

Nick Hagerty

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Academic Positions

Assistant Professor Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics Montana State University	2020 – Present
S.V. Ciriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellow Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics University of California, Berkeley	2018 – 2020

Affiliations

Invited Researcher, J-PAL North America	2022 – Present
Research Affiliate, MIT Center for Energy & Environmental Policy Research	2021 – Present
Invited Researcher, King Climate Action Initiative (K-CAI)	2021 – Present
Invited Researcher, Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative (ATAI)	2021 – Present

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Ph.D., Economics. Dissertation: <i>Essays on the Economics of Water</i> Committee: Esther Duflo, Christopher Knittel, and Benjamin Olken	2018
Brown University Sc.B. <i>magna cum laude</i> , concentrations in Physics (with honors) & Economics	2010

Previous Positions

Research Analyst, NBER and J-PAL (Research Assistant to Esther Duflo, Michael Greenstone, and Rohini Pande)	2011 – 2012
Research Assistant, Council of Economic Advisers	2010 – 2011

Journal Articles

“Anticipatory Effects of Regulating the Commons” with Ellen Bruno. Accepted, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*. [\[preprint\]](#)

“[Industrial Water Pollution and Agricultural Production in India](#)” with Anshuman Tiwari. Accepted, *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*. [\[preprint\]](#)

[“The Tradeoff Between Wildlife Conservation and Renewable Energy: Evidence from Eagles and Wind Turbines”](#) with Brock O’Brien¹ (2025). *Land Economics*, published online March 7. [\[preprint\]](#)

[“Market Power in California’s Water Market”](#) with Franceska Tomori, Erik Ansink, Harold Houba, and Charles Bos (2024). *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. 106(3): 1274-1299.

Refereed Book Chapters

[“The Political Economy of Groundwater Management: Descriptive Evidence from California”](#) with Ellen Bruno and Arthur Wardle (2024). In: Ariel Dinar and Gary Libecap, ed., *American Agriculture, Water Resources, and Climate Change*, National Bureau of Economic Research, University of Chicago Press.

Working Papers

[“Adaptation to Surface Water Scarcity in Irrigated Agriculture”](#) (sole authored)
Reject and resubmit, *American Economic Review*.

[“Transaction Costs and the Gains from Trade in Water Markets”](#) (sole authored)
Revise and resubmit (2nd round), *Review of Economics and Statistics*.

[“Price Incentives for Resource Conservation: Experimental Evidence from Groundwater Irrigation”](#) (with Ariel Zucker)

[“External Costs of Climate Adaptation: Groundwater Depletion and Drinking Water”](#)
(with Ellen Bruno, Jeffrey Hadachek, and Katrina Jessoe)

Selected Work in Progress

“Water Scarcity and Legal Conflict in Colorado” with Conner Harwood and Philip Womble.

Self-Published Resources

California Surface Water Data (GitHub)	2022
Course Materials for “Advanced Data Analytics in Economics” (GitHub)	2022

Funded Grants

Montana Water Center Faculty Seed Grant	2025
Individual and Multi-State Hatch Projects, USDA	2022 – 2025
MSU Library Open Educational Resources (5,000 USD)	2022
International Growth Centre (19,254 GBP)	2022

¹ Former master’s student supervised at Montana State.

Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative (ATAI) (14,081 USD)	2021
King Climate Action Initiative (K-CAI) (7,560 USD)	2021
King Climate Action Initiative (K-CAI) (156,068 USD)	2020
International Growth Centre (45,000 GBP)	2020
Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis, Montana State	2020
Weiss Family Program Fund	2019
International Growth Centre	2018
George and Obie Shultz Fund, MIT	2018
Abdul Latif Jameel Water and Food Systems Lab, MIT	2017
International Growth Centre	2017
Abdul Latif Jameel Water and Food Systems Lab, MIT	2016
Weiss Family Program Fund	2015
J-PAL Urban Services Initiative	2014

Fellowships & Awards

Lone Mountain Fellowship, Property & Environment Research Center (PERC)	2025
S.V. Ciriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellowship, UC Berkeley	2018 – 2020
Tata Fellowship, MIT Tata Center for Technology & Design	2013 – 2015
Honorable Mention, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program	2013
MIT Energy Fellowship, MIT Energy Initiative	2012 – 2013
Honorable Mention, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program	2012
Mildred Widgoff Prize for Excellence in Thesis Preparation (Brown University Department of Physics)	2010

Conference and Seminar Presentations

- 2025: University of Chicago (EPIC Junior Faculty Workshop). *Scheduled*: AERE Summer Meeting, AAEA Annual Meeting (Invited Paper), PERC, Cornell.
- 2024: UC Davis (Agricultural & Resource Economics), AERE Summer Meeting, Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop (UIUC)
- 2023: UC Santa Barbara (Bren School of Environmental Science and Management), AERE Summer Meeting, Montana State Applied Economics Summer Conference, Social Cost of Water Pollution Workshop (Cornell/EPA), North East Universities Development Conference (NEUDC), NBER conference on “Distributional Impacts of Climate Change in the Agricultural Sector”
- 2022: University of Maryland (Agricultural & Resource Economics), AERE Summer Meeting, Montana State Applied Economics Summer Conference
- 2021: Stockholm School of Economics (SITE)
- 2020: TWEEDS, University of British Columbia (CFREE/VSE), University of Hawai’i Mānoa (Energy & Environment Seminar), NBER Summer Institute (EEE Workshop), AERE Summer Meeting (canceled), National Center for Environmental Economics

(U.S. EPA), University of Massachusetts Amherst (Resource Economics), American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting

2019: Stanford (Environmental and Energy Policy Analysis Center), Occasional Workshop (UC Santa Barbara), Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop (UIUC), Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, AERE Summer Meeting (Sponsored Session), Tinbergen Institute (Spatial Economics Seminar), Public Policy Institute of California

2018: Occasional Workshop (UC Santa Barbara), UC Berkeley (Environmental & Energy Economics Seminar), NBER Summer Institute (EEE Workshop), Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Workshop on Sustainable Development (Columbia), UC Davis (Agricultural & Resource Economics)

2017: Environmental Defense Fund

Courses Taught

Montana State University

ECNS 460/560: Advanced Data Analytics in Economics (masters/undergraduate)

Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024

ECNS 332: Economics of Natural Resources (undergraduate)

Fall 2020, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2025

AGBE 210: Economics of Agricultural Business (undergraduate)

Spring 2021

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Undergraduate Research Program (mentor to 3 students)

2017 – 2018

Kaufman Teaching Certificate Program

2016

14.41 Public Finance and Public Policy (undergraduate)

2015

(teaching assistant to Professor Jonathan Gruber)

Outreach Publications

[“California’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: What Are Its Early Impacts?”](#) with Ellen Bruno (2025). *ARE Update* 28(4): 2-4.

[“Interior’s plan won’t solve the Colorado River crisis. Here’s what will.”](#) with Bryan Leonard (2022). *High Country News*, October 19.

Blog posts for [AgEconMT.com](#) (for agricultural stakeholders in Montana)

“Did a Robot Write This? The Future of Chatbots in Agriculture” 2023

“The value of clarifying water rights” 2022

“The Inflation Reduction Act: What’s in it for agriculture?” 2022

“The Inflation Reduction Act: What is it?” 2022

“Making people want to conserve water” 2022

“Recapping the 2021 drought” 2021

"The mystery of the missing drought impacts"

2021

Outreach, science communication, and policy commentary on social media
1.3 million total views on Twitter, 2020-2023.

2015 – 2024

Outreach Presentations

"Agricultural Impacts of Water Scarcity in the Short Term and Long Term." Montana State Agricultural Economics Conference, Bozeman, MT, November 4, 2023.

"Managing Water for Drought Resilience: An Economics Perspective." Upper Missouri River Basin Drought and Human Health Workshop, Bozeman, MT, April 12, 2022.

Media Interviews and Appearances

Vox (["Let's talk about the biggest cause of the West's water crisis"](#))

2023

KUNC / NPR

2022

Montana PBS

2022

Volts newsletter by David Roberts

2021

Referee Service

Agricultural Economics

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy

American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics

The American Economic Review

American Journal of Agricultural Economics

Applied Economics Teaching Resources

The Economic Journal

Environment and Development Economics

International Journal of Industrial Organization

Journal of the Association of Environmental & Resource Economists

Journal of Economic History

Journal of Environmental Economics and Management

Journal of Public Economics

Land Economics

Nature Sustainability

The Review of Economics and Statistics

The Quarterly Journal of Economics

Water Resources and Economics

Other Professional Service

Co-founder and co-organizer, MSU-PERC Big Sky Workshop

2025

on the Economics of Agriculture and the Environment	
Abstract reviewer, AERE Summer Meeting	2022 – 2025
Abstract reviewer, AAEA Annual Meeting	2022 – 2025
Grant reviewer, Digital Agricultural Innovations and Services Initiative	2022 – 2025
Grant reviewer, King Climate Action Initiative (K-CAI)	2021 – 2022
External reviewer, Environmental Defense Fund Discussion Paper Series	2021
Discussant, Standing Panel on Impact Assessment of the CGIAR	2021

Advising and Mentoring

Master's thesis advising (Placement) (*Outstanding thesis award)	
*Committee chair, 1 student (Research Associate, PERC)	2024 – 2025
*Committee chair, 1 student (Ph.D. program, UC Berkeley ARE)	2023 – 2024
Committee member, 1 student	2024 – 2025
Committee member, 3 students	2022 – 2023
Committee member, 2 students	2021 – 2022
Undergraduate advising (approximately 20 students per semester)	2022 – Present
Co-supervision of full-time Research Associates (Placement)	
J-PAL South Asia (Research Manager, J-PAL South Asia)	2022 – 2023
Montana State (Economics Ph.D., Virginia Tech)	2021 – 2022
J-PAL South Asia (Policy Data Fellow, Government of Delhi, India)	2018 – 2020
J-PAL South Asia (Urban Studies and Planning Ph.D., MIT)	2017 – 2018
J-PAL South Asia (Urban Studies and Planning S.M., MIT)	2016 – 2017

Department Service

Organizer, DAEE Department Seminar & Brownbag Series	2025 – Present
Search committee, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics	2024 – 2025
Graduate Affairs Committee	2021 – 2025
Committee to develop new major in Environmental Economics and Policy	2021 – 2023
Department Review Committee on Extension and Service	2021
Co-founder/organizer, Reading Group in Water Economics (UC Berkeley)	2018 – 2020

Invited Contributions

"Arbitrage," definition for the <i>Dictionary of Ecological Economics</i>	2021
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Journal Articles in Physics

["Statistics of DNA capture by a solid-state nanopore"](#) with Mirna Mihovilovic and Derek Stein (2013). *Physical Review Letters* 110, 028102.