Agribusiness and Applied Economics (AAE)

Faculty Advisors

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
Students will have a dedicated academic advisor and faculty advisor to guide them throughout their academic journey. Each role serves different functions and has different expertise. You can find more information about individual faculty advisors throughout the rest of this document.

**Faculty Advisor**

- Provides expertise in your areas of interest
- Connects you to research opportunities
- Discusses opportunities that align with your career goals
- Guides you on planning related to graduate and/or professional school

**Academic Advisor**

- Assists with class scheduling
- Helps with understanding degree requirements
- Oversees graduation-related information
- Provides assistance for academic difficulties
- Informs you about university resources
Dr. Bevis joined AEDE in the fall of 2016. Her research focuses on factors that drive chronic poverty in poor, agricultural settings, generally in Africa or South Asia. Often that means she focuses on agricultural productivity, or environmental determinants of health. Some of her work also explores seasonality in adult and child health in poor countries. She is also investigating linkages between soil minerals, crop mineral content and human health in Uganda, Nepal, Malawi and India. A separate strand of her research examines intergenerational income and human capital transmission — in particular the role of maternal education and maternal health on later life child outcomes.

**Areas of expertise**

- **Agricultural Productivity**
- **Nutrition and Health**
- **Intergenerational Poverty and Health**

**Real-world questions my research can address:**

- Why is agricultural productivity lagging in certain developing countries and how can we increase it?
- How can we improve nutrition and health in developing countries?
- What is the relationship between soil and micronutrient malnutrition?
- How does maternal health impact the health of offspring? How can we use factors such as maternal height to predict health outcomes in children?

**Selected highlights**

- Hosts an annual panel on non-academic research jobs for development economists, sponsored by the AAEA graduate student and international sections.
- Recipient of an Outstanding American Journal of Agricultural Economics Reviewer award, where she also now serves as an associate editor.
Dr. Wuyang Hu has been with AEDE since 2018, and serves as the honors coordinator for the department. Dr. Hu's research focuses on consumer economics, behavioral economics, marketing, applied econometrics, environmental and resource economics and development economics. Dr. Hu is a reviewer or board member for over 60 academic journals and professional organizations. Previously he was the H. B. Price endowed professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and co-founder of the Food System Innovation Center at the University of Kentucky.

**Areas of expertise**

- Marketing and Consumer Economics
- Resource and Environmental Economics
- Experimental Economics

**Real-world questions my research can address:**

- Why do consumers make certain decisions? What factors influence their preferences and behavior?
- How can we use incentives and other motivators to drive more sustainable behaviors?
- How can we use better survey design to reduce bias and generate more truthful responses?
- What are consumer perceptions and decisions surrounding products such as meat alternatives? What are the price differentials people are willing to pay?

**Selected highlights**

- Has served as the editor of the *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, the flagship journal of the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society, since 2011.
- Serves as a project supervisor for *Bee Campus Ohio State*, a student-driven initiative to make Ohio State a pollinator friendly campus.
Dr. Margaret Jodlowski is an agricultural economist who joined AEDE in 2020. She broadly works in the areas of agricultural labor and risk management. Her research focuses on domestic and international agricultural issues, with a special emphasis on farm labor and farm household dynamics. She has on-going projects looking at how changing labor markets, immigration policy and demand for federal crop insurance impacts farm-level production and financial decisions. Another major strand of her work looks at the relationships between managing environmental, production and financial risk.

**Areas of expertise**

- Farm Labor
- Farm Household Dynamics
- Risk Management Programs

**Real-world questions my research can address:**

- What are the off-farm decisions made by farm households? How do they impact the local economy?
- How does crop insurance change a farm’s credit behavior?
- What are implications of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021?
- How do issues such as legalization, immigration enforcement and mechanization impact farm labor?

**Selected highlights**

- Co-author of “On the money: Characterizing banking and lending in the California cannabis industry,” published in *Agricultural Finance Review*. 

**EDUCATION**

- PhD Applied Econ. and Management, *Cornell University*
- BA History; BS Ag./Consumer Econ.; MS Ag. and Applied Economics, *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*
Dr. Ani Katchova chairs the Farm Income Enhancement Program in AEDE, and conducts research and outreach on U.S. agricultural economics issues. Her research areas include agricultural finance, agribusiness management and marketing and applied econometrics. Her research has been published in many leading journals and has been supported by more than $2.3 million in grants. She teaches courses in agribusiness finance and applied econometrics. She has received two Outstanding Research Awards from the Agricultural Finance and Management section of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association. She is a 2001 graduate of AEDE and has been a faculty member in the department since 2015.

Real-world questions my research can address:

1. How accurate are USDA agricultural baseline projections that cover farm income and agricultural commodities indicators?
2. Are the USDA farm income forecasts rational?
3. What is the impact of farm financial stress on agricultural lending?
4. What strategies can be utilized by farm businesses to enhance income and long-term stability?

Selected highlights

Oversees the Farm Income Enhancement Program, developing and delivering research, education and outreach to enhance farm income and promote long-term stability for farm businesses.

Econometrics Academy™: Founded the academy to provide free Econometrics training and education to anyone in the world.
Dr. Anna Parkman serves as the undergraduate program leader and internship coordinator in AEDE. She brings years of experience in small business management and human resources to the classroom. Most recently she was an associate professor of management and organizational behavior at Ohio Dominican University, serving as the director of graduate business programs. Previously, she served as the Cecil I. Walker Chair of the Jones Division of Business at the University of Charleston.

**Areas of expertise**

- Imposter Phenomenon
- Active Learning
- Stereotype Threat

**Real-world questions my research and teaching can address:**

- Do individuals feel like they belong in their jobs? Do they feel others respect their skillsets?
- How can employers attract, manage and retain a diverse workforce?
- What are things that can prevent employees, units and organizations from achieving their goals?
- Why do individuals with significant amounts of knowledge, skills and experience not achieve their capacity for success? What gets in their way and how can we remove obstacles that negatively impact an individual’s ability to achieve their goals?

**Selected highlights**

- Certified in Cultural Intelligence (CQ) and Unconscious Bias through the internationally recognized Cultural Intelligence Center.
- Member, Academy of Management, Women in Agribusiness, Women for Economic Leadership Development (WELD); Reviewer, *Oxford Review of Education*
Dr. Zoë Plakias is an agricultural and food systems economist interested in all facets of the contemporary food system. She is currently conducting research on food product reformulation, food security in rural southeast Ohio, cannabis markets in California and emergency management in food systems. She teaches courses on benefit-cost analysis and principles of food and resource economics. She is a faculty affiliate of the InFACT Discovery Theme and the Sustainability Institute and serves on the Executive Leadership Board of the STEAM Factory.

Areas of expertise

- Food Supply Chains
- Food and Agricultural Policy
- Local and Regional Food Systems

Real-world questions my research can address:

- How can we build a food system of the future that is better for all people and the environment?
- Are food and agricultural policies having their intended effects? What are the unintended consequences?
- What is the role of democratic organizations (e.g., cooperatives) in food systems?
- How do we alleviate disparities in terms of race, ethnicity, gender and institutional type in how we do our work as applied economists?

Selected highlights

Guest on the KX Emerging Research Podcast, discussing the application of cost-benefit analysis in a new way on her collaborative food systems resiliency project.

Created the Racial Justice Pathways program with collaborators in the STEAM Factory, an infrastructure to help Ohio State faculty and staff address racial equity in their work through tangible action.
Dr. Brian Roe has broadly worked in the areas of agricultural and environmental economics, focusing on issues in agricultural marketing, information policy, behavioral economics and product quality, since arriving at Ohio State in 1998. He helped form and leads the Ohio Food Waste Collaborative, a collection of researchers, practitioners and students working together to promote the reduction and redirection of food waste as an integral part of a healthy and sustainable food system. Roe previously was as a fellow at the FDA, working on issues of food safety and health information disclosure policy.

**Areas of expertise**

- Food Waste
- Farm Management
- Nutrient Management

**Real-world questions my research can address:**

- How do people interpret certain food labeling claims such as “organic,” “non-GMO,” “eco-friendly,” “low sugar,” etc.?
- What are the benefits of standardizing food date labeling?
- How can we incentivize farmers to use the correct amount of nutrients to reduce runoff and impacts to water quality?
- How can we track and identify patterns in household food waste, and develop effective interventions that reduce food waste and support circular solutions?

**Selected highlights**

- Co-principal investigator on The Multiscale RECIPES for Sustainable Food Systems, a $15 million NSF-funded project to reduce food waste.
- Leads an EPA-funded project with SWACO and the city of Upper Arlington, to assess the effectiveness of a food waste awareness campaign.
Dr. Abdoul Sam joined AEDE in 2005. His research explores issues primarily in environmental and development economics. His research in environmental economics analyzes voluntary pollution reduction (overcompliance) programs which have become an important element of the environmental protection toolkit in the US and many other countries. His research in development economics studies gender inequalities in agriculture and the adoption of financial and technological innovations by farmers in developing countries. His research has been published in many prominent peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Sam has served as Associate Editor of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics and on the Editorial Board of the African Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

Real-world questions my research can address:

- What motivates firms to sign-on to voluntary pollution reduction programs? Do participants follow-through? Do the programs work?
- Do voluntary pollution reduction programs improve the efficiency and financial performance of participant firms?
- How does adopting new financial and technological innovations impact farmer welfare, income and crop yields?
- How do gender inequalities impact the welfare of women in developing economic systems?

Selected highlights

Serves as director of the Master of Applied Economics graduate program, a two-semester professional program focusing on practical skills and data analysis.

Serves on the advisory board for the USAID-funded grant program Advancing Local Leadership, Innovation and Networks (ALL-IN), which focuses on supporting collaborative research in Africa.
Dr. Ian Sheldon serves as the Andersons Chair of Agricultural Marketing, Trade and Policy. His research interests are in analyzing international trade and policy. Recent projects include examination of the interaction between trade and environmental policies; analysis of the effects of exchange rate volatility on international trade flows; examination of the effects of policy on trade in ethanol; and analysis of China’s exchange rate policies. He works on issues related to carbon tariffs, and the impact of intellectual property rights on U.S. seed exports. He completed a term as Chair of the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium, and served as Featured Articles Editor of *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*.

**Areas of expertise**

- International Agricultural Markets
- Agricultural Trade
- Agricultural Policy

**Real-world questions my research can address:**

- What is the intersection between international trade and environmental trade policy?
- How does trade policy (e.g. NAFTA) impact Ohio agriculture, farmers and associated state industries?
- Why do we trade? What do we trade? What are the benefits of trade globalization? What are the impacts of the U.S. - China trade war?
- What are the key anti-trust issues in agriculture?

**Selected highlights**

- Overssees the [Andersons Program in International Trade](#), which focuses on research and outreach in the area of international trade and public policy.