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DOCTORAL STUDIES

University of Tennessee - Knoxville

Ph.D., Economics

Fall 2026 (expected)

DISSERTATION: "Essays in Energy and Natural Resource Economics"

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE AND REFERENCES:

J Scott Holladay (Chair)

Department of Economics
University of Tennessee - Knoxville
E-mail: jhollad3@utk.edu

Charles Sims

Department of Economics
University of Tennessee - Knoxville
E-mail: cbsims@utk.edu

Ben Leard

Department of Economics
University of Tennessee - Knoxville
E-mail: bleard@utk.edu

Casey Wichman

School of Economics
Georgia Institute of Technology
E-mail: wichman@gatech.edu

PRIOR EDUCATION

University of Florida

B.A., Economics & Statistics

May 2020

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Primary: Energy, Environmental, & Natural Resource Economics

Secondary: Industrial Organization, Urban Economics, Applied Microeconomics

WORKING PAPERS

"Lone Star Grid: The Impact of Texas Electricity Interconnection"

with J Scott Holladay

Abstract: Using a novel least average cost dispatch (LACD) algorithm, this paper evaluates the economic and environmental costs of Texas maintaining an isolated electricity grid. We build a structural model to characterize the supply of electricity and simulate counterfactual integration scenarios. We find that Texas's largest population zones connected with neighboring states to the East results in reductions of generation costs of \$100M annually. We also show that accounting for fixed costs in the dispatch model allocates generation to units with lower average fixed costs than under least marginal cost dispatch. This change in allocation along the margin results in large differences in emissions impacts. We find that some interconnection scenarios decrease the social cost of emissions by up to \$360M annually, while others result in higher emissions. In a case study for one proposed interconnection, we show that generation and revenues shift to the Texas zone. We also show that reductions in costs of maintaining reliability are about as much as generation cost reductions.

"Pricing Urban Water: Rate Structures and Resource Rents Under Supply Uncertainty"

Abstract: Municipal water utilities are mandated to recover costs, balance equity concerns, and send conservation signals. Yet the degree to which observed prices

reflect the scarcity value of water remains largely unexplored. This paper develops a stochastic dynamic program in which the optimal two-sector price decomposes into a Ramsey markup, a scarcity rent on the water stock, and sector-specific marginal cost. Residential and non-residential demand elasticities of -0.59 and -0.82 , respectively, are estimated from a novel panel of 194 Arizona water utilities (2014–2019). Simulated model-implied optimal prices show that increasing block rate (IBR) utilities price closer to the dynamic optimum than uniform-rate utilities. The welfare loss from suboptimal pricing is \$11 to \$26 per customer greater under uniform rates than IBR, and uniform structures undervalue the water stock by 20% relative to IBR. IBRs more fully capture the scarcity rent of water than uniform pricing, and this advantage widens as supply conditions tighten.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

"Electric Shocks: The Short-run and Long-run Impacts of Power Outages on the Housing Market"

"Policy Uncertainty and Coordination Failure in Renewable Investment Networks" *with Nicolas Pinsonneault*

"Costs of Low Quality Power" *with Finbar Curtin*

PRESENTATIONS

University of Canterbury (Christchurch, NZ), UTK Brown Bag Seminar 2026

UTK Brown Bag Seminar, Berkeley/Sloan Summer School in Environmental & Energy Economics, Southeastern Workshop on Energy & Environmental Economics & Policy, SEA 95th Annual Meeting 2025

CU Environmental & Resource Economics Workshop, UTK Applied Microeconomics Workshop 2024

TEACHING

University of Tennessee - Knoxville

Instructor

ECON 362: Environmental and Natural Resource Policy Spring 2026

ECON 201: Introductory Economics (Online) Fall 2025

ECON 201: Introductory Economics (Online) Fall 2024

Teaching Assistant

ECON 514: Graduate (PhD) Macroeconomic Theory II Spring 2024

ECON 201: Introductory Economics 2022-23

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Service Award, *UT Knoxville* 2026

Summer Research Award, *UT Knoxville* 2025 & 2026

Graduate Fellowship in Ecosystem Valuation, *U.S. Forest Service & ORISE* 2024

Graduate Assistantship, *UT Knoxville* 2022 - Current

COMPUTER SKILLS	Stata, R, Matlab, L ^A T _E X, Python	
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	Red Bull North America - <i>Data Analyst</i>	2020-21
AFFILIATIONS	Southern Economic Association	