

David Wilson

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Education

Georgia Institute of Technology	Expected 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 exposure as a uniform attribute priced consistently across geography. This paper argues that the relevant unit of comparison for a homebuyer is not the national housing market but a local search set, and that estimated flood risk discounts depend critically on the spatial scale of identification. Using a hedonic framework applied to over 35 million residential transactions, I show that the estimated discount for flood exposure declines from 4.9% when identified using national variation to 1.7% within counties and just 0.9% within ZIP codes. This pattern indicates that most of the apparent capitalization of flood risk reflects differences across spatially segmented submarkets rather than marginal pricing within them. A small within-market gradient, however, may reflect either genuine indifference to parcel-level risk or incomplete information. To distinguish between these explanations, I exploit South Carolina's 2013 statewide flood-disclosure reform as a natural experiment that exogenously expanded buyers' information sets. Using a difference-in-differences design, I find that the mandate reduced prices for properties in Special Flood Hazard Areas by approximately 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 falling by an additional 4.1% following the mandate. Together, these findings indicate that pre-mandate prices reflected an information asymmetry within spatially segmented markets, and that targeted disclosure policies can meaningfully improve 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)

Instructor

3rd Combat Communications Group, U.S. Air Force - Tinker AFB (2012 - 2013)

Presentations & Workshops

2026: Ivan Allen College Student Research Conference (Atlanta), Urban Economics Association Summer Workshop (London), Southern Economics Association (Houston)

2025: American Economics Association (San Francisco), Atlanta Federal Reserve Brownbag Series (Atlanta), Atlanta Economics PhD Summer Symposium (Atlanta), Southern Economics Association (D.C.)

2024: Conference on Teaching & Research in Economic Education (Atlanta), Southern Economics Association (D.C.)

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

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