

MERI DAVLASHERIDZE

362 OCSB
Department of Marine Sciences
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RESEARCH INTEREST

Environmental and Resource Economics; Disaster Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation; Applied Econometrics; Public Policy and Welfare Economics

EDUCATION

- Pennsylvania State University**, University Park, Pennsylvania, USA 2009 - 2013
Ph.D., Agricultural, Environmental and Regional Economics
Dissertation: Hurricane Disaster Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation:
Evidence from US Coastal Economy
(Advisor: Karen Fisher-Vanden)
- Texas A&M University**, College Station, Texas, USA 2005- 2007
M.S., Agricultural Economics,
Thesis: U.S. Farmland Price Dynamics, Cause-Effect Relationships
(Advisor: David Bessler)
- Ivane Javakhishvili State University of Tbilisi**, Georgia 1994-1998
B.A., Production Economics, Organization and Management
(Diploma with honor)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Texas A&M University at Galveston**, Department of Marine Sciences
Assistant Professor, Environmental and Resource Economics September, 2013 – present
Graduate Faculty, Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University
Faculty Research Fellow, Center for Texas Beaches and Shores (CTBS)
- The Pennsylvania State University**, Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology and Education
Graduate Research Assistant August, 2009 – August, 2013
- Agrarian State University of Tbilisi**, Georgia, Department of Agricultural Economics
Scientific Researcher September, 1998 – December, 2002
- Resource Rural Economics Division of the Economic Research Service (ERS)**, United States
Department of Agriculture (USDA), Washington DC, USA
Intern (Advisors: Ashok Mishra, Ken Ericson) May, 2006 – August, 2006
- Ilia State University of Tbilisi, Georgia**
Lecturer September, 2008 – May, 2009

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

1. Goetz, S. J., **Davlasheridze, M.**, & Han, Y. (2014). County-Level Determinants of Mental Health, 2002–2008. *Social Indicators Research*, 1-14. DOI: 10.1007/s11205-014-0792-6
2. Fan, Q. and **Davlasheridze, M.** (2016). Flood Risk, Flood Mitigation, and Location Choice: Evaluating the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System. *Risk Analysis*. doi: 10.1111/risa.12505
3. Goetz, S. J., & **Davlasheridze, M.** (2016). State-Level Cooperative Extension Spending and Farmer Exits. *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, ppw007. doi: 10.1093/aep/ppw007
4. **Davlasheridze, M.**, Fisher-Vanden, K and Klaiber, HA. (2017). “The effects of adaptation measures on hurricane induced property losses: Which FEMA investments have the highest returns?” *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* 81: 93-114. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jeem.2016.09.005>
5. **Davlasheridze, M.** and Q. Fan. 2017. “Household Adjustments to Hurricane Katrina.” *The Review to Regional Studies* 47(1): 93-112.
6. **Davlasheridze, M.** and P.C. Geylani. 2017. “Small Business Vulnerability to Floods and the Effects of Disaster Loans.” *Small Business Economics* 49(4): 1-24. DOI: 10.1007/s11187-017-9859-5
7. **Davlasheridze, M.**, Goetz, S. J., & Han, Y. “Mental Health and Economic Growth in U.S. Counties.” *The Review to Regional Studies*. (Forthcoming).
8. **Davlasheridze, M.** and Q. Miao. “Flood Insurance and Federal Disaster Aid.” *Land Economics*. (Forthcoming)

Under Review & Working Papers (student co-author indicated by *)

1. Goetz, S. J., **Davlasheridze, M.**, Han, Y., David A. Fleming. “Explaining the 2016 Trump Vote in U.S. Counties.” (Revise & Resubmit) *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*.
2. **Davlasheridze, M.**, K. Atoba, S. Brody, W. Highfield, W. Merrell, B. Ebersole, A. Purdue, W. Gilmer. “Economic Feasibility of Coastal Spine.” (Revise & Resubmit) *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change*
3. Goetz, S. J., **Davlasheridze, M.**, “Explaining Spatial Disparities in Drug Overdoses, 1970-2014” (Under Review)
4. **Davlasheridze, M.** and Q. Fan. “Valuing Seawall Protection in the Wake of Hurricane Ike.” (Under Review)
5. Fan, Q. and **M. Davlasheridze.** “Economic Impact of Brain Drain Induced by Natural Disasters” (Under Review)
6. Miao, Q., Y., Shi, and **M. Davlasheridze.** “Fiscal Decentralization and Natural Disaster Damages.” (Under Review)
7. **Davlasheridze, M.**, & Q. Miao. “Extreme Weather, Public Housing, and the Role of Public Policy.” (manuscript)
8. **Davlasheridze, M.** “Sectoral Impacts and Spillovers of Hurricane Disasters.” (Manuscript)
9. Burgin*, A. and **M. Davlasheridze.** “Value of Galveston Beaches and Benefits of Nourishment to Homeowners.” (Manuscript)

10. Hinson*, M. L. and **M. Davlasheridze**. “Water Quality and Health of Coral Reefs.” (Manuscript)
11. Fnu*, A, **M. Davlasheridze** and N. Mykoniatis. “Socioeconomic Drivers of Marine Debris in North America.” (Manuscript)

Work in Progress

1. **Davlasheridze, M.** & Q. Miao. “Do Subsidized Disaster Loans Lead Households to Rebuild More Resiliently?”
2. **Davlasheridze, M.** & Q. Fan. “Optimal Local Level Adaptation: Evidence from CRS Program Class Choice”
3. **Davlasheridze, M.** and Goetz, S. J. “Opioid Epidemic and Extreme Weather Events.”
4. **Davlasheridze, M.** “What Does Federal Disaster Aid Do?”
5. **Davlasheridze, M.** “The Effects of Adaptation on Labor Market Recovery from Hurricane Disasters.”
6. **Davlasheridze, M.,** S. Brody and W. Highfield. “Flood Insurance Purchase Behavior and Insurance Tenure when the buyer finances the property by cash: Evidence from Galveston County”.
7. **Davlasheridze, M.** “The Effects of Natural Capital on Mitigating the Social Costs of Disasters.”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Texas A&M University at Galveston, Department of Marine Sciences

Coastal and Ocean Resource (MARS 280), Fall 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
 Statistical Methods (STAT 303), Spring 2014, 2015, 2016
 Environmental Valuation: Applications to Marine and
 Coastal Environment (MARS 489/689), Spring 2015
 Quantitative Methods for Resource Management (MARS 689 602), Spring 2016
 Quantitative Methods for Resource Management (MARS 603 601), Spring 2017

Teaching Assistant: Spring, 2010; 2011

AEREC 597B – Computational Economics (graduate level course),
 Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology and Education, Pennsylvania State University
 Instructor: Professor Karen Fisher-Vanden

Lecturer: September 2008 – May, 2009

Risk Management and Mitigation Strategies for Businesses (MBA level course)
 Business Modeling (MBA level course)
 Ilia State University of Tbilisi, Georgia

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS (* denotes the presenter)

Fan, Q.* and **M, Davlasheridze**. "Economic impacts of migration and brain drain after Hurricane Katrina." The 57th Annual Meeting of the WRSA to be held in California, February 11-14, 2018.

Goetz, S.* J., **Davlasheridze, M.**, "Explaining Spatial Disparities in Drug Overdoses, 1970-2014." Invited paper presented at *the Allied Social Sciences Association Annual Meeting*, Session on The Geography of American Despair and Declining Economic Opportunity, Philadelphia, PA, January 6, 2018.

Goetz, S.* J., **Davlasheridze, M.**, Han, Y. "Explaining the 2016 Trump Vote in U.S. Counties." *Regional Science Association Australia Conference o Fragmented Regional Worlds: Inequality and Populism in a Globalizing World*. Sydney, Australia 2017.

Davlasheridze, M. and Q. Miao.* "Extreme Weather, Public Housing, and the Role of Disaster Aid." *Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)*, Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. November, 2017.

Davlasheridze, M.* and Q. Miao. "Does Federal Disaster Assistance Affect Private Protection Behavior: An Empirical Analysis of Household Purchase of Flood Insurance." *Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)*, Annual Meeting, Washington DC. November, 2016.

Davlasheridze, M.* and Q. Miao. "Does Federal Disaster Assistance Affect Private Protection Behavior: An Empirical Analysis of Household Purchase of Flood Insurance." **Selected Paper Presentation.** *Camp Resources XXIII Workshop*. The Center for Environmental and Resource Economic Policy, North Carolina State University. Wrightsville Beach, NC. August, 2016.

Davlasheridze, M.* and P.C. Geylani. "The Effects of SBA Disaster Loans on Small Business Survival." **Selected Paper Presentation.** *Southern Economic Association (SEA)*, Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA. November, 2015.

Davlasheridze, M.* and P.C. Geylani. "The Effects of SBA Disaster Loans on Small Business Survival." **Panel Paper.** *Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)*, Annual Meeting, Miami, FL. November, 2015.

Davlasheridze, M.,* and Q. Fan. "The Effects of Structural Mitigation in the Wake of Catastrophe: A Spatial Difference-in-Difference Approach." **Poster Presentation.** *Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE)* 4th Annual Summer Conference. San Diego, California, June, 2015.

Davlasheridze, M.,* and Q. Fan. "Adjustments to Hurricane Katrina and Local Economic Impacts." **Paper Presentation, PLAMDDI DOE Project Meeting**, Stanford University, December, 2014.

Davlasheridze, M., and Q. Fan. “Adjustments to Hurricane Katrina and Local Economic Impacts.” **Selected Paper Presentation.** *Southern Economic Association (SEA)*, Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA. November, 2014

Davlasheridze, M., K. Fisher-Vanden and A.H. Klaiber, “The effects of adaptation measures on hurricane induced property losses.” **Panel Paper.** *Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)*, Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM. November, 2014.

Fan, Q., and **M. Davlasheridze.** “Evaluating Cost-Effectiveness of Flood Mitigation Policies”. **Selected Paper Presentation.** *Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA)*, Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN. August, 2014.

Fan, Q., and **M. Davlasheridze.** “Evaluating Cost-Effectiveness of Flood Mitigation Policies”. **Contributed Sessions Paper Presentation.** *The World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists (WCERE)*, Istanbul, Turkey. June 2014.

Davlasheridze, M., K. Fisher-Vanden and A.H. Klaiber, “Hurricane Disaster and Local Labor Markets: Evidence from County Level Quarterly Employment Analysis”. **Paper Presentation,** *Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop at Illinois*, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, November, 2013.

Fan, Q., and **M. Davlasheridze.** “The Effects of National Flood Insurance Program on Residential Location Choices in California”. **Poster Presentation,** *Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop at Illinois*, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, November, 2013.

Davlasheridze, M., K. Fisher-Vanden and I. Sue-Wing. “Regional Economic Impacts of Hurricane Disasters”. **Paper Presentation,** *PLAMDDI DOE Project Meeting*, Stanford University, December, 2013.

Davlasheridze, M., K. Fisher-Vanden and A.H. Klaiber, “Higher Order Impacts of Hurricanes: Evidence from County Level Analysis Using Synthetic Control Methodology of Comparative Case Studies”. **Poster Presentation,** *Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA)*, Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, August, 2013.

Davlasheridze, M., K. Fisher-Vanden and A.H. Klaiber, “The effects of adaptation measures on hurricane induced property losses.” **Paper Presentation,** *PLAMDDI DOE Project Meeting*, Stanford University, December, 2012.

Davlasheridze, M., K. Fisher-Vanden and A.H. Klaiber, “The effects of adaptation measures on hurricane induced property losses”. **Paper Presentation,** *Energy and Environmental Economics and Policy Initiative (EEEPI)* Seminar Series, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, October, 2012.

Davlasheridze, M., K. Fisher-Vanden and A.H. Klaiber, “The effects of adaptation measures on hurricane induced property losses.” **Poster Presentation,** *Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA)*, Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, August, 2012.

Davlasheridze, M., K. Fisher-Vanden and A.H. Klaiber, “The Effects of Adaptation Measures on Hurricane Induced Property Losses.” **Session Paper Presentation, *Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE)*, Annual Meeting, Asheville, NC, June, 2012.**

Davlasheridze, M., K. Fisher-Vanden and A.H. Klaiber, “The Effects of Adaptation Measures on Hurricane Induced Property Losses.” **Session Paper Presentation, *Northeast Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA)* Annual Meeting, Lowell, MA, June, 2012.**

Davlasheridze, M., K. Fisher-Vanden and A.H. Klaiber, “The effects of adaptation measures on hurricane induced property losses.” **Paper Presentation, *PLAMDDI DOE Project Meeting*, Pennsylvania State University, May, 2012.**

Davlasheridze, M., K. Fisher-Vanden and A.H. Klaiber, “The effects of adaptation measures on hurricane induced property losses.” **Poster Presentation, *Graduate Student Poster Exhibition*, Pennsylvania State University, March, 2012.**

RESEARCH GRANTS

Funded

Co-PI. 1/17-12/18. “Evaluating the Effects of a Coastal Spine: National-Level Economic ripples and Effects on Flood Insurance”. Texas General Land Office. (\$1,594,189.00– Total Award). PI: Wesley Highfield.

Co-PI. 3/17 – 11/17. “Identifying the future costs of floods in the Houston-Galveston Area.” Texas General Land Office. (\$168,627.00 – Total Award). PI: Wesley Highfield.

Co-PI. 09/2015 – 09/2020. “Coastal Flood Risk Reduction Program: Integrated, multi-scale approaches for understanding how to reduce vulnerability to damaging events”. The National Science Foundation’s PIRE (Programs in International Research and Education). (\$3.6M – Total Award). PI: Samuel Brody.

Co-PI. 05/2013-08/2015. Surge Protection for the Galveston Bay Region – Advancing the Ike Dike Concept to Protect the University of Texas Medical Branch and Its Associated communities. University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB). (\$250,000 – Total Award). PI: William Merrell.

Not Funded

PI. “Economic Value of Galveston Beaches and Optimal Beach Nourishment.” RESTORE The Texas Coast. (Project Id: 7490; Estimated Cost: \$224,405.00)

PI. “Enhancing Tools for Tracking Ocean-Borne Hazards: Expanding Availability and Scope of Sargassum Early Advisory System to Include Red Tides and Oil Spills.” RESTORE The Texas Coast. (Project Id: 7337; Estimated Cost: \$628,533.00)

Co-PI. “Texas Coastal Observations and Models for Oil Spill Response, Beach Management, Workforce Development and Economic Resiliency”. RESTORE The Texas Coast. Government Trustees Restoring

the Gulf (NRDA). PI: Tissot Philippe, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Conrad Blucher Institute) (Project Id: 10382; Estimated Cost: \$5,112,194.00)

Co-PI. “Texas Coastal Observations and Models for Oil Spill Response, Beach Management, Workforce Development and Economic Resiliency”. RESTORE The Texas Coast. PI: Tissot Philippe, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Conrad Blucher Institute) (Project Id: 7621; Estimated cost: \$5,112,194.00)

Co-PI: “Integrating Health, Hazards, and Community to Increase Resiliency in At-Risk Populations”. National Academy of Sciences. Gulf Research Program. PI: Wesley Highfield. (Estimated cost: \$1,795,681.00)

Co-PI: “Building Community Resilience through Improved Hazard Literacy: The Development and Application of User-Driven GIS Information Tools.” DOC-National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. PI: Ashley Ross. (Estimated cost: \$475,932.00). Oct, 2017 – Sep, 2020.

PI. “Value of Galveston Beaches and Benefits of Nourishment to Homeowners”. Texas General Land Office. Coastal Erosion Planning and Response Act (CEPRA) Cycle 9. (Total Budget Requested: \$82,952).

AWARDS

Travel Grant for Camp Resources XXIII Workshop. (\$800). The Center for Environmental and Resource Economic Policy, North Carolina State University. August, 2016

Research Support Grant (\$500), Energy and Environmental Economics and Policy Initiative (EEEEPI), The Pennsylvania State University; Fall, 2012

2012-2013 Thomas C. and Jackie M. Floore Memorial Scholarship Award (\$600), College of Agricultural Sciences, The Pennsylvania State University

Research Support Grant (\$750), Energy and Environmental Economics and Policy Initiative (EEEEPI), The Pennsylvania State University; Spring, 2012

Graduate Student Travel Awards, (\$300), College of Agricultural Sciences, The Pennsylvania State University; Spring, 2012

Conference Scholarship Award, Northeast Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA); 2012

2005-2007 Edmund Muskie Graduate Fellowship, Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs US Department of State

GRANTS & INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

Democracy Commission Small Grant Program, United States Embassy in Georgia – “Fostering Sustainable Tourism Development in Abastumani”, Coalition project of Muskie Alumni Association of

Georgia (MAAG) and Abastumani Tourism Association (ATA) (Amount: 16,035.00 USD); May – August, 2009

Alumni Grants Program, United States Embassy in Georgia, set up applied workshop on business simulation and forecasting methods introducing SIMETAR software, I. Chavchavadze State University of Georgia (Amount: 3,000.00 USD), 2009

Freelance Research for Business & Finance Consulting on SME Financing Industry in India, May-June, 2007

Financial & Credit Relations (case of the Samtskhe-Javakheti region); Scientific & Research Paper Publication of Agrarian University of Tbilisi, Georgia, June 2001

NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CNFA Georgia, Agribusiness Development Activity (ADA), Tbilisi, Georgia
Value Chain Initiative Director March – August, 2009

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), Rural Development Projects, Tbilisi, Georgia
Consultant February – August, 2009

JSC Bank of Georgia, Strategic Development Department, Tbilisi, Georgia
Strategic Programs Manager October, 2007 – January, 2009

Agricultural Cooperative Development International and Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA's), Washington DC, USA
Intern June – August, 2007

ACDI/VOCA, USAID funded Farmer to Farmer Project, Tbilisi, Georgia
Coordinator July, 2002 – August, 2005

IOCC, Credit and Infrastructure Projects, Samtskhe-Javakheti Region, Georgia
Projects Administrative Assistant/Financial Officer March, 1999 – June, 2002

Eurasia Foundation's Akhaltsikhe Business Center, Akhaltsikhe, Georgia
Deputy Manager April, 1997 – March, 1999

IOCC, Credit and Infrastructure Projects, Samtskhe-Javakheti Region, Georgia
Administrative Assistant March – December, 1997

SERVICE

Reviewer

Social Indicators Research
International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters
Global Environmental Change
Water
Sustainability
Environmental Justice
Journal of Housing Economics
Environmental and Resource Economics
Climate Change Economics

Professional Meetings

Reviewer, The World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists (**WCERE**), Selected Paper: 2014
Reviewer, Discussant & Session Chair, The Southern Economic Association, Selected Paper: 2014; 2015
Panelist, The Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management: 2014
Panel Organizer, The Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management: 2015
Panel Organizer, The Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management: 2016
Panel Chair, The Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management: 2016
Panel Co-Organizer, The Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management: 2017

Departmental Service

2013-present	MARM Graduate Admission Committee
2014-2015	MARS Bylaws Committee
2014-2015	MARS Faculty Search Committee
2015-present	Academic Program Review (OCRE major)
2015-present	MARM Core Committee
2015-present	Information Technology Committee
2015-present	MARS Departmental Scholarship Committee

University and College Service

2014	Judge, 10 th Annual Student Research Symposium, TAMUG
2015-2017	Faculty Sponsor for Annual Student Research Symposium, TAMUG
2016-present	Research Advisory Council (RAC)
2016 – present	Superintendent Search Committee
2016 – present	Weave evaluation system
2018 - present	Undergraduate Academic Appeals Panel

Community Service

2015–2017	Faculty Resource Member, the Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee (BMAC) Galveston, TX.
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Professional Contribution & Collaboration

2015 -present	Member of the Texas OneGulf Network of Experts (TONE).
2010 -2016	Program of Integrated Assessment Model Development, Diagnostics and Inter-Model Comparisons (PIAMDDI), funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Economic Association (AEA)
Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE)
Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA)
Northeast Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA)
Southern Economic Association (SEA)
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)
Muskie Alumni Association of Georgia (MAAG)

COMPUTER SKILLS

MS Office, STATA, MATLAB, GAMS, ArcGIS, RATS, SIMETAR

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English (fluent), Georgian (native), Russian (fluent)