Laura Alcocer Quiñones

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Education

Ph.D. Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Davis	September 2026
M.A. Economics, University of Texas, Austin	May 2018
B.A. Economics, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México	June 2017

References

Dalia Ghanem **(Co-Chair)** - Associate Professor
Dept. of Agricultural and Resource Economics
University of California, Davis
dghanem@ucdavis.edu

Katrina Jessoe **(Co-Chair)** - Associate Professor
Dept. of Agricultural and Resource Economics
University of California, Davis
kkjessoe@ucdavis.edu

Kevin Novan - Associate Professor
Dept. of Agricultural and Resource Economics
University of California, Davis
knovan@ucdavis.edu

Jamie Hansen-Lewis - Assistant Professor
Dept. of Agricultural and Resource Economics
University of California, Davis
jhansenlewis@ucdavis.edu

Research Fields

Environmental Economics, Health Economics, Agricultural Economics

Research and Work In Progress

Assessing the Impact of PFAS Water Regulation (**Job Market Paper**)

Abstract. Policy evaluation for emerging pollutants is challenging because monitoring is limited and data are sparse and censored. This paper demonstrates that failure to account for interval censoring can lead to misguided policy conclusions and proposes a method to overcome this challenge. I study this in the context of stricter state regulations for PFAS, a suite of emerging harmful water pollutants. A main obstacle is that water quality tests are interval censored, so we only observe bounds on the distribution of PFAS concentration. I first show that without further assumptions, treatment effects are not generally point-identified and applying standard approaches that ignore this issue can lead to contradictory policy conclusions. I overcome this challenge using a parametric approximation to recover the latent cumulative distribution function through censored maximum likelihood. I implement the changes-in-changes approach using the recovered distribution of concentration to estimate the impact of tightening regulatory standards on water quality. For existing facilities, I cannot conclude that notification level changes had an impact on water quality across the distribution. I find suggestive evidence of investment in the form of new and retrofitted treatment plants to address PFAS after regulations became more stringent. The methods implemented allow for policy evaluation under interval censoring in other settings in economics.

Infant Health in the Age of Megafires: Evidence from U.S. Wildfire Smoke Exposure
(with J. Hansen-Lewis, UCD) [R&R at REStat]

Behavioral Responses to Information on PFAS in Water Supplies
(with J. Hadachek, UW-Madison, W. Troske, UCD)

Fellowships, Honors, and Awards

Giannini Foundation Dissertation Fellowship 2024
ARE Summer Research Fellowship, UC Davis 2024
Giannini Foundation for Agricultural Economics Mini-Grant 2023, 2024
with D. Ghanem
Earth Scholar Fellowship, Institute of the Environment, UC Davis 2023
Henry A. Jastro Graduate Research Scholarship Award, UC Davis 2022, 2023, 2024
Diversity Fellowship EEE Berkeley/Sloan Summer School 2022
Provost First Year Fellowship, UC Davis 2020

Teaching Experience

Instructor
Applied Economics Research Workshop Summer 2025

Teaching Assistant
Econometrics for Business Decisions with D. Ghanem, UCD Winter 2025
Environmental Economics with J. Hansen-Lewis, UCD Fall 2022, Winter 2022
Economic Growth with R. Livas, ITAM Spring 2015, Spring 2016

Research Experience and Other Employment

California Department of Toxic Substances Control
Market Research Specialist/Economist Present

University of California, Davis
Graduate Student Researcher
with D. Ghanem Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025
with J. Hansen-Lewis Spring 2023, Summer 2023, Winter 2024
with A. Shenoy Winter 2023
with T. Beatty Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Summer 2022

Climate Impact Lab, Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago
Pre-doctoral fellow 2018 - 2020
Supervisors: A. Hultgren and T. Carleton

EnergeA
Energy Economics Consultant 2015 - 2017

Professional Activities

Presentations and Conferences

Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop	2025
APPAM Annual Fall Research Conference	2025
8th Annual Social Cost of Water Pollution Workshop	2025
AAEA & WAEA Annual Meeting	2025
Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Summer Conference	2025
Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA) Annual Meeting	2025
Camp Resources XXX	2024
Giannini Foundation of Agricultural and Resource Economics Student Conference	2024
6th Annual Social Cost of Water Pollution Workshop	2023

Referee Service

Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists,
AAEA Annual Meeting Abstracts

Mentoring and Service

ARE Scott McNiven Community Service Award Recipient	2025
UC Davis MANRRS Mentorship Program	2025
ARE Graduate Student Association Co-President	2023 - 2024
Diversity and Inclusion in Research, Education, and Career Training Program, UC Davis	
Student Café Graduate Coordinator	2023, 2024
Graduate Inclusive Education and Mentoring Training (GET) Workshop	2022

Other

Software
Stata, R, Python
Languages
Spanish (Native language), English (proficient), French (basic)
Citizenship
Mexican with U.S. Permanent Residency