

Leanne Cass

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Research interests

Primary field: Environmental Economics

Secondary fields: International Trade, Labour Economics

Current position

Research Officer

Grantham Research Institute, LSE

Sept 2022–present

Education

PhD in Environmental Economics

London School of Economics

2017–2022

Supervisors: Prof. Ben Groom and Dr. Eugenie Dugoua

Examiners: Prof. Robert Elliot and Dr. James Rising

MSc in Economics, Distinction

University of Warwick

2014–2015

Graduate Diploma in Economics, 1:1

University of Warwick

2013–2014

Honours Bachelor of Arts, 9.7 (out of 10)

University of Ottawa

2009–2013

○ Major in English, Minor in Economics

Working papers

○ The impact of weather shocks on exports (Job market paper)

Abstract: Previous research suggests that weather shocks negatively impact exports; however, we know relatively little about the extent to which these impacts are capturing a particularly sensitivity of exports or simply the impact on economic productivity through the lens of trade data. This paper brings together recent developments from the international trade and climate econometrics to provide empirical evidence that exports are particularly sensitive to weather shocks compared to sales in the domestic market. In contrast to previous empirical papers that study the impact of weather shocks on international trade, I use an empirical approach that includes domestic trade flows and controls robustly for multilateral resistance parameters. I find that the sensitivity of exports to weather shocks is heterogeneous across the manufacturing and agriculture sectors and I provide some evidence that suggests that this sensitivity of exports to weather shocks is larger when existing trade barriers between the exporter and importer are large. Economists usually conceptualize the macroeconomic damages of climate change as productivity impacts, but these results provide some evidence that weather and potentially climate change can have economically significant impacts beyond the point of production. In particular, the results of this paper suggest that weather and climate shocks propagate unequally through supply chains, such that buyers that are more remote are more impacted by the shock.

○ The role of trade openness in the temperature-growth relationship

Abstract: This paper uses a reduced-form empirical model to test the common hypothesis that

trade openness can help countries to adapt to climate change. I construct an instrument for trade openness in a manner consistent with international trade theory, and use this instrument in an empirical model of GDP per capita growth. The results provide minimal evidence that historically trade openness has helped to mitigate the negative impact of temperature shocks on economic growth.

Works in progress

- **Demand change and green innovation in food products**, with Marion Dumas
- **Supporting Solar: The causal impact of subsidies on domestic photovoltaic installations**, with Aurélien Saussay and Misato Sato
- **Green jobs and spatial inequality**, with Aurélien Saussay and Misato Sato
- **Exploring potential global consequences of a tax on meat consumption in the EU: A structural gravity approach**

Policy publications

- **Skills and wage gaps for the low carbon transition: Comparing job vacancy data from the US and UK (2023)**, with Misato Sato, Aurélien Saussay, Francesco Vona, Leo Mercer, and Layla O’Kane. *Grantham Research Institute for Climate Change and the Environment*.

Other research and work experience

Research Assistant: Prof. Ben Groom, *University of Exeter* *May 2022–Aug 2022*
Research Assistant: Dr. Marion Dumas, *Grantham Research Institute* *Apr–Oct 2019*
Consultant: *CRU International* *2015–2017*

Conference and seminar presentations

2023: envecon 2023; CREEA Early Career Workshop in Environmental and Resource Economics; DIW Research Fellows Workshop; Place-based Carbon Action Network Meeting; LSE Environmental Economics Workshop; Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economics Association; UKNEE Webinar Series

2022: Annual BIOECON Conference; PRINZ/CEP Seminar (LSE); Canadian Resource and Environmental Economics Association Annual Conference; Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis European Conference

Teaching experience

All teaching experience refers to the London School of Economics.

Thesis Supervision, MSc in Environmental Economics (2 students) 2023
Central Exam Adjustment Invigilator 2022
Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education, Associate Fellowship 2019
Graduate Teaching Assistant 2018–2020

- GY222: Applied Environmental Economics
- GY329: Applied Economics of Environment and Development

Awards

LSE Class Teacher Award (highly commended)

2019

LSE PhD Studentship

2017–2021

Languages and and software skills

Languages: English (native); French (basic)

Software: Python, R, STATA, MATLAB, SQL, \LaTeX

References

Prof. Ben Groom

Department of Economics

University of Exeter

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Dr. Eugenie Dugoua

Department of Geography & Environment

London School of Economics

✉ e.dugoua@lse.ac.uk

Dr. Misato Sato

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