

# Ahmad Z. Wahdat

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## CONTACT & CITIZENSHIP INFORMATION

West Lafayette, IN 47901 USA  
*Voice:* (617) 548-4008  
*E-mail:* awahdat@purdue.edu ; *Website:* www.ahmadziawahdat.com  
*Citizenship:* United States, Afghanistan

## EDUCATION

**Purdue University**, West Lafayette, Indiana USA

PhD in Agricultural Economics

August 2021

*Fields:* Agricultural & Food Economics, Agribusiness, Behavioral & Experimental Economics, Household Finance

*Specialization:* Computational Science

*Econometrics/Data Science Courses:* Probability & Statistics, Econometrics, Nonparametric Econometrics, Microeconometrics, Mathematical Programming, Statistical & Machine Learning, Data Engineering, Linear Algebra for Data Science

**Tufts University**, Medford, Massachusetts USA

M.S. Economics

May 2012

**Oberlin College**, Oberlin, Ohio USA

B.A. Economics (Honors)

May 2010

## EXPERIENCE

**Purdue University**, Department of Agricultural Economics, West Lafayette, IN USA

*Lead Research Economist*

January, 2024 - Present

*Postdoctoral Research Associate*

August, 2021 - December 2023

*Instructor & Graduate Research/Teaching Assistant*

August, 2017 - August, 2021

*Visiting Researcher at the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economics*

February-May, 2020

**The World Bank**, The Development Impact Evaluation Unit (DECIE), Washington, D.C. USA

*Consultant to the Integrated Agricultural Productivity Project (IAPP)*

April, 2016 - August, 2017

**Harvard Business School**, Boston, Massachusetts USA

*Research Associate*

Sept., 2013 - March, 2016

**MIT Sloan School of Management**, Cambridge, Massachusetts USA

*Research Assistant*

Sept., 2012 - August, 2013

**German International Cooperation (GIZ)**, Kabul, Afghanistan

*Project Officer*

June, 2010 - August, 2011

ARTICLES

Polzin, Sam S., Lusk, Jayson L., and Ahmad Zia Wahdat. 2023. "Measuring Sustainable Consumer Food Purchasing and Behavior." *Appetite*, 180, 106369. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.appet.2022.106369>

Wahdat, Ahmad Z., and Jayson L. Lusk. 2022. "The Achilles Heel of the U.S. Food Industries: Exposure to Labor and Upstream Industries in the Supply Chain." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajae.12331>

Wahdat, Ahmad Z. 2022. "Economic Impact Payments and Household Food Insufficiency during COVID-19: The Case of Late Recipients." *Economics of Disasters and Climate Change*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41885-022-00115-9>

Wahdat, Ahmad Z., Michael A. Gunderson, and Jayson L. Lusk. 2021. "Farm Producers' Household Consumption and Individual Risk Behavior after Natural Disasters." *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review*, 50(1), 127-149. <https://doi.org/10.1017/age.2021.2>

Wahdat, Ahmad Z., and Michael A. Gunderson. 2021. "Principal Operators' Farm Risk Attitudes in Hot and Cold Climates." *Agricultural Finance Review*, Vol. and No. ahead-of-print. <https://doi.org/10.1108/AFR-06-2021-0087>

RESEARCH IN  
PROGRESS

Wahdat, Ahmad Z., Bryant, Elijah H., Hubbell, Caitlenn B., Balagtas, Joseph V. "The Role of Risk Preferences and Risk Perceptions in Risky Food Behaviors: Evidence from the US" (submitted to journal)

Wahdat, Ahmad Z. "Household Financial Hardship and Coping Behavior after Disaster Displacement: Evidence from Natural Disasters in the US" (submitted to journal)

Wahdat, Ahmad Z., and Jayson L. Lusk. "Stockpiling, Grocery Shortages, and Consumer Shopping Behavior." (submitted to a field journal)

Wahdat, Ahmad Z., and Jayson L. Lusk. "Extreme Weather Events and Consumers' Dynamic Food Shopping Behavior." (submitted to a field journal)

Wahdat, Ahmad Z., and Sam Polzin. "From Disasters to Hunger: Investigating the Causal Effect of Natural Disasters on Household Food Insufficiency in the US." (submitted to a field journal)

Wahdat, Ahmad Z., Yuansen Li, and Jayson L. Lusk. "Spatial Vulnerability of the U.S. Meatpacking Industry." (submitted to a field journal)

Wahdat, Ahmad Z., and Michael S. Delgado. "A Decade of U.S. Natural Disasters and Household Food-at-Home Consumption and Quality: A Quasi-Experimental Study." (Working paper)

Wahdat, Ahmad Z. "Income Shocks and Loss Aversion in Consumption Expenditures." (pending for submission)

GRANTS

PI on a \$649,517 USDA-NIFA grant project, "Alternative Data to Measure Food-Away-from-Home Markets and their Resiliency." (with Tor Tolhurst (PD), and three PIs, Jayson Lusk, Joseph Balagtas, and Valerie Kilders)

TEACHING	<p><b>Lecturer</b>, AGECE 217 Macroeconomics (Score=4/5), Summer 2021, Purdue University</p> <p><b>Teaching Assistant</b>, AGECE 217 Macroeconomics, Fall/Spring 2020-21, Purdue University</p> <p><b>Teaching Assistant</b>, MS-MBA Quantitative Methods (4.9/5), Fall 2018 &amp; 2019, Purdue University</p>
OTHER ACADEMIC WORK	<p>Joseph Balagtas, Elijah Bryant, Caitlenn Hubbell, Ahmad Wahdat. 2024. "Consumer risk attitudes and risk perceptions influence food safety" Chew on This! Blog Series.</p> <p>Polzin, Sam, Ahmad Z. Wahdat, and Jayson L. Lusk. 2022. "Why food insecurity among Gen Z is so much higher than for other age groups." The Conversation.</p> <p>Subramaniam, Annapurni, Ahmad Z. Wahdat, and Jayson L. Lusk. 2022. "Economic Profile of Food Service Industries." Data Dashboard. Center for Food Demand Analysis &amp; Sustainability, Department of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University. Access: <a href="https://ag.purdue.edu/cfdas/resource-library/economic-profile-of-food-service-industries/">https://ag.purdue.edu/cfdas/resource-library/economic-profile-of-food-service-industries/</a></p> <p>Wahdat, Ahmad Z., and Jayson L. Lusk. 2021. "Food Industries' Vulnerable Input Purchases via Exposure to Upstream Industries and Labor Occupations." Data Dashboard. Center for Food Demand Analysis &amp; Sustainability, Purdue University. Access: <a href="https://ag.purdue.edu/cfdas/resource-library/food-industries-vulnerable-input-purchases-via-exposure-to-upstream-industries-and-labor-occupations/">https://ag.purdue.edu/cfdas/resource-library/food-industries-vulnerable-input-purchases-via-exposure-to-upstream-industries-and-labor-occupations/</a></p> <p>Wahdat, Ahmad Z., and Jayson L. Lusk. 2021. "Food and Beverage Industries' Covid-19 Vulnerability Index by U.S. State and Counties." Data Dashboard. Center for Food Demand Analysis &amp; Sustainability, Purdue University. Access: <a href="https://ag.purdue.edu/cfdas/resource-library/food-and-beverage-industries-covid-19-vulnerability-index-by-u-s-state-and-counties/">https://ag.purdue.edu/cfdas/resource-library/food-and-beverage-industries-covid-19-vulnerability-index-by-u-s-state-and-counties/</a></p> <p>Wahdat, Ahmad Z., and Jayson L. Lusk. 2021. "Food and Beverage Industries' Value Added by U.S. State." Data Dashboard. Center for Food Demand Analysis &amp; Sustainability, Purdue University. Access: <a href="https://ag.purdue.edu/cfdas/resource-library/food-and-beverage-industries-value-added-by-u-s-state/">https://ag.purdue.edu/cfdas/resource-library/food-and-beverage-industries-value-added-by-u-s-state/</a></p> <p>Wahdat, Ahmad Z., Michael A. Gunderson, and Jayson L. Lusk. 2020. "Specialty Farm Households' Consumption and Risk Behavior after Natural Disasters." Special Edition: COVID-19 Impact on Agriculture, Purdue Agricultural Economics Report, Purdue University.</p>
AWARDS	<p><b>Ornella Maietta Best Paper Award</b>, 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Italian Association of Agricultural and Applied Economics July 2023</p> <p><b>Yirgou Grant</b>, Purdue University September 2019</p> <p><b>Hicks Grant</b>, Agricultural Economics, Purdue University March 2019</p> <p><b>PhD Tuition &amp; Stipend</b>, Agricultural Economics, Purdue University 2017-2018</p> <p><b>Graduate Tuition Scholarship</b>, Economics Department, Tufts University 2011-2012</p> <p><b>Fulbright Scholarship</b>, Oberlin College 2007 – 2010</p> <p><b>International Grant</b>, Oberlin College 2007 – 2010</p> <p><b>W.E. &amp; E.B. Stevenson Scholarship</b>, Oberlin College 2007 – 2010</p>

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS	<p>CFDAS Seed Grant Workshop, Purdue University (2024)</p> <p>12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Italian Association of Agricultural and Applied Economics (2023)</p> <p>183<sup>rd</sup> European Association of Agricultural Economists Seminar (2022)</p> <p>Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Conference (2019, 2020)</p> <p>Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society Conference (2020, 2024)</p> <p>Workshop on Field Experiments, World Bank (2017)</p> <p>International Carroll Round Conference, Georgetown University (2011)</p>
PRESENTATIONS & CHAired SESSIONS	<p>Presenter at Center for Food Demand Analysis &amp; Sustainability Seed Grant Workshop, 2024, West Lafayette, Indiana — “The Role of Risk Preferences and Risk Perceptions in Risky Food Behaviors: Evidence from the US”</p> <p>Presenter at Australasian Agricultural &amp; Resource Economics Society Conference, 2024, Canberra, Australia — “Investigating the Causal Effect of Natural Disasters on Household Food Insufficiency in the US”</p> <p>Presenter at 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Italian Association of Agricultural and Applied Economics, 2023, Milan, Italy</p> <p>Presenter at 183<sup>rd</sup> EAAE Seminar on Experimental and Behavioural Economics Research in Agri-Food and the Environment, 2022, Zagreb, Croatia — “Grocery Shortages and Consumer Shopping Behavior”</p> <p>Presenter at Purdue Experimental Economics Brown Bag, 2022 — “Grocery Shortages and Consumer Shopping Behavior”</p> <p>Session Chair &amp; Organizer at AAEA, 2020 — “Specialty Crop Producers’ Managerial Decisions and Risk Preferences: Responding to Consumer Tastes and Natural Disasters”</p> <p>Presenter at AAEA, 2020 — “Specialty Producers’ Household Consumption and Individual Risk Behavior after Natural Disasters”</p> <p>Presenter at AARES, 2020 — “U.S. Agricultural CEOs’ Farm-Operation Risk Attitudes between Hot and Cold Temperature Climates”</p>
REVIEWER	<p>American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Finance Review, Agricultural and Resource Economics Review, Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics</p>
SKILLS	<p><i>Computer Languages:</i> Python, SQL, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X</p> <p><i>Statistical Programming:</i> Stata, R, Matlab</p> <p><i>Application Software:</i> Microsoft Packages, MySQL, Tableau, ArcGIS, GAMS</p> <p><i>Fluent Languages:</i> Pashto, Dari (Farsi), Urdu, Hindi, English, Arabic (Intermediate)</p>
REFERENCES	<p><b>Prof. Jayson L. Lusk</b>  Vice President and Dean of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources  Oklahoma State University  Stillwater, OK 74078  Email: jayson.lusk@gmail.com</p>

**Prof. Michael S. Delgado**

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Department of Agricultural Economics

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**Dr. Michael A. Gunderson**

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