Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

DAVE MCLAUGHLIN

Contact Information

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Doctoral Studies

University of California, Berkeley
PhD, Agricultural and Resource Economics, Expected completion May 2020
DISSERTATION: "Essays in Environmental and Resource Property Rights"

PRIMARY FIELDS: Environment and Resource Economics, Applied Economics
SECONDARY FIELDS: Public Economics

Professor Maximilian Auffhammer
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Professor Sofia Villas-Boas
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Professor Max Auffhammer
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Diana Lazo
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Prior Education

University of California, Berkeley	M.S.	2017
George Washington University	M.P.P.	2011
University of Maryland	B.S. Environmental Science	2004

Teaching

UC Berkeley	ARE, *Economics of Water Resources* - Dave Sunding	2019
UC Berkeley	ARE, *Economics of Water Resources* - Dave Sunding	2018
GWU	TSPPPA, *Research Methods in Policy Analysis* - Dylan Conger	2010
GWU	TSPPPA, *Research Methods in Policy Analysis* - Dylan Conger	2009

Languages

English (native)

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

2019	Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award
2016	Giannini Foundation Mini-Grant ($32,000)
2015	Giannini Foundation Mini-Grant ($32,000)
2015	Dennis J. Aigner Endowed Graduate Support Fund ($5,000)

Research Papers

"Well-defined property rights: Do groundwater adjudications work? Evidence from California" (JOB MARKET PAPER)
I estimate the effect of the formalization of property rights on groundwater elevations in California utilizing variation in the timing of 16 groundwater basin adjudications, a legal agreement between water users to settle disputes. My results suggest that basins who engage in a formalization of property rights experience an improvement in groundwater-levels of between 12.5% and 14.3% of their depth relative to other open access basins in California. This result is robust to restriction of the control group to local wells and suggests that property rights and supporting institutions provide a foundation for groundwater markets and these effects persist in the long-run. This is the first paper to provide an empirical estimate of the effectiveness of groundwater adjudications in California.

"Blue Carbon: Coastal Ecosystems, Their Carbon Storage, and Potential for Reducing Emissions" with J. Siikamaki, S. Jardine, J. Sanchirico), *Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development*, (2013) 55(6): 14-29.

"For the Benefit of California Electricity Ratepayers: Electricity Sector Options for the Use of Allowance Value Created under California's Cap-and-Trade Program" with D. Burtraw and S. Szambelan), *Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development*, (2012). RFF DP 12-23.

"California's New Gold: A Primer on the Use of Allowance Value Created Under the CO2 Cap-and-Trade Program" with D. Burtraw and S. Szambelan, *Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development*, (2012). RFF DP 12-23.

Research in Progress

"The effects of property rights reform on land use: Evidence from Mexico" with A. de Janvry, M. Gonzales-Navarro, D. Kutzman, E. Sadoulet
Economic theory predicts that complete property rights over agricultural land create incentives for an effcient allocation of the land across different uses. An increase in the completeness of property rights should thus bring the allocation of land across uses closer to the outcome under private property. As part of Mexico's second agrarian reform initiated in 1993, a land-titling program (Procede) was implemented to certify all land in Mexico's ejido communities that had been created with notoriously incomplete property rights. We use three years of INEGI land use maps, and 30 years of LANDSAT imagery and construct a Random Forest machine learning alogrithm in Google Earth Engine to produce a panel of annual estimates of land use acreage of forest, pasture, and agriculture for eijidos over time. We use this panel that and identifcation of the effect of property rights on land use is provided by the rollout of the program across 25,000 ejidos over 13 years to estimate the effect of property rights on conversion of land to alternative uses due to the change in property rights.

"Larger Product Variety for Taste Matching or Choice Overload? Evidence from a Quasi-experiment from a National Supermarket Retailer" with E. Duran-Micco, J. Perloff, T. Shih, and S. Villas-Boas
We investigate how product sales are affected due to unforeseen change in product variety offerings on the refrigerated shelves in the ice cream product category. We employ a generalized difference-in-differences empirical strategy comparing household purchases in 1,321 stores from a national supermarket retailer in the United States to estimate the average treatment effect of a gradual roll out of new product varieties which is exogenous to the consumer. We estimate that a one percentage point drop in variety increases demand by 12 units of quantity sold, and an average increase of $ 46 in net value of sales per store per day in the 40 days following the reset. This is consistent evidence with the overload hypothesis. Additionally, we estimate that an one-percentage point increase in variety by one unit leads to a 7.6 unit increase in quantity sold for variety-loving households which is larger than the 4.9 unit increase for variety-averse households. These findings are also consistent with the matching hypothesis.

Prior Employment

UC Berkeley, ARE, Grad. Student Researcher (David Sunding)	2015 - 2019
UC Berkeley, ARE, Graduate Student Researcher (Michael Hanemann)	Summer 2018
UC Berkeley, ARE, Grad. Student Researcher (Elisabeth Sadoulet)	2017 - 2018
UC Berkeley, ARE, Grad. Student Researcher (Maximilian Auffhammer)	Summer 2016
The Brattle Group, San Francisco, Research Analyst	2012-2015
Resources for the Future, Washington, D.C., Research Assistant	2010-2012

Talks

2019	Agricultural and Resource Economics Seminar
2019	TWEEDS Conference
2018	Environment and Development Lunch, UC Berkeley (x3)
2017	Environment and Resource Economics Seminar, UC Berkeley
2016	Environment and Resource Economics Seminar, UC Berkeley

Activities

2018 - 2019	Organizer and Host of EEE and ERE Seminars
2019	Undergraduate Mentor for Honors Thesis - Tyler Jacobsen (Melis Medal Winner)
2019	Undergraduate Mentor for Honors Thesis - Maggie Deng
2018	Undergraduate Mentor for Honors Thesis - Sophie Andrews (Melis Medal Winner)

Skills

Computing - R, Stata, Python, Javascript, Matlab, LaTeX