

JONATHAN COLMER

Department of Economics, University of Virginia

✉: j.colmer@virginia.edu

✉ : @JonathanColmer

Professional Experience

CURRENT POSITIONS

Associate Professor of Economics, University of Virginia 08/2024 - present
Founder and Director, The Environmental Inequality Lab 05/2020 - present

Associate Professor (by courtesy),
Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy 10/2024 - present

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Virginia 08/2016 - 08/2024
Visiting Professor of Economics, University of Oxford 01/2020 - 06/2020

AFFILIATIONS

Research Affiliate, CEPR 04/2024 - present
Research Affiliate, IZA 03/2021 - present
Research Affiliate, CESifo Research Network 03/2021 - present
Special Sworn Status, U.S. Census Bureau 05/2020 - present
Research Associate, CAGE Research Centre 06/2021 - present
Research Associate, Centre for Economic Performance 06/2016 - present
Research Affiliate, International Growth Centre 05/2016 - present

Research Interests

Primary Fields: Environmental and Energy Economics; Growth and Development
Secondary Fields: Public Economics; Labor Economics; Urban Economics

Education

Ph.D., London School of Economics 10/2011 - 06/2016
MSc Economics (with Distinction), University of Exeter 10/2010 - 09/2011
BA(Hons) Economics (First Class), University of Exeter 10/2007 - 06/2010

Publications

“Disparities in PM_{2.5} air pollution in the United States”, with Ian Hardman, Jay Shimshack, and John Voorheis, *Science* (2020)

“What is the Meaning of (Statistical) Life? Benefit-Cost Analysis in the Time of COVID-19”, *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* (2020)

“Temperature, Labor Reallocation, and Industrial Production: Evidence from India”, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* (2021)

“Rainfall Variability, Child Labor, and Human Capital Accumulation in Rural Ethiopia”, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* (2021)

“Why are Pollution Damages Lower in Developed Countries? Insights from High-Income, High-Particulate Matter Hong Kong”

with Dajun Lin, Siying Liu and Jay Shimshack, *Journal of Health Economics* (2021)

“Blame it on the Rain: Rainfall Variability, Consumption Smoothing, and Subjective Well-Being in Rural Ethiopia” with Yonas Alem, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* (2022)

“The Changing Nature of Pollution, Income, and Environmental Inequality in the United States”, with Suvy Qin, John Voorheis, and Reed Walker, *AEA Papers & Proceedings* (2024)

“Access to Guns in the Heat of the Moment: The Effect of Gun Laws on Violent Crime” with Jennifer Doleac, *The Review of Economics and Statistics* (Forthcoming)

“Does Pricing Carbon Mitigate Climate Change? Firm-level Evidence from the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme” with Ralf Martin, Mirabelle Muûls, and Ulrich Wagner, *The Review of Economic Studies* (Forthcoming)

“Microdata and Natural Capital Valuation” with John Voorheis, in *Measuring and Accounting for Environmental Public Goods: A National Accounts Perspective*, Eds. Mary Bohman, Eli Fenichel, and Nicholas Muller, *University of Chicago Press* (Forthcoming)

“Do Carbon Offsets Offset Carbon?”, with Raphael Calel, Antoine Dechezleprêtre, and Matthieu Glachant, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* (Forthcoming)

Working Papers

“The Grandkids Aren’t Alright: The Intergenerational Effects of Prenatal Pollution Exposure” with John Voorheis
(*R&R, Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics*)

“Environmental Citizen Complaints”, with Mary Evans and Jay Shimshack
(*R&R, Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics*)

“Is the Electricity Sector a Weak Link in Development?”, with David Lagakos and Martin Shu (*under review*)

“Heat Disparities in the United States: An Individual-level Analysis”, with Tridevi Chakma and John Voorheis (*under review*)

“The Census Environmental Impacts Frame”, with John Voorheis, Kendall Houghton, Eva Lyubich, Cameron Scalera, and Jenny Withrow (*under review*)

“Income, Wealth, and Environmental Inequality in the United States”, with Suvy Qin, John Voorheis, and Reed Walker (*under review*)

“Air Pollution and Economic Opportunity in the United States” with John Voorheis and Brennan Williams

“Nice Work if You Can Get It? The Distribution of Employment and Earnings During the Early Years of the Clean Energy Transition”, with Eva Lyubich and John Voorheis

“Transitional Costs and the Decline of Coal: Worker-Level Evidence”,
with Eleanor Krause, Eva Lyubich, and John Voorheis

“The Causes and Consequences of Urban Heat Islands”, with Tridevi Chakma
and John Voorheis

**Selected Work In
Progress**

“The Economics of Marine Conservation” with Robin Burgess and Michael
Greenstone

“Wildfires and PM_{2.5} Disparities in the United States”, with Marshall
Burke, Cameron Scalera, and John Voorheis

**“Who Weathers the Storm? The Unequal Effects of Hurricanes in the
United States”** with Brennan Williams and John Voorheis

**“The Baltic Exchange: Weather Risk and International Trade in Early
Modern Europe”** with Kerem Coşar and Simon Alder

“Who is at Risk from Sea Level Rise in the United States?”, with John
Voorheis

“The Effects of Property Destruction: Evidence from Wildfires”, with Pat
Baylis, Judson Boomhower, and John Voorheis

“Pollution Information and Affordable Housing in the United States”,
with Peter Bergman and Ian Hardman

**“The Human (Capital) Side of Climate Change: A Micro to Macro Anal-
ysis”**, with Tommaso Porzio and Federico Rossi

Teaching

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

EC3720 Introduction to Econometrics	2016-present
EC8510 Growth, Development & the Environment, PhD	2018-present
EC8310 Public Economics, PhD	2017-2019

Student Placements

Elliott Isaac – Assistant Professor of Economics, Tulane University	2018
Ian Hardman – Pre-doc, Stanford & Ph.D, UC Berkeley ARE	2019
Megan Miller – Economist, Federal Trade Commission	2020
Cameron Scalera – Pre-doc, U.S. Census Bureau & Ph.D, Columbia	2021
Brennan Williams – Senior Economist, Government Accountability Office	2022
Yooseon Hwang – Post-Doc, NYU Abu Dhabi	2023
Samir Rein – Pre-doc, Opportunity Insights	2024
Kyle Addison – Data Scientist, U.S. Census Bureau	2024
Ben Chenault – ISO New England	2024

**Honors, Awards,
Grants, and
Fellowships**

I have been awarded over \$2 million in funding as a Principal Investigator (PI).

PI – “CAREER: The Extent, Causes, and Consequences of Environmental Inequal-
ity in the United States” 2024
National Science Foundation (NSF)

PI – “An Economic Analysis of Carbon Pricing in Mozambique” 2024

IGC Grant

PI – “UVA Grand Challenges Deans Opportunity Fund Award”	2023
PI – “Who is at Risk from Sea Level Rise in the United States?” <i>Russel Sage Foundation Presidential Grant</i>	2023
PI – “Urban Heat Disparities in the United States” <i>Center for Real Estate and the Built Environment</i>	2023
Co-PI – "The Human (Capital) Side of Climate Change" <i>IGC Energy and Environment Grant</i>	2023
Co-PI – "Pollution Information and Affordable Housing" <i>JPAL King Climate Action Initiative</i>	2022
PI – “Who is at Risk from Sea Level Rise in the United States?” <i>Center for Real Estate and the Built Environment</i>	2022
PI – “The Distributional Effects of the Clean Energy Transition” <i>The Sloan Foundation</i>	2022
PI – “The Unequal Effects of Hurricanes in the United States” <i>Washington Center for Equitable Growth Grant</i>	2021
Roger Sherman Research Fellow Award	2021
CESifo Distinguished Affiliate Award	2021
PI – “Measuring Electricity Productivity Differences Across Countries” <i>IGC Energy and Environment Grant</i>	2021
UVA Research Achievement Award	2020
The Upjohn Institute Early Career Award	2020
PI – Bankard Summer Fellowship	2019, 2020, 2022, 2023
PI – Environmental Resilience Institute Rapid Response Grant	2018
Co-PI – UVA Sustainability Grant	2018, 2019
Co-PI – “Income Shocks and the Opportunity Cost of Voting” <i>IGC State Effectiveness Grant</i>	2017-2019
Co-Investigator – “Man and Nature in Developing Countries” <i>ERC Advanced Grant</i>	2017-2022
The Bagri Fellowship	2015
The FEEM Award (EEA Young Economist Prize)	2013
Co-Investigator – ENTRACTE Consortium <i>European Union FP7 Grant</i>	2012-2015

**Seminars and
Conferences**

2025 (including scheduled) – ASSA Annual Meetings; Stanford; University of Pittsburgh.

2024 (including scheduled) – ASSA Annual Meetings; University of Chicago; NBER EEE Spring Meeting; University of Virginia; RFF/AEA Workshop on Evaluating the Inflation Reduction Act’s Clean Energy Provisions; NBER Conference on Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities; Association for Environmental and Resource Economics (AERE); Stanford Climate Conference; Brown University; University of Birmingham; Wharton Behavioral Science & Health Symposium.

2023 – Heartland Workshop; Yale; LSE Environment Week; PEDL Workshop on Climate and the Environment (Organizer); Northeast Workshop on Energy Policy and Environmental Economics; AERE; The World Bank; The Council of Economic Advisors; Econometric Society Meeting; ASSA Panel “Climate Change, Economic Inequality, and Economic Growth in the U.S.”.

2022 – Opportunity Insights; Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop; CU Boulder; CU Denver; Montana State University; Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen; Jinan University; NBER Summer Institute (EEE); AERE; UC Davis; NBER Public Economics Spring Meeting; University of Chicago Workshop on the Socioeconomic Effects of Air Pollution; UVA/Richmond FED Jamboree; Harvard University; University of Oxford; University of Texas, Austin; Institute for Fiscal Studies/UCL; University of Copenhagen; Japan-Tokyo Resource and Environmental Economics (J-TREE) Seminar; Ruhr University Bochum.

2021 – NBER Economics of Mobility Workshop; University of Wisconsin-Madison; UCLA Climate Adaptation Research Symposium; Quantitative Collaborative, University of Virginia; University of Warwick; LSE Workshop in Environmental Economics; AERE; Northeast Workshop on Energy Policy and Environmental Economics; IZA Workshop on Environment, Health and Labor Markets; University of Minnesota; CESifo Area Conference on Energy and Climate Economics; Santa Clara University; Harvard Workshop on the Economics of the Clean Air Act.

2020 – UC San Diego; Stanford Wood Institute; National Association of Clean Air Agencies; University of Birmingham; University of Oxford; Online Agricultural and Resource Economics Seminar (#OARES); NBER Summer Institute (EEE); University of Oxford; University of Warwick; University of Exeter; Imperial College London; London School of Economics; University of Cambridge.

2019 – Ostrom Symposium on Natural Resource Governance for Young Scholars; World Bank Applied Micro Seminar; Camp Resources XXVI; AERE; NBER Children’s Meeting; NC State University.

2018 – HCEO Market Design Perspectives on Development Conference, Harvard Business School; Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop; Columbia University; Arizona State University; NBER Summer Institute (EEE); American Society of Health Economists; NBER EEE Spring Meeting.

2017 – PEDL/IGC Conference; SEA Annual Conference; UCSB Occasional Workshop; Richmond Federal Reserve Bank; NBER Summer Institute (EEE); AERE; Macro and Micro Economics of Climate Change Workshop, UC Santa Barbara; Washington Area Development Economics Symposium (WADES).

Professional Service	Editorial Council – JAERE	2024–present
	Associate Editor – Fiscal Studies	04/2022 - present
	Committee Member – NLSY26 Health & Environment Content Panel	2022
	Theme Leader, PEDL – Climate & Environment Program	01/2021 - present
	UVA Graduate Program and Admissions Committee – Economics	2022, 2024
	UVA Carbon Offsets Taskforce	2022 - present
	College Liaison - Center for Real Estate and the Built Environment	2023 – present
	UVA Undergraduate Program Committee – Economics	2017 – 2022
	Program Director – Bankard Public Economics Workshop	2016 - present

I have served as a reviewer for *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *American Economic Review*, *American Economics Review: Insights*, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *China Economic Review*, *Econometrica*, *Economic Journal*, *Economic Letters*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Environment and Development Economics*, *Environmental Science & Technology*, *Energy Economics*, *European Economic Review*, *Fiscal Studies*, *International Economic Review*, *Joule*, *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Health Economics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of International Economics*, *Journal of Law and Economics*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics*, *Journal of Population Economics*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Labour Economics*, *National Science Foundation*, *Nature*, *Nature Climate Change*, *PNAS*, *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy*, *Science*, *the Sloan Foundation*, *World Development*.