

Travis Atkinson

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About Me

- If you aren't making someone else's life better, then you're wasting your time" – Will Smith. This single principle underpins my study of Applied Economics. My current research focuses long-term infrastructure investment planning and energy policy analysis for the electricity sector in Small Island Developing States. My interests span energy and the environment, sustainable development and imperfectly competitive markets. I am your archetypal team player whose background in Industrial Organization is complemented by softer skills in public speaking, motivation and team building, an entrepreneurial curiosity and an insatiable appetite for learning.

Core Skillset

- Mathematical Programming & Energy Modelling (GAMS)
- Econometrics & Data/Statistical Analysis (R)
- Cost-benefit Analysis (Excel)
- Other programming language: Python (basic)

Education

PHD | 2016-PRESENT | PURDUE UNIVERSITY | DEPT. OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

- Specialization: Industrial Organization and Markets

MSC | 2015 | UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA | DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

- With Distinction (top 3 in class)
- Specialization: Industrial Organization, Financial Economics, Game Theory

BSC | 2013 | UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA | DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

- Majors: Economics & Statistics (Double-Major) (1st Class Hons.)

Research Experience

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT | PURDUE UNIVERSITY | USA | 2016 - PRESENT

- Data collection for Jamaica's electricity sector and developing model for long-term infrastructure investment planning and policy analysis.

RESEARCH OFFICER | CARIBBEAN POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE | JAMAICA | 2015 - 2016

- Purpose: Lead Researcher on the Caribbean's Correspondent Banking Problem and Options for Privatizing the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA)
- Method: Case studies, qualitative and quantitative analyses.
- Result: Research informed discussions in parliament for addressing said problems. Report formed foundation of CARICOM Heads of Government meeting on the Correspondent Banking problem.

INTERN | DE LA RUE PLC | BASINGSTOKE, UNITED KINGDOM | SUMMER 2015

- Purpose: De La Rue designs and produces bank notes for most countries who do not produce their own. As they largest global currency note printer, De La Rue needs to constantly anticipate demand from their clients.
- Method: I used an ARIMAX econometric model for forecasting the demand for cash.
- Result: Model proved twice as accurate compared to existing forecast models on sample currencies.

INTERN | BANK OF JAMAICA | MARKET OPERATIONS AND ANALYSIS DEPT. | SUMMER 2014

- Purpose: Estimated the impact of marginal trades on exchange rate volatility for BOJ's Market Ops. Dept.
- Method: Designed an ARMA-GARCH econometric model for the investigation
- Result: No evidence that marginal trades affect exchange rate volatility

Job Market Paper

- Atkinson, T., Preckel, P., Gotham, D. (n.d.). Long-term infrastructure investment planning for the electricity sector in Small Island Developing States: case study for Jamaica.

Working in Progress

- Atkinson, T., Preckel, P., Gotham, D. P. (n.d.). Policy options and implications for meeting Jamaica's renewable energy target.

Teaching Experience

TUTOR/TEACHING ASSISTANT | UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA | DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS | 2013 - 2015

- Probability and Distribution Theory (ECON 3031)
- Intermediate Macro-economic Theory II (ECON 2003)

TUTOR | UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA | ACADEMIC SUPPORT UNIT | 2013 - 2015

- Introduction to Statistics (ECON 1005) | 2013-2015 |
 - Developed and executed customized learning strategies for student-athletes and students who needed assistance beyond what could be offered in a traditional classroom setting.

Conferences

USAAE NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE | DENVER, CO. | NOV. 2019

- Atkinson, T., Preckel, P.V., Gotham, D. Long-term investment planning for the electricity sector in Small Island Developing States: Case Study for Jamaica

WEST INDIES ECONOMICS CONFERENCE | JAMAICA | MARCH 2019

CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION | 2013

- Collaboration with UWI's Climate studies group in conducting workshops to help farmers and other stakeholders adapt to the impact of climate change.

Service (Selected)

COMMITTEE MEMBER– INT’L STUDENT AFFAIRS | DEPT. OF AG. ECONOMICS | 2019-2020

- Ensuring a welcoming environment for student from all over the world
- Keeping students and faculty abreast of changes in policies that may affect students

SENATOR – PURDUE GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT | 2018 - 2019

- Provided representation for graduate students on matters such as housing, health insurance and childcare provision

HALL CHAIRMAN – TAYLOR HALL | UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA | 2013-2014

- Leadership of over 300 students in hall of residence
- Established the Taylor Hall Scholarship for Student Development
 - The first two years of the program resulted in the award of 2 scholarships and 65 grants to deserving and disadvantaged students at a cost of over JD\$4 million (or about US\$32, 000).
 - We secured funding by sustainably increasing hall committee operating revenue by 174% within just 1 year and by soliciting alumni donation.

Selected Scholarships & Grants

JIM & NETA HISCKS GRADUATE STUDENT PROFESSIONAL GRANT \$1,500 | 2019

- For professional development activities which will contribute directly to the student’s program by enhancing applied economics relevant research or professional skills in a marked and demonstrable way

JIM & NETA HISCKS GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT \$5,000 | 2017

- To support student’s research which is aligned with department research initiatives and priorities

DE LA RUE SCHOLARSHIP | 2013-2015

- Full scholarship for a Master’s of Science Degree in Economics at the University of the West Indies

PRINCIPAL’S SCHOLARSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE | 2011-2013

- Highest undergraduate scholarship offered by the University of the West Indies

Other Awards

“ABOVE AND BEYOND” AWARD – PURDUE GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT | 2019

- For exemplary service to the Purdue Graduate Student Government (PGSG) in role as **Senator**

REGIONAL FINALIST (TOP 12 OF 20,000 PARTICIPANTS) – HULT PRIZE BUSINESS COMPETITION | 2015

- An international social enterprise competition addressing global issues through social entrepreneurship.
- Vying for US\$1 million in start-up capital, our team presented a business plan to help improve early childhood education for 10 million children globally within 5 years.

Languages

- English (Native)
- Spanish (Beginner)