

Fiona Burlig

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Academic appointments

Assistant Professor, Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago, 2018 –
Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER):
 Environment and Energy Economics program (EEE), 2019 –
 Development Economics program (DEV), 2026 –
Deputy Faculty Director, Energy Policy Institute at UChicago-India (EPIC-India), 2022 –
Deputy Faculty Director, UChicago-Odisha Data, Policy, and Innovation Centre, 2024 –
Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Economics, University of Chicago, 2017 – 2018

Affiliations and additional appointments

Affiliated faculty, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Growth, University of Chicago, 2024 –
Affiliated faculty, Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC) and EPIC-India, 2017 –
Faculty affiliate, Energy and Environment Lab, University of Chicago Urban Labs, 2018 –
Junior member, Coase Project, 2022 –
Affiliate, Abdual Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), 2025 –
Affiliated researcher, International Growth Centre, 2025 –
Affiliate, Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), 2024 –
Editorial council, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 2021 –

Education

Ph.D., Agricultural and Resource Economics, UC Berkeley, 2017
M.S., Agricultural and Resource Economics, UC Berkeley, 2013
B.A., Economics, Political Science, and German, Williams College, 2012
Highest honors in economics; Cum Laude

Research interests

Energy and environmental economics; Development economics; Agricultural economics

Publications

Burlig, Fiona, Amir Jina, and Anant Sudarshan. 2026. "The value of clean water: Experimental evidence from rural India," *American Economic Review*, 116(3): 1148–1187. [[Available here.](#)]
Burlig, Fiona and Anant Sudarshan. 2026. "Reforming energy subsidies." In Rema Hanna and Benjamin A Olken, Eds., *The Handbook of Social Protection: Evidence and New Directions for Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, pp. 67–81. MIT Press. [[Available here.](#)]

- Burlig, Fiona and Louis Preonas. 2024. "Out of the darkness and into the light? Development effects of rural electrification," *Journal of Political Economy*, 132(9): 2937–2971. [[Available here.](#)]
- Burlig, Fiona and Andrew W. Stevens. 2024. "Social networks and technology adoption: Evidence from church mergers in the U.S. Midwest," *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 106(3): 1141–1166. [[Available here.](#)]
- Burlig, Fiona, James Bushnell, David Rapson, and Catherine Wolfram. 2021. "Low energy: Estimating electric vehicle electricity use," *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 111: 430–435. [[Available here.](#)]
- Burlig, Fiona, Christopher Knittel, David Rapson, Mar Reguant, and Catherine Wolfram. 2020. "Machine learning from schools about energy efficiency," *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*, 7(6): 1181–1217. [[Available here.](#)]
- Burlig, Fiona, Louis Preonas, and Matt Woerman. 2020. "Panel data and experimental design," *Journal of Development Economics* 144: 102458. [[Available here.](#)]
- Burlig, Fiona. 2018. "Improving transparency in observational social science research: A pre-analysis plan approach," *Economics Letters* 168: 56–60. [[Available here.](#)]

Working papers

- Groundwater and crop choice in the short and long run (with Louis Preonas and Matt Woerman). NBER Working Paper No. 28706. [[Available here.](#)]
Revise and resubmit, *Review of Economic Studies*.
- Blackouts: The role of India's wholesale electricity market (with Akshaya Jha and Louis Preonas). NBER Working Paper No. 29610. [[Available here.](#)]
Conditionally accepted, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*.
- Beliefs, forecasts, and investments: Experimental evidence from India (with Amir Jina, Erin Kelley, Gregory Lane, and Harshil Sahai). NBER Working Paper No. 32173. [[Available here.](#)]
Revise and resubmit, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*.
- If you build it, they may not come: Willingness to participate in managed EV charging (with James Bushnell and David Rapson). NBER Working Paper No. 35086. [[Available here.](#)]
- Insurance and the demand for adaptation: Theory and experimental evidence from West Bengal (with Manzoor Dar, Xavier Giné, Erin Kelley, and Gregory Lane). [[Available here.](#)]
- Paying for power (with Anant Sudarshan). [[Available here.](#)]

Selected work in progress

- Incentives for climate adaptation: Experimental evidence from Odisha (with Manzoor Dar, Jack Glaser, and Anant Sudarshan).
- Forecasts at scale: General equilibrium impacts of climate adaptation (with Amir Jina, Erin Kelley, and Gregory Lane). [[AEA RCT Registry No. 13590.](#)]
- Groundwater in a changing climate (with R. Aaron Hrozencik, Louis Preonas, and Matt Woerman)

Teaching

- PPHA 34600: Masters' program evaluation, University of Chicago, 2019 –
Mean evaluation score: 4.2/5
- PPHA 59200: Current topics in public policy, University of Chicago, 2020 –
- Causal inference and economics, EDE Summer School, University of Chicago, 2021 – 2022, 2024

Selected grants and awards

J-PAL King Climate Action Initiative (with Amir Jina, Erin Kelley, and Greg Lane), 2024
World Bank (with Xavier Giné, Erin Kelley, and Greg Lane), 2024
World Bank (with Xavier Giné, Erin Kelley, and Greg Lane), 2023
USDA NIFA (with R. Aaron Hrozencik, Louis Preonas, and Matt Woerman), 2024
J-PAL King Climate Action Initiative (with Amir Jina, Erin Kelley, Greg Lane, and Harshil Sahai), 2022
Templeton World Charity Foundation (with Anant Sudarshan), 2021
National Bureau of Economic Research (with Jim Bushnell and Dave Rapson), 2021
National Science Foundation (with Jim Bushnell and Dave Rapson), 2021
J-PAL ATAI (with Faraz Hayat, Amir Jina, Erin Kelley, Greg Lane, and Harshil Sahai), 2020
J-PAL King Climate Action Initiative (with Jim Bushnell and Dave Rapson), 2020
J-PAL North America (with Ludovica Gazze, Michael Greenstone, and Olga Rostapshova), 2020
USDA ERS (with Louis Preonas and Matt Woerman), 2020
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation (with Duncan Callaway and Catherine Wolfram), 2020
J-PAL North America (with Ludovica Gazze, Michael Greenstone, and Olga Rostapshova), 2019
E2e Project / Alfred P. Sloan Foundation (with Louis Preonas and Matt Woerman), 2017
Giannini Foundation Minigrant (with Louis Preonas and Matt Woerman), 2017
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2012 – 2017
Sidney Hoos Award for Best Second Year Project in Econometrics, UC Berkeley, 2014
Jack Larned Class of 1942 Prize for Best Development Economics Senior Thesis, Williams College, 2012

Service

Referee: *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*; *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*; *American Economic Review*; *American Economic Review: Insights*; *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*; *Economic Development and Cultural Change*; *Economic Inquiry*; *The Energy Journal*; *Energy Policy*; *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*; *Journal of Development Economics*; *Journal of Industrial Economics*; *Journal of Political Economy*; *Journal of Public Economics*; *Journal of South Asian Development*; *Nature Energy*; *Review of Economics and Statistics*; *Review of Economic Studies*; *Science*; *Science Advances*; Global Innovation Fund; Alfred P. Sloan Foundation; National Science Foundation

Faculty mentor, Development Tea, University of Chicago, 2019 – present
Junior faculty and postdoc recruiting, University of Chicago, 2017 – 2023
Co-organizer, EPIC seminar, University of Chicago, 2019 – 2023, 2024 – 2025
Co-organizer, Development Workshop, University of Chicago, 2021 – 2025
Co-organizer, Junior Applied Micro Workshop, University of Chicago, 2025 – present

Miscellaneous

Computing: Stata, R, Python, ArcGIS, $\text{\LaTeX}$
Languages: English (native), Dutch (proficient), German (proficient)
Citizenship: USA, Netherlands, UK