

James Salmon

PhD Candidate in Applied Economics | University of Wisconsin–Madison
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EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin–Madison PhD in Applied Economics <i>Advisor: Dominic Parker</i>	Expected May 2027
Birkbeck College, University of London Graduate Diploma in Economics	June 2020
University of Edinburgh MSc in Carbon Management <i>Thesis: Assessing the Potential for Demand-Side Storage to Buffer the Differential Between Real-Time Demand and Renewable Energy Supply in Orkney</i>	August 2017
University of Edinburgh BSc (Hons) in Theoretical Physics	May 2016

RESEARCH FIELDS

Fields: Environmental and energy economics; applied microeconomics; agricultural and natural resource economics

Research interests: Land markets and property rights; renewable energy siting; property values and the energy transition; conservation incentives

RESEARCH

Job Market Paper

The Effect of Land Fragmentation on Green Infrastructure Development in Rural America

With Sarah Johnston and Dominic Parker

Combines nationwide county-, section-, and parcel-level data to examine how landownership structure shapes renewable-energy and conservation development. Larger and less fragmented landholdings are consistently associated with greater wind development.

Research in Progress

Understanding the Relationship Between Voter Behavior and Green Investment

Evaluating the Impact of the Net Zero Energy Transition on Property Values

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Lead Research Assistant, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District	September 2023 – December 2025
- Led the economic analysis of a multi-year, USDA-funded study of sustainable agricultural practices on Wisconsin farms, including field data collection on costs, labor, yields, operations, and soil health. - Built and managed the data pipeline in R; refined comparisons across farm systems to account for yield, cost, and management differences. - Prepared reports and presented findings to USDA and NRCS officials, local agencies, and academic audiences.	
Research Assistant, University of Wisconsin–Madison	May 2021 – August 2023
Supported research on natural resource economics and Indigenous land governance, including data cleaning, descriptive analysis, exploratory econometrics, grant proposals, and editorial work.	

TEACHING AND INSTRUCTION

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| Private Physics Tutor, United Kingdom | 2018 – 2019 |
| Provided one-to-one physics tuition, adapting explanations and practice problems to individual students. | |
| Open Water Scuba Instructor, PADI and BSAC | 2015 – 2020 |
| Taught practical diving skills and safety procedures, assessed performance, and provided individual feedback. | |

INDUSTRY AND POLICY EXPERIENCE

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| Energy Intelligence Analyst, ENGIE Leeds, United Kingdom | June 2018 – April 2019 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Analyzed operations data for UK demand-side response programs and supported client reporting and National Grid compliance.Automated recurring data workflows with Python and Excel VBA, reducing multi-hour processes to minutes. | |
| Project Analyst, Solo Energy Ltd. Kirkwall, United Kingdom | May 2017 – June 2018 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Worked on distributed battery storage in Orkney, extending MSc research into project planning and modeling of wind generation, demand, and storage requirements. | |
| Parliamentary Intern, Westminster Office of Philip Davies MP | February 2018 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Prepared a briefing for a constituency debate on renewable energy, including evidence and anticipated rebuttals. | |
| Secretary, Cross-Party Group on Tibet, Scottish Parliament | March 2015 – April 2016 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Coordinated meetings and public engagement with parliamentarians, NGOs, and cultural representatives. | |

AWARDS

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| Graduate Fellowship, University of Wisconsin–Madison | 2020 – 2025 |
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METHODS

Applied microeconometrics; panel and fixed-effects methods; spatial and geospatial data analysis; field interviews and primary data collection.

SOFTWARE

R, QGIS, ArcGIS, and Excel/VBA.

REFERENCES

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| Dominic Parker
Anderson-Bascom Professor of Applied Economics
University of Wisconsin–Madison
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Associate Professor of Economics
University of Calgary
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