

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

**MAHMUD YESUF**  
**(Last updated: 06/01/20)**

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### **RESEARCH AREAS**

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My main expertise is development economics, natural resource and environmental economics, and applied micro-econometrics. My research focuses on the interface between economics and natural resource management issues in the context of smallholder agriculture in developing countries. These include smallholder agricultural behavior and decisions, sustainable land management, agricultural technology adoption, food security issues, behavioral economics and experiments in the context of smallholder agriculture, environmental valuation, climate change economics, and gender studies.

### **EDUCATION**

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Gothenburg University, Sweden, Ph.D. in Economics (2004)

Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, M.Sc. in Economics (1998)

Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, B.A. in Economics (1989)

## EMPLOYMENT

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Associate Professor, Department of Economics, American University, Since May 2020

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, American University, Sept 2010-April 2020.

Research Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University,  
March-August 2010 (Research Affiliation).

Assistant Professor, Economics, Addis Ababa University, 2005 – 2008

Resident Advisor and Research Fellow, Environment for Development (EfD /Kenyan Institute  
for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA)), January-December 2009

Visiting Professor, University of Nairobi, Kenya, September 2009

Coordinator and Research Fellow, Environmental Economics Policy Forum for Ethiopia/  
Ethiopian Development Research Institute, Ethiopia, 2005 – 2008

Visiting Professor, African Economic Research Consortium, Nairobi, Kenya, 2009.

Visiting Professor, Gothenburg University, Sweden, Fall 2004.

Economist, Ethiopian Science and Technology Commission, Ethiopia, 1989-2000.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### **Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

[“Gender and Perception of Climate Change in Ethiopia”](#) (with Maria Floro and T. Woldesenbet),  
*The International Journal of Climate Change: Impacts and Responses* 11 (June 2019),  
pp. 21-39.

[”Consumption Discount Rates, Risk Aversion and Wealth in Low Income Countries: Evidence  
from a Field Experiment in Rural Ethiopia”](#) (with Randall Bluffstone), *Journal of  
African Economies* 28 (January 2019), pp. 18-38.

[”Ambiguity Aversion Among Student Subjects: The Role of Probability Interval and Emotional  
Parameters”](#) (with Robert Feinberg), *Applied Economic Letters* 23 (August 2016), pp.  
235-238.

[”Livestock and Private Tree Holdings in Rural Ethiopia: The Effects of Collective Action  
Institutions, Tenure Security and Market Access”](#) (with Randall Bluffstone, T. Uehara, B.  
Bushie, D. Damite), *Journal of Development Studies* 51 (August 2015), pp. 1193-1209.

- ["Strategies to Adapt to Climate Change and Farm Productivity in the Nile Basin of Ethiopia: Evidence from the Nile Basin, Ethiopia"](#) (with Salvatore Di Falco and G. Kohlin), *Climate Change Economics* 3 (October 2012), PP. 1-18.
- ["Estimating the Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture in Low Income Countries: Household Level Evidence from the Nile Basin, Ethiopia"](#) (with Salvatore Di Falco, G. Kohlin and C. Ringler), *Environmental and Resource Economics* 52 (August 2012), pp. 457-478.
- ["Soil and Water Conservation Technologies" A Buffer Against Production Risk in the Face of Climate Change"](#) (with Edward Kato, C. Ringler, and E. Bryan), *Agricultural Economics* 42 (September 2011), pp. 593-604.
- ["Does Adaptation to Climate Change Provide Food Security? A Micro Perspective from Ethiopia"](#) (with Salvatore Di Falco and M. Versonesi), *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 93 (April 2011), pp. 825-842.
- ["Farmers' Preferences for Crop Variety Traits: Lessons for On-Farm Conservation and Technology Adoption"](#) (with Sinafikeh Asrat, F. Carlsson, and E. Wale), *Ecological Economics* 69 (October 2010), pp. 2394-2401.
- ["Production Risk and Farm Technology Adoption in the Rain-Fed Semi Arid Lands of Kenya"](#) (with Maurice Ogada and W. Nyangena), *African Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* 4 (September 2010), pp. 159-174.
- ["Global Carbon Markets: Opportunities for Sub-Saharan Africa in the Agriculture and Forestry"](#) (with Elizabeth Bryan, W. Akpalu, and C. Ringler), *Climate and Development* 2 (June 2010), pp. 309-331.
- ["Seeds for Livelihood: Crop Biodiversity and Food Production in Ethiopia"](#) (with Salvatore Di Falco, and M. Bezabih), *Ecological Economics* 69 (June 2010), pp. 1695-1702.
- ["Poverty, Risk Aversion and Path Dependence in Low Income Countries: Experimental Evidence from Ethiopia"](#) (with Randall Bluffstone), *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 91 (November 2009), pp.1022-1037.
- ["Determinants of Farmers' Choice of Adaptation Methods to Climate Change in the Nile Basin of Ethiopia"](#) (with Temesgen Deressa, R. Hassan, C. Ringler and T. Alemu), *Global Environmental Change* 19 (May 2009), pp. 248-255.
- ["Estimating Returns to Soil Conservation Adoption in the Northern Ethiopian Highlands"](#) (with Menale Kassie, J. Pender, G. Kohlin, A. Bluffstone, and E. Mulugeta), *Agricultural Economics* 38 (March 2008), pp. 213-232.

## **Books**

[\*Estimating Household Energy Demand for Rural Ethiopia Using AIDS: Household Fuel Choice\*](#) (with Dawit Guta), LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2010. ISBN: 3843368937.

[\*Farmers' Derived Demand for Sorghum Genetic Diversity in Ethiopia: Economics of Sorghum Genetic Diversity in Ethiopia\*](#) (with Chalachew. Temesgen). VDM Publisher, 2009 ISBN 9783639191950.

## **Book Chapters**

“Risk Preferences and Technology Adoption: Case Studies from Ethiopian Highlands” in [\*Agricultural Investment and Productivity: Building Sustainability in East Africa\*](#), Randall Bluffstone and Gunnar Kohlin (editors), Routledge and RFF Press, 2011, pp.67-78.

“Farmers’ Choice between Public Goods and Agricultural Extension Packages in Ethiopia: A Stated Preference Analysis” in [\*Choice Experiments in Developing Countries: Implementations, Challenges and Policy Implications\*](#), Jeff Bennett and Ekin Birol (editors), Edward Egar, 2010, Chapter 11.

## **Other Research Reports**

[“Ethiopia: Time Use Surveys and Policy Case”](#), *UN Foundation*, 2017.

[“A Stakeholders’ Analysis on Sustainable Land Management in Ethiopia: Assessment of Opportunities, Strategies Constraints, Information Needs, and Knowledge Gaps”](#) (with Minale Kassie, G. Zeleke, and J. Pender), *Thematic Paper at the World Bank*, 2007 (Peer-Reviewed)

[”Cost of Land Degradation in Ethiopia: A Critical Review of Past Studies”](#) (with Minale Kassie, A. Mekonnen and J. Pender, *Thematic Paper at the World Bank*, 2007 (Peer-Reviewed)

[“Determinants and Impacts of Land Management Technologies in the Ethiopian Highlands: A Literature Review”](#) (with John Pender), *Thematic Paper at the World Bank*, 2007 (Peer-Reviewed).

[”Reducing Vulnerability in Ethiopia: Addressing the Implications of Climate Change: Integration of Results from Phase I”](#) (with Declan Conway, L. Schipper, and M. Kassie), *University of East Anglia and DFID/ UK*, 2007.

[“Risk, Time and Land Management Decisions under Market Imperfections: Applications to Ethiopia”](#), *PhD Dissertation*, 2004.

## **Working Papers**

[“Demand for Drought Tolerance in Africa: Selection of Drought Tolerant Maize Seed Using Framed Field Experiments”](#) (with Timothy Dalton and L. Muhammad), Annual Meeting, *Agricultural and Applied Economics Association*. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 103712, 2011.

[“Risk Implications of Farm Technology Adoption in the Ethiopian Highlands”](#) (with Menale Kassie and G. Kohlin), *RFF/EfD Discussion Paper 09-13*, Washington, D.C., 2009.

[“Market Imperfections and Farm Technology Adoption: A Case Study from the Highlands of Ethiopia”](#) (with Gunnar Kohlin), *RFF/EfD Discussion Paper 08-04*. Washington, D.C., 2008.

[”Do Discount Rates Change Overtime?: Experimental Evidence in Ethiopia”](#) (with Heather Klemick), *RFF/EfD Discussion Paper 08-06*, Washington, D.C., 2008.

## **TEACHING**

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American University, Department of Economics, Washington D.C. (Since September 2010).

- Undergraduate Courses Taught: Microeconomics, Economics of Environmental Policy, Applied Econometrics I, Senior Research Seminar, and Economic Development.
- Graduate courses Taught: Applied Econometrics I & II, Survey of African Economies, and Environmental Economics, MA Capstone Seminar.
- Develop and Teach online courses with Deltak: Applied Econometrics I & II.
- Dissertation Committee Member: Current: Sydney Gourley, Amineh Kamranzadeh.
- I regularly serve as Capstone advisor, Independent Study Advisor, and Mentor. Recent advisees include: Nathaniel Edenfield (2017/18) Alaa Chaker (2016/17), Logan Billman (2016/17), Michael Bassett (2014/15), Leonardo Pedicelli (2014/15), Emily Ellis (2014/15). All of them won either best undergraduate research award of the department or the college, and published their papers in undergraduate research journal (such as *Issues of Political Economy* published by Eastern Economic Association or *Journal of Applied Business and Economics*).

Addis Ababa University, Department of Economics (1998-99, 2004-2008)

- Undergraduate Courses Taught: Principles of Economics, Basic Microeconomics, and History of Economic Thought.
- Graduate Courses Taught: Advanced Microeconomics, Advanced Econometrics, Environmental Valuation and Policy Analysis.
- Supervised more than 8 M.Sc. theses in the area of Environmental Economics. I worked with some of them to publish their theses into books.

African Economic Research Consortium (Summer 2009):

- Graduate Courses Taught: Environmental Valuation and Policy (This is a joint M.Sc. program in Economics for African Students coming from 18 universities to take elective courses under joint facility in Nairobi. The course involves class lectures and computer labs).

University of Nairobi, School of Economics (September 2009).

- Graduate Course Taught: Environmental Valuation and Policy to 26 M.Sc. students.

Gothenburg University, Sweden (Fall 2004).

- PhD Courses Taught: Environmental Valuation and Behavioral Economics (Lectures and computer labs).

## **GRADUATE THESIS SUPERVISION**

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Sydney Gourlay (2017-2019). “Do Methods Matter? Implications for Understanding Agricultural Productivity Drivers in Smallholder Farming Systems. Ph.D. Dissertation Committee. (Successfully defended Ph.D. Dissertation on May 2019).

Amineh Kamranzadeh (Since 2018) “Network and Peer Effects: Social Multipliers and Aggregate Outcomes”. Ph.D. Dissertation Committee. (Successfully defended the Ph.D. Dissertation Proposal on August 2018).

Mariana Oliveira Cardozo. 2019. “The Effect of Feminization of Legislative Bodies on Labor Outcomes”. Independent study (M.Sc. Substantial Research Paper), School of International Service, American University, USA.

Muhammad Abdullah Ali Malik (Since 2019). “R4 Rural Resilience Program and Food Security: The Tale of Senegal”. Ph.D. Dissertation Committee. (Preparing the proposal).

- Ayna Verella. 2014. "Natural Disasters, Agriculture and Development". Independent study (M.Sc.), Department of Economics, College of Arts and Sciences, American University, USA.
- Veronica Nigh. 2012. "Understanding Federal Water Quality Regulation". Independent study (M.Sc.), Department of Economics, College of Arts and Sciences, American University, USA.
- Girma G. Selassie. 2006. "Valuing Improved Lake Quality Using Choice Experiment: A Case Study for Lake Awassa". M.Sc. Thesis, Department of Economics, Faculty of Business and Economics, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.
- Medhin Assefa, 2006. "Household Demand for Improved Water Services in Urban Areas: The case of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia". M.Sc. Thesis, Department of Economics, Faculty of Business and Economics, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
- Tolina Tuffa. 2006. "Household's Willingness to Pay for Improved Solid Waste Management: Contingent valuation Study in Adama, Ethiopia". M.Sc. Thesis, Department of Economics, Faculty of Business and Economics, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. (Given Best M.Sc Economics Thesis Award of the year 2006 by the Ethiopian Economic Association)
- Ejigu Alemu. 2007. "Contingent Valuation of Environmental Benefits of Improving Urban Forest: The Case of Adama City". M.Sc. Thesis, Department of Economics, Faculty of Business and Economics, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.
- Seleshi Fantu. 2007. "Households' Willingness to Pay for Improved Solid Waste Management: The case of Common Building Residences in Addis Ababa". M.Sc. Thesis, Department of Economics, Faculty of Business and Economics, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.
- Sinafikeh Asrat. 2008. "Economic Analysis of Farmers' Preferences for Crop Variety Traits Using a Choice Experiment Approach: Lessons for On-Farm Conservation and Technology Adoption in Ethiopia". M.Sc. Thesis, Department of Economics, Faculty of Business and Economics, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. (Given Best M.Sc. Economics Thesis Award of the year 2008 by the Ethiopian Economic Association)
- Dawit Diriba. 2008. "Estimating Household Energy Demand of Rural Ethiopia Using an Almost Ideal Demand System (AIDS)". M.Sc. Thesis, Department of Economics, Faculty of

Business and Economics, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. (Published in the form of Book)

Chalachew Temesgen. 2008. "Economic Analysis of Farmers' Derived Demand to Diversify on Local Sorghum Varieties. Implication for on Farm Genetic Resource Conservation: for the Case Study of Tehuldere Woreda; South Wollo Zone". M.Sc. Thesis, Department of Economics, Faculty of Business and Economics, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. (Published in the form of Book).

## **CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

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The Twenty Fourth Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economics, Manchester, UK, coming up in June/July 2019 (Program committee).

Pathways to Gender Equality, Nov 2-3, 2018. American University, Washington College of Law (Program Committee Chair).

The Twenty Third Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economics, Athens, Greece, June/July 2017 (Program committee).

Gender and Perception of Climate Change in Rural Ethiopia, Gender Seminar Series, Department of Economics, American University, January 2018 (Presenter).

The Twenty Second Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economics, Zurich, Switzerland, June/July 2016 (Program committee).

The Twenty First Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Helsinki, Finland, June/July 2015 (Program committee).

The Fifth World Conference of Environmental and Resource Economists, June/July 2014, Istanbul, Turkey (Program Committee).

The Twentieth Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Toulouse, France, June/July 2013 (Program committee).

Attend the 2013 Annual American Economic Association meeting, San Diego, California, January 2013.

The Nineteen Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Czech Republic, June 2012 (Program committee).



International Conference on the Economics of Climate change Adaptation in low income countries, George Washington University, May 2011, (Presenter).

Attend the 2010 Annual American Economic Association meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, January 2010.

The Seventeen Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Greece, June 2009 (Presenter and Program committee).

Third Environment for Development Conference, Nairobi, November 2009 (Presenter).

The Sixteen Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Sweden, June 2008 (Presenter and Program committee).

First Environment for Development Conference, South Africa, November 2007 (Presenter).

The Fifteen Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Greece, June 2007 (Presenter).

Fifth International Conference on the Ethiopian Economy, Ethiopian Economics Association, Addis Ababa, June 2007 (Presenter and co-organizer on a special session on Environmental Economics).

The Soil and Water Conservation Society's 2007 annual conference, July 2007, Tampa, Florida, USA (Presenter).

The Nile Basin Initiative Regional Meeting, Egypt, 2006 (Presenter).

Stakeholder workshop on Sustainable Land Management, ILRI, Addis Ababa, May 2-3, 2006 (Co-organizer with World Bank and Presenter).

Third World Congress on Environmental and Resource Economics, Kyoto, July 3-7, 2006 (Presenter).

Third International Workshop on Sustainable Natural Resource Management, at Zhejiang Forest College, Hangzhou, China, January 8-9, 2005 (Presenter).

Workshop on Land Degradation and Poverty at UNECA, May 31, 2005 (Co-organizer with the World Bank, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Environmental Protection Agency).

International workshop on Sustainable Land Management, UNECA, Addis Ababa, May 30, 2005 (Co-organizer with the World Bank and presenter).

Third International Conference on the Ethiopian Economy, Ethiopian Economics Association, Addis Ababa, June 2005 (Presenter).

The Thirteenth Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Budapest, June 2004 (Presenter).

First International Conference on the Ethiopian Economy, Ethiopian Economics Association, Addis Ababa, June 2003 (Presenter).

First International Workshop on Sustainable Natural Resource Management, Sweden, October 2002 (Presenter).

## **PROJECTS AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS**

Time Use Survey and Care Policies in Ethiopia. Prepared an assessment report in Summer 2017 (in collaboration with Maria Floro, American university). UN Foundation.

Financial and economic feasibility of Sustainable Land Management Program-2 (SLMP-2) for Ethiopia (July-August 2013). The World Bank. Participated as key resource person.

Experimental Study on Risk and Ambiguity Aversions among AU students (2012-2013). A Project funded by CAS's Mellon Grant.

Ex-Ante Economic Analysis of Water Efficient Maize for Africa (March-August 2010). A Research Project Financed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Collaboration with Kansas State University. Participating as a Research Analyst.

Poverty and Land degradation in Ethiopia (2005-2007). A Study financed by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the World Bank. Participated as Collaborator and Local Project Leader.

A Cost Benefit Framework towards a Pro-Sustainable Land Management Decision Making Process in Ethiopia. A Study Financed by the World Bank's TerrAfrica Initiative (2006). Participated as Collaborator and Local Project Leader.

IFPRI: Food and Water Security under Global Change: Developing Adaptive Capacity with a Focus on Rural Africa (2006-2008). The Study is financed by IFPRI in collaboration with the German International Development Agency. Participated as Collaborator and Local Project Leader.

Macro-Economic Impacts of Climate Change in Ethiopia. A consultancy work commissioned by Department for International Development (DFID), UK, July 2007, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Participated as Collaborator and Local Project Leader.

Ethiopian Government: Global Carbon Trading and Opportunities for Africa. A consultative note submitted to the Ethiopian Prime Minister's Advisor Office upon their request, May 2007.

Participated as Collaborator and Local Project Leader

Economic and Financial Feasibility of Country Partnership Program for Sustainable Land Management Project (CPPSLM). A consultancy Work for Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Ethiopia and commissioned by the World Bank. May 2007, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Participated as Collaborator and Local Project Leader

## **MAJOR SURVEYS**

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Co-Lead Experimental Studies on Risk and Ambiguity Aversions among AU Students. A Research Project Funded by the CAS's Mellon Grant (2013).

Co-Lead Experimental Studies on Risk, Loss and Ambiguity Aversions, and Willingness to Pay for Water Efficient Maize in Eastern and Southern Africa. A Research Project Financed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Collaboration with Kansas State University (March-August 2010).

Led four rounds of the rural household surveys (2000-2008) of the Environmental Economics Policy Forum of the Ethiopian Development Research Institute, in collaboration with Gothenburg University, and funded by Swedish International Development Agency (Sida).

Co-Led climate change household surveys (2005-2007) in the Nile Basin by the Ethiopian Development Research Institute in collaboration with IFPRI under the project entitled "Global Food and Water Security Under Global Change: Developing Adaptive Capacity with a Focus on Rural Africa"

## **AMERICAN UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

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Seminar Review Committee Member and Workshop Facilitator for Fulbright Enrichment

Seminar, organized by PGAE of AU's Economics Department and State Department.

May 15-18 2019.

Undergraduate Faculty Advisor: 137 advisees in economics major and minor (2012-present).

Chair, Review Committee, International Conference on Pathways to Gender Equality,

Department of Economics/IWPR, (February 2018-October 2018)

Committee Member, Working Group on Graduate Education in Statistics, (October 2017-

Present)

Committee Member, Merit Pay Committee. (2016/17 Academic Year)

Committee Member, Grievances committee. (April 2015 - Present)

Committee Member, Steering Group Member for Community of Practice on Online Learning.

(April 2015 - Present).

## **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

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**Associate Editor**, Environment and Development Economics Journal (Published by the Cambridge University, UK), 2011-2017.

**Editorial Board Member**, Environment and Development Economics Journal (Published by the Cambridge University, UK), Since 2018

**Scientific Review Committee Member**, National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC), Annapolis, Maryland, since February 2015.

Referee for Journal of Environmental Economics and Management (JEEM), since 2014

Referee for World Development, since 2014

Referee for Ecological Economics, since 2014

Referee for Agricultural Economics Journal, since 2013

Referee for Journal of Socio-Economics, since 2013.

Referee for Agricultural Economics Journal, since 2013

Referee for Southern Journal of Economics, since 2012.

Referee for Journal of Women's Studies and International Forum, Harvard University, since 2012.

Referee for Scandinavian Journal of Economics, since 2011.

Referee for Environment and Development Economics Journal, Since 2006.

Referee for Ethiopian Journal of Economics since 2005 (published by the Ethiopian Economic Association)

Referee for the Ethiopian Journal of Development Research (published by the Institute of Development Research, Addis Ababa University).

Member, Ethiopian Economic Association

Member, European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE).

