

CONTACT
INFORMATION

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United States of America

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RESEARCH
INTERESTS
EDUCATION

Urban Economics, Environmental Economics, Empirical Methods, Infrastructure and Energy Policy

Columbia University, New York, NY, USA

Ph.D., Sustainable Development

2019 (Expected)

- Dissertation Title: “Aviation and Sustainable Development”
- Dissertation Sponsor: Scott Barrett

M.Phil., Sustainable Development

2017

M.A., Sustainable Development

2016

- Thesis: “Business diversity and coastal resilience in the U.S. South: Does coastal weather risk affect the socioeconomic structures of coastal communities?”
- Advisor: Benjamin Orlove

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA

Exchange Scholar, Laboratory for Aviation and the Environment

2016-2017

University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA

B.S., Environmental Science and Policy (Environmental Economics)

2013

- Honors Thesis: “Investigating a potential incentive program to encourage the adoption of Rain Gardens: A study of contingent behavior in Howard County, MD” - *with High Honors*
- Advisor: Anna Alberini

B.A., Germanic Studies

2013

Certificate in Science, Technology, and Society; Minor in Statistics

JOB MARKET
PAPER

Blue-sky thinking: Connectivity impacts on regional economies and innovation in the United States ([Click here for the most recent version.](#))

How do connections enabled by commercial aviation affect long-run economic growth and innovation? This paper studies the effects of aviation connectivity on regional economies in the United States. I construct a novel set of instruments based on the historical institutional and physical requirements for expanded air connectivity. To account for the network nature of aviation infrastructure, I use an improved measure of aviation activity—the Global Connectivity Index developed by Allroggen and coauthors. After accounting for endogeneity, I find that a 1% increase in a core-based statistical area (CBSA)’s Global Connectivity Index is associated with an increase in long-term total personal income by 1.7% and 6 more granted patents. Finally, I find that the impact of connectivity on regional economies is significantly more pronounced in the largest 100 cities, while these effects vanish in smaller cities. This paper shows, for the first time, the impact of aviation connectivity on innovation and provides suggestive evidence for aviation’s role in strengthening agglomeration economies.

PUBLICATIONS	Blankenship, B., Wong, J. C. , & Urpelainen, J. (2019). Explaining willingness to pay for pricing reforms that improve electricity service in India. <i>Energy Policy</i> . (Accepted, forthcoming).	
WORKING PAPERS	Is there a rural-urban gap in energy access preferences? Evidence from electricity service in India (Submitted, with J. Urpelainen and B. Blankenship)	
	Biodiversity and thermal ecological function: The influence of freshwater algal diversity on local thermal environments (Submitted, with A. Missirian, E. Frank, J. Gersony and S. Naeem)	
	To steal, or not to steal: Attitudes towards electricity theft in northern India (Draft complete, with J. Urpelainen and B. Blankenship)	
WORKS IN PROGRESS	Bundling Private and Public Goods versus Offsetting Externalities	
	Climate Change Impacts on Aviation	
	Increasing Rural Electrification Through Connection Campaigns (with J. Urpelainen, B. Blankenship, R. Kennedy, and A. Mahajan)	
HONORS AND AWARDS (SELECTED)	Columbia University	
	Dean's Fellow	2013-2018
	Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching by Graduate Students	Won, 2017
	Finalist/Honorable Mention, Presidential Award for Teaching	2015, 2016
	Wueller Teaching Award for Outstanding Teaching in Undergraduate Electives	Won, 2015
	<i>Department of Economics</i>	Runner up, 2016
	Lead Teaching Fellow	2015-2016
	National/International	
	International Parliamentary Fellowship, Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany	2018
	National Academies Transportation Research Board Graduate Research Award	2016-2017
	Phi Kappa Phi Walter and Adelheid Hohenstein Fellow	2013-2014
	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Ernest F. Hollings Scholar	2011-2013
	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (Honorable Mention)	2013
	German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Undergraduate Scholar	2012-2013
	Leuphana University of Lüneburg, <i>Germanic Studies; Public and Labor Economics (M.A. level)</i>	
	Morris K. and Stewart L. Udall Undergraduate Scholarship (Honorable Mention)	2012
	University of Maryland	
	Graduated <i>summa cum laude</i> , Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Omricon Delta Kappa	2013
	College of Arts and Humanities Dean's Senior Scholar	2013
	Senior Marshal; College of Agricultural & Natural Resources Commencement Speaker	2013
	University Libraries Undergraduate Research Award	2012
	German Society of Maryland Dr. Kurrelmeyer Zintl Merit Award for German Majors	2012
	College Park Scholar in Science and Global Change	2009-2011
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Columbia University	
	<i>Instructor/Co-Instructor</i>	
	SDEV UN2300 Challenges of Sustainable Development	Spring 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
	ECON S4625 Economics of the Environment	Summer 2017
	<i>Teaching Fellow</i>	
	ECON W4625 Economics of the Environment	Fall 2015

	SDEV W2300 Challenges of Sustainable Development	Spring 2014
	ECON W4750 Globalization and its Risks	Fall 2014
	The City College of New York, City University of New York	
	<i>Adjunct Instructor</i>	
	SUS 7400C/ECO B9526 Economics of Sustainability (Graduate Course)	Spring 2017
	New York University	
	<i>Adjunct Instructor/Recitation Leader</i>	
	ES 100 Environmental Systems Science	Fall 2015
	Leuphana University of Lüneburg	
	<i>Mentor & Teaching Assistant</i>	
	MOOC - ThinkTank: Ideal City of the 21st Century, led by Daniel Libeskind	Spring 2013
	University of Maryland	
	<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	
	AREC 200 Chesapeake Bay Ecosystem: Science, Economics & Policy	Spring 2012
	CPSP 239G Science and Global Change Practicum	Spring 2012
	CPSP 118G The Nature of Science	Fall 2011
OTHER TRAINING	Kraks Fond Hedonic Price Analysis and the Residential Location Choice Summer School	2017
	UC Berkeley Summer School in Environmental and Energy Economics	2016
	UC Berkeley BITSS Transparency & Reproducibility Summer Institute	2016
	Columbia University Certificate in Innovative Teaching	2015
LANGUAGES	Native/Fluent: English, Cantonese, Mandarin Chinese, German (C2)	
	Elementary: French, Japanese	
	MIT German Studies Excellence Award, Runner-up (Swiss Special Prize)	2017
	Goethe Institut Großes Deutsches Sprachdiplom (C2 Certificate)	2017
	NYU Deutsches Haus Certificate (C2 - Mastery)	2017
	Columbia Doctoral German Reading Proficiency Exam <i>Passed with Distinction</i>	2013
	Dual Certificate in Teaching Chinese and English as Foreign Languages,	2016
	Columbia University Teachers College and Beijing Language and Culture University	
SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP	Peer Advocate, Gay Health Advocacy Project, Columbia Health	2017-Present
	Co-Chair, Sustainable Development Doctoral Student Committee	2017-2018
	Vice President, Sustainable Development Doctoral Society	2014-2016
	Volunteer Translator and Interpreter, Odyssey of the Mind Competitions	2011-Present
	Presenter, Peer Review Week, German Council for Sustainable Development	2013
	Participant, "Contemporary Carlowitz" – Young Impulse for German Sustainability Politics,	
	German Council for Sustainable Development and Bertelsmann Foundation	2013
	Participant, German Federal Environmental Agency First European Resources Forum	2012
PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS	Urban Economics Association	
	MIT Laboratory for Aviation and the Environment	
	University of Copenhagen Faculty of Law Transatlantic Maritime Emissions Research Network	
	Columbia University Earth Institute Center for Sustainable Urban Development	
	Johns Hopkins SAIS Initiative for Sustainable Energy Policy (Student Fellow)	