

David Wilson

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Education

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| Georgia Institute of Technology | May 2027* |
| Ph.D., Economics | |
| Advisor: Dylan Brewer | |
| Minor: Teaching in Higher Education | |
| Georgia Institute of Technology | May 2025 |
| M.S., Economics | |
| Georgia State University | May 2022 |
| B.S., Economics | |

Research Interests

Environmental Economics; Urban Economics; Applied Microeconomics; Labor Economics

Working Papers

Flood Risk, Market Segmentation, and the Impact of Disclosure on Housing Prices

Housing markets are spatially segmented, yet the empirical literature on climate risk capitalization typically treats flood risk as a uniform attribute valued consistently across geography. I argue that because homebuyers search within local markets, identification at wider spatial scales conflates within-neighborhood risk pricing with sorting across neighborhoods. The estimated discount therefore depends critically on how flood risk is relatively compared. Using a hedonic model applied to 41.4 million residential transactions, I compare estimates based on a one standard deviation increase in flood risk measured relative to the national, county, and ZIP code distributions. The implied discount declines from 4.9% when risk is indexed to national variation to 1.7% within counties and 0.9% within ZIP codes. This pattern suggests that much of the observed capitalization reflects cross-neighborhood differences rather than within-neighborhood pricing of marginal risk. I then examine whether information asymmetries lead buyers to underweight parcel-level flood risk prior to mandatory disclosure, exploiting South Carolina's 2013 statewide flood disclosure mandate as a natural experiment. In a difference-in-differences framework, I find that the policy reform reduced prices for properties in Special Flood Hazard Areas by 5.4% relative to non-SFHA properties in the same county and month. A triple-difference specification further shows that disclosure steepened the price-risk gradient within the floodplain, with the capitalization of a one standard deviation increase in flood risk increasing by an additional 4.1% after the mandate. These findings are consistent with increased salience or improved information about flood hazards and suggest that targeted disclosure policies can meaningfully enhance the pricing of climate risk in residential markets.

SDG-ing ECON: Enriching Economics Education through UN Sustainable Development Goals and Ethical Perspectives (with Aselia Urmanbetova and Ana Mazmishvili)

We propose an approach that integrates traditionally excluded topics into economics curricula without major redesign costs. Using Fink's significant learning objectives, we operationalize SDG learning outcomes and develop a generalized template for converting traditional objectives into sustainability-rich lesson plans.

Works in Progress

The Unintended Consequences of California's Solar Mandate (with Dylan Brewer)

Analyzes California's 2019 solar roof mandate using building permits, demographics, and solar capacity for all U.S. counties. Employs triple-differences and synthetic DiD to estimate causal effects on construction activity.

Is the Grass Always Greener?

Studies the social costs and benefits of Toronto's 2009 green roof mandate and its implications for housing supply constraints.

The Health Impacts of Occupational Health and Environmental Exposure

Uses service member health data and deployment history to estimate causal effects of pollution exposure on adverse health outcomes using difference-in-differences and quasi-random occupational assignment.

Research Experience

Economics Research Analyst, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta May 2024–Present

- “Post-Pandemic Life After Leisure” with Julie Hotchkiss and Melinda Pitts (Spring 2025)
- “The Role of Social Costs in Response to Labor Market Opportunities” with Julie Hotchkiss (Fall 2024)

Graduate Research Assistant, Georgia Institute of Technology May 2023–May 2024

- Environmental Effects of Electric Vehicle Adoption (with Dylan Brewer), Spring 2024
- UN Sustainable Development Goals in Economics Education (with Aselia Urmanbetova), Fall 2023
- Behavioral Health Economics (with Mayra Pineda-Torres), Summer 2023

Teaching Experience

Graduate Teaching Assistant

ECON 6110: Corporate Strategy (Spring 2023)
ECON 2101: The Global Economy (Spring 2023)
ECON 4510: Health Economics (Fall 2022)
ECON 4060: Money & Capital Markets (Fall 2022)
ECON 3120: Advanced Macroeconomics (Fall 2022)

Presentations & Workshops

2026: Urban Economics Association Summer Workshop; Southern Economics Association

2025: American Economics Association; Atlanta Federal Reserve Brownbag Series; Atlanta Economics PhD Summer Symposium; Southern Economics Association

2024: Conference on Teaching & Research in Economic Education; Southern Economics Association

Scholarship, Honors & Awards

Georgia Institute of Technology

School of Economics Graduate Fellowship
Richard House Fellowship
Graduate Student Leadership Award

Georgia State University

Zeinah Danielle Aouani Research Scholarship

Professional Activities

Associations

American Economic Association (AEA); Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE); Urban Economics Association (UEA)

Activities and Service

Economics Collaborative in the Atlanta Area Academic Institutions (Eco3AI), Graduate Student Advisor

Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE), Graduate Student Advisor

Econ Club, Graduate Student Advisor

Student Veterans Association, Undergraduate Student Mentor

Professional Experience

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| Economics Research Analyst , Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta | 2024–Present |
| Program Manager , United States Air Force, Joint Base San Antonio TX | 2016–2018 |
| Unit Deployment & Security Manager , USAF, Joint Base San Antonio TX | 2014–2016 |
| Quality Assurance Manager , USAF, Joint Base San Antonio TX | 2013–2014 |
| Squad Leader , USAF, Tinker AFB OK | 2009–2013 |