursuing a career in the Agricultural and Applied Economics field. One of the questions in the survey requested any suggestions that may help the association to be more inclusive and welcoming to everyone in the field. The majority of respondents emphasized the needs for events introducing new members, mentoring programs, social activities, and opportunities for graduate students (both Ph.D. students and MS students) and junior professionals. The results of the survey highlighted that being more inclusive and engaging new or less experienced members is in the best interest of AAEA (members).

The workshop will provide an opportunity for junior scholars to hear about "best practices" of attending conferences from scholars of different career stages and with different backgrounds, ask relevant questions, connect with their peers, and introduce themselves to more experienced colleagues in an informal, welcoming setting. For more proficient colleagues, the workshop will allow them to meet new people for future collaborations and listen to ideas of young scholars.

Intended Audience: All AAEA members, with a particular focus on new members and young scholars like Ph.D. students and MS students.

Post-Conference Workshops
Wednesday, July 26, 2023
Extension Section Agricultural Tour
Additional details coming soon

Bayesian Econometrics and Machine Learning

7:30 am - 5:00 pm Marriott Marquis

Instructors: Sujit Ghosh (NC State) and Austin Ford Ramsey (Virginia Tech)

Description: The Bayesian paradigm provides a natural and practical way for building complex analytical models by expressing the joint model as a sequence of simpler conditional models. This course will first introduce general notions of Bayesian inference and computational methods and then expand to more complex models that have recently emerged as a result of the current literature in machine learning. Models will be illustrated through practical applications to various real case studies in applied economics avoiding much of the theoretical underpinnings. Participants with basic knowledge of statistical and econometric inferential frameworks will find the course useful in expanding their toolkit. Popular topics in agricultural and applied economics such as generalized linear models, discrete choice models, and latent variable models will be covered along with Bayesian machine learning (BML) methods, which naturally incorporates regularization using specific choices of prior distributions. One major advantage of BML is that it can readily handle data irregularities (e.g., missing or censored values) using posterior predictive distributions. The concepts and methods discussed will be demonstrated using R, but can be carried out using other statistical software. Lecture materials, references, data sets, and example code will be distributed electronically to workshop participants.

Publishing Applied Economic Research on Health and Nutrition

7:30 am - 5:00 pm

Marriott Marquis

Brief Description: Workshop's attendees will have the opportunity of hearing the perspectives of the editors of leading agricultural economics journals on what constitutes an article in health and nutrition that clears the bar for publication. This workshop is particularly beneficial to early career researchers navigating the tenure and promotion process. Although there is a growing number of applied economic research in interdisciplinary journals, how these publications are perceived during the tenure process in agricultural economics departments appears to be an idiosyncratic process. This workshop invites speakers who serve as department Chairs to share their views on how to best balance research outputs. Additionally, a panel of agricultural economists who have successfully published their research in both economics and non–economics journals, will share their experience on what factors have affected their publication strategy, and how publishing in non–economic journals has impacted their research trajectory. The last panel will ask researchers from government agencies to evaluate how interdisciplinary research is used for policy making.

Relevance to AAEA Members/Meeting Attendees:

Applied economists' toolbox is well suited to study the incentives can alter behaviors affecting individuals' health, such as the decision to consume a specific diet. However, the level of rigor and sophistication that is often asked by economics (including ag economics) journals to clear the publication bar, can be at odds with one's work reaching a wide audience, its impact, and, in some cases, the likelihood (and timing) of getting published. Thus, it has become increasingly common to see agricultural and applied economists publishing their health and nutrition research in non–economics outlets. This may however come with some trade–offs, which include lower recognition and visibility

within the profession / peers, and challenges to maintain a disciplinary identity which, in turn, may result in difficulties in landing a specific position or in career advancements.

Announcing the 2023 Extension Competition for Graduate Students 2023 AAEA Annual Meeting

The AAEA Extension Competition for Graduate Students provides an opportunity to develop and/or get feedback on programs that communicate research and practical information to Extension (usually non-economist) audiences. Entries can be based upon graduate student research for a thesis, dissertation or other academic work. The competition is sponsored by the Extension and Graduate Student Sections.

Note: This year, we will once again work with applicants who cannot or do not wish to attend the conference in person. The details below refer to our current plan and may change.

Who's Eligible?

Graduate students currently engaged in topics related to agricultural economics, agribusiness, natural resources, and community resource economics as well as those who graduated from such programs in Spring 2023 or later.

Participants must identify and work with a mentor with experience in outreach or extension activities.

The Application:

Applications should be addressed to Curtis Mahnken at cmahnken@umn.edu and must include:

- 1. Student's name, university, department, address and contact information.
- 2. Title of the extension program to be delivered.
- 3. A summary of the proposed extension program. This should include project outcomes, target audience, delivery plans, communication methods and activities planned for distributing the information to the public such as fact sheets, reports, web sites, spreadsheets, and presentations (4 page maximum). If the applicant was part of a team, the role of the applicant within the team must be made clear. If the proposed project is building upon the success of other extension programs, the summary should include a description of the previous program and the innovative approach of this proposed project.
- 4. An educational popular press article limited to 500 words and no more than two graphics (tables, charts, etc.). This should be an addendum to your submission packet. Examples include: https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2023/01/us-price-inflation-focus-on-farm-prices.html and https://southernagtoday.org
- 5. A detailed evaluation plan. This should be an addendum to your submission packet. You may choose to develop your project using a logic model (which is not required). You can see more information on logic models below.*
- 6. A profile of the applicant's background and research (1 page maximum).
- 7. The mentor's name and description of the mentor's role in the project.

Finalists at AAEA

Finalists will be selected to make a 15-minute presentation at the AAEA meeting either virtually or in Washington, D.C. on Sunday July 23, 2023, to a panel of judges, who will then ask 5 minutes of questions. The competition will begin at 8AM EDT. Selection of the finalists will be based on the material submitted and the criteria listed above. Finalists will be notified by June 5, 2023. The top three finalists are expected to make

presentations during an AAEA Extension track organized symposium if present in Washington DC or virtually. Date and time are to be determined (likely Tuesday, July 25).

Awards Cash awards will be given to those judged to be the top three graduate students in this competition. Award funding is provided by the AAEA Extension Section through membership dues and via support provided by sponsors. Awards are:

• First Place: \$1,000 and a plaque

Second Place: \$300 and a certificateThird Place: \$200 and a certificate

• Other finalists receive finalist certificates.

The top 3 competitors selected will be recognized at the AAEA Awards ceremony on the evening of July 24. All finalists will be provided tickets to the Extension Luncheon on July 24 during the AAEA annual meetings.

Submission Deadline: Midnight CDT on Friday, **May 12, 2023**. Email entries to Curtis Mahnken, Competition Committee Chair at cmahnken@umn.edu. Finalists will be notified by June 5, 2023.

*Logic models, often linked with program evaluation, can also be useful for planning a program. You can find many examples of logic models online, including:

https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/programdevelopment/logic-models/bibliography/

https://www.cdc.gov/tb/programs/evaluation/Logic_Model.html

https://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/cis/cis1097.pdf

Other News

Water Economics and Policy Journal: Call for Papers for a Special Issue Special Issue on Economic Impact of Climate Change on the Water Sector in MENA and Northern Mediterranean Countries

Guest Editor:

Slim Zekri (Sultan Qaboos University, Oman)

Email: Slim@squ.edu.om

Climate change in MENA countries as well as Northern Mediterranean countries (Portugal, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Greece and Southern France) has already made an evident impact affecting rain-fed agriculture as well as surface water reservoirs, aquifers' natural recharge and cities. Crop varieties and tree species currently under cultivation in the Southern Mediterranean would progressively be appropriate in the North Mediterranean farming systems for adaptation. Rain is becoming more sporadic and more intensive with fewer number of rainy days, higher temperatures and longer summer months, leading to crop area shrinkage and increased need for water desalination. Hence, the increased water scarcity is affecting all the economic sectors (agriculture, water utilities, industry, tourism and the environment) and driving a higher demand for water, including for adaptation purposes. Domestic urban and rural water are under increased stress/variability and water service failures/interruptions are becoming more frequent causing social discontent. Although quantitative technical-physical climate impacts are quite abundant, the lack of economic value tags attached to such studies makes them less valuable for policy consideration and undertaking the necessary shifts and adaptations. Previous economic impact studies based their adaptation measures on deficit irrigation for

instance, however data is showing that aquifers are under high stress and cannot be used for such a purpose. Similarly, surface water reservoirs' storage capacity is negatively affected by siltation caused by the more torrential sporadic intensive rains reducing the supply of water and increasing the supply uncertainty. This special issue of Water Economics and Policy aims to bridge this gap.

Potential topics/issues include, but are not limited to:

- Assessing the economic losses caused by extreme events (droughts; floods; extreme temperatures) on water for cities and agriculture;
- Economic impact of climate change on rain-fed and irrigated agriculture and adaptation measures;
- Economic impact of climate change on dams' storage capacity based on observations (during the period 1990-2022). Dams' siltation and water value taking into account rain intensity and periodicity;
- Adaptation measures and investments in the water sector as a response to climate change;
- Impacts of climate change on water policies and institutions;
- MENA and Northern Mediterranean countries' policy adaptation measures and investments undertaken in the past 20 years in the water/agricultural sectors;
- Case studies of successful adaptation strategies in the water sector;
- International programs and international aid and their effect on water sector adaptation to climate change on the MENA region;
- Assessment of the European programs oriented toward water sector climate adaptation for Northern and Southern Mediterranean countries; and
- Investments in R&D for water climate adaptation.

Timeline and submissions

Manuscript submission deadline (via Editorial Manager): July 31, 2023.

All submitted papers are expected to fully comply with Water Economics and Policy journal standards and are subject to regular review procedures. Papers should not have been published previously in any other journal (print or electronic format). All submissions should follow the journal's Submission Guidelines found here: https://www.worldscientific.com/page/wep/submission-guidelines.

About the Guest Editor

Dr Slim Zekri is Professor in the Dept. Nat. Res. Econ. at Sultan Qaboos University. He earned his PhD in Ag. Econ. and Quantitative Methods from the University of Cordoba, Spain. His main research interests are in Water Economics & Policy; Agricultural Economics and Environmental Economics. In 2017 he won the Research and Innovation Award in Water Science from the Sultan Qaboos Higher Center for Culture & Science. He is Associate Editor of the journal of Water Economics and Policy. He worked as a consultant for a range of national and international agencies. He is member of the Scientific Advisory Group of the FAO's Globally Interesting Agricultural Heritage Systems since 2018. In 2020 he edited a book titled Water Policy in MENA Countries published by Springer.

https://www.worldscientific.com/page/wep/callforpapers08

Special Issue in Food Policy: Transforming Global Agri-Food Value Chains

This special issue of Food Policy invites research papers that contribute to our understanding of the complex relationships between agri-food value chains, trade, domestic and international policies, and global value chains (GVCs). Recent socioeconomic and political events (e.g., COVID-19, Russia-Ukraine War) challenge

conventional wisdom regarding the structure and importance of agri-food GVCs, raising the need for new research. The transformation of agri-food GVCs is necessary for addressing some of the global challenges identified in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We encourage studies that address various aspects of the issues facing agri-food GVCs and their impact on various socioeconomic outcomes, such as food safety, consumer nutrition and health, employment and wages, and technology spillovers. We welcome submissions based on diverse approaches and methods (e.g., empirical and qualitative analyses, simulation models, case studies, and systematic reviews). We welcome submissions from various relevant disciplines, including applied economics, food systems science, transportation sciences, and other sciences, provided the studies are accessible to scientists from different disciplines.

Guest editors:



Dr. Titus Awokuse
Michigan State
University, East Lansing,
MI, USA
(Keywords: International
trade, Food security
policy, Economic growth)



Dr. Fabio Santeramo
University of
Foggia, Cattedra di di
Economia e Politica
Agroambientale, Via
Napoli 25, 71122 Italy (Keywords:
Agricultural Policy and
International Trade)



Dr. Sandro Steinbach
North Dakota State
University, Department
of Agribusiness and
Applied Economics,
Fargo, ND, USA
(Keywords: Agricultural
Policy and International
Trade)



Dr. Sunghun Lim
Louisiana State
University, Department
of Agricultural
Economics and
Agribusiness, Baton
Rouge, LA, USA
(Keywords: Global Value
Chains, International
Trade and Development,
Structural
Transformation)

Special issue information:

This special issue of Food Policy invites research papers that contribute to our understanding of the complex relationships between agri-food value chains, trade, domestic and international policies, and global value chains (GVCs). Recent socioeconomic and political events (e.g., COVID-19, Russia-Ukraine War) challenge conventional wisdom regarding the structure and importance of agri-food GVCs, raising the need for new research. The transformation of agri-food GVCs is necessary for addressing some of the global challenges identified in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We encourage studies that address various aspects of the issues facing agri-food GVCs and their impact on various socioeconomic outcomes, such as food safety, consumer nutrition and health, employment and wages, and technology spillovers. We welcome submissions based on diverse approaches and methods (e.g., empirical and qualitative analyses, simulation models, case studies, and systematic reviews). We welcome submissions from various relevant disciplines, including applied economics, food systems science, transportation sciences, and other sciences, provided the studies are accessible to scientists from different disciplines. The papers are strongly encouraged to address the following themes:

- 1. What are the Implications of recent economic and political events for the future of agri-food GVCs?
- 2. What are the implications of changes in agri-food GVCs for food safety, consumer nutrition and health, global markets and trade, employment and wages, and technology spillovers?
- 3. How can agricultural and food policies affect the sustainability and efficiency of agri-food GVCs?
- 4. What are the welfare consequences of domestic and foreign agri-food policies across agri-food GVCs and between developed and developing economies?

Manuscript submission information:

The <u>Food Policy's submission system</u> will be open for submissions to our Special Issue from 07 Feb 2023. When submitting your manuscript please select the article type "**VSI**: **Transforming Global Ag–Food VC**". Please submit your manuscript before 30 June 2023.

All submissions deemed suitable to be sent for peer review will be reviewed by at least two independent reviewers. Once your manuscript is accepted, it will go into production, and will be simultaneously published in the current regular issue and pulled into the online Special Issue. Articles from this Special Issue will appear in different regular issues of the journal, though they will be clearly marked and branded as Special Issue articles.

Please ensure you read the Guide for Authors before writing your manuscript. The Guide for Authors and link to submit your manuscript is available on the Journal's homepage at https://www.elsevier.com/journals/food-policy/0306-9192/quide-for-authors.

Inquiries, including questions about appropriate topics, may be sent electronically to Dr. Titus Awokuse < awokuset@msu.edu>

Keywords:

Agri-food value chains, food safety, food security, international trade, domestic and international policies, consumer nutrition and health, COVID-19

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Interested in becoming a guest editor? Discover the benefits of guest editing a special issue and the valuable contribution that you can make to your field: https://www.elsevier.com/editors/role-of-an-editor/guest-editors

Workshop in "Survey Design & Experimental Methods in Applied and Agricultural Economics" https://fab-lab.wpcarey.asu.edu/international-school

The workshop will cover theoretical and practical knowledge regarding surveys and experimental methods. In addition, delegates will be familiarized with state-of-the-art software, and will design their own practice experiment through hands-on training.

Instructors include Vincenzina Caputo (Michigan State University), Carola Grebitus (Arizona State University), David Just (Cornell University), Jayson L. Lusk (Purdue University), Rudy Nayga (Texas A&M), and Matthew Rousu (Susquehanna University).

The workshop will take place from May 22 to May 26, 2023, at Arizona State University. It is open to academics and non-academics. Seats are limited, and registration is based on a first come, first served basis.

For more information about registration click here: https://fab-lab.wpcarey.asu.edu/fees
For more information about scholarships click here: https://fab-lab.wpcarey.asu.edu/scholarships

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- AEPP Advance Access
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- JAAEA Open Access Journal

The Exchange

published biweekly by the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association.

Submissions to *The Exchange*:

email: <u>aware@aaea.org</u>

or

info@aaea.org

www.aaea.org







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Open Jobs

<u>Department Head/Agricultural Economic</u>
 <u>& Agricultural Business</u>

New Mexico State University

(Posted: 02/17/2023)

Assistant Professor and Extension
 Specialist, Economist-Management,
 District 7, San Angelo, Texas

Texas A&M University

(Posted: 02/16/2023)

- Professor of Development Policy
 University of Notre Dame (Posted: 02/15/2023)
- <u>Postdoctoral Research Associate</u>
 <u>University of Georgia</u> (Posted: 02/13/2023)

View Job Openings on the <u>AAEA Job Board</u>

Working with the Media

What research are you working on? Want to be an expert source for journalists working on a story? Contact Allison Ware at AWare@aaea.org
View all Press Releases HERE

Member in the News

Do you know an AAEA Member who has made statewide, national, or international news? Send a link of the article to **Austin Sparbel at asparbel@aaea.org** or **info@aaea.org**.

View other Members in the News HERE

Anti-Harassment and Code of Conduct Policy

AAEA is committed to the fair, ethical treatment of all of its members and all other individuals participating in AAEA activities or activities connected with, or related to, AAEA activities, while providing an atmosphere that promotes a variety of research, teaching and extension/outreach activities.

AAEA has zero tolerance for, and prohibits any type of, discrimination or harassment, including sexual harassment, either within the organization, at professional meetings, in the field, or anywhere professional activities are conducted under the aegis of the AAEA.

View the policy here.