

Scott Kaplan

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Employment

From 2021 **Assistant Professor of Economics**, United States Naval Academy

Education

- 2021 **Ph.D.**, *Agricultural and Resource Economics*, University of California, Berkeley
Dissertation committee: David Zilberman (Co-Chair), James Sallee (Co-Chair), Benjamin Handel, Sofia Villas-Boas
- 2017 **M.S.**, *Agricultural and Resource Economics*, University of California, Berkeley
- 2014 **B.S. (with honors)**, *Environmental Sciences; Environmental Economics and Policy*, University of California, Berkeley

Research

Refereed publications

- 2023 **Pay equality among heterogeneous agents**,
Forthcoming at Economics Letters. (with Ryan Hoffman and Ashwin Kambhampati.)
Patterns of mental health-related emergency department visits during the COVID-19 pandemic,
Forthcoming at JAMA Network Open. (with Sofia Villas-Boas, Justin White, and Renee Hsia)
Trends in depression risk before and during the COVID-19 pandemic,
PLOS ONE, 18(5): e0285282. (with Sofia Villas-Boas, Justin White, and Renee Hsia)
Evaluation of the sugar-sweetened beverage tax in Oakland, United States, 2015-2019: A quasi-experimental and cost-effectiveness study,
PLOS Medicine, 20(4): e1004212. (with Justin White, Sanjay Basu, Kristine Madsen, Dean Schillinger, and Sofia Villas-Boas)
Estimating worldwide benefits from improved bananas resistant to Fusarium Wilt Tropical Race 4,
Journal of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association 2(1), 20-34. (with Felipe de Figueredo Silva, Freddy Magdama, Matthew D. Potts, Ramon Leonardo Espinel Martinez, and David Zilberman)
- 2022 **Putting a Price on Popularity: Evidence from Superstars in the National Basketball Association**,
Economic Inquiry 60(3), 1357-81.
- 2021 **The Impact of Policy Timing on the Spread of COVID-19**,
Infectious Disease Modeling, 6, 942-54. (with Moshe Elitzur, Zeljko Ivezic, and David Zilberman)
The political economy of COVID-19,
Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy, 44(1), 477-88. (with David Zilberman and Jacob Lefler)
- 2020 **Higher Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Retail Prices After Taxation in Oakland and San Francisco**,
American Journal of Public Health, 110(7), 1017-23. (with Jennifer Falbe, Matthew Lee, Nadia Rojas, Alberto Ortega Hinojosa, and Kristine Madsen)

- Willingness to Pay vs. Willingness to Vote: Consumer and Voter Avoidance of Genetically Modified Foods,**
American Journal of Agricultural Economics, 102(2), 505-24. (with David Zilberman and Gina Waterfield)
- Hindered Growth,**
Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, 111: 103807. (with Moshe Elitzur and David Zilberman)
- Recycling policies, behavior and convenience: Survey evidence from the CalRecycle program,**
Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy, 43(2), 641-58. (with Peter Berck, Gabriel Englander, Samantha Gold, Shelley He, Janet Horsager, Molly Sears, Andrew Stevens, Carly Trachtman, Rebecca Taylor, and Sofia Villas-Boas)
- 2019 **Soda Wars: The Effect of a Soda Tax Election on University Beverage Sales,**
Economic Inquiry, 57(3), 1480-96. (with Rebecca Taylor, Sofia Villas-Boas and Kevin Jung)
- The Future of Autonomous Vehicles: Lessons from the Literature on Technology Adoption,**
Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy, 41(4), 583-97. (with Ben Gordon, Feras El-Zarwi, Joan Walker, and David Zilberman)
- 2018 **The Political Economy of Labeling,**
Food Policy, 78, 6-13. (with Ben Gordon and David Zilberman)
- 2015* **The Loss from Underutilizing GM Technologies,**
Agbioforum, 18(3), 312-19. (with Justus Wesseler and David Zilberman)
- The Political Economy of Biotechnology,**
German Journal of Agricultural Economics, 64(2), 212-23. (with Gregory Graff, Gal Hochman, and David Zilberman)
- 2014* **Biotechnology and Food Security,**
Journal of International Affairs, 67(2), 91-107. (with Geoffrey Barrows, Eunice Kim, Steven Sexton, and David Zilberman)
- 2013* **Continents Divided: Understanding Differences on GM Acceptance between Europe and North America,**
GM Crops and Food: Biotechnology in Agriculture and the Food Chain, 4(3), 1-7. (with Gregory Graff, Gal Hochman, Eunice Kim, and David Zilberman)
- Technology and the Future Bioeconomy,**
Agricultural Economics, 44(s1), 95-102. (with Eunice Kim, Sam Kirschner, Jeanne Reeves, and David Zilberman)
- 2012* **Biofuel and Food-Commodity Prices,**
Agriculture, 2(3), 272-81. (with Gal Hochman, Deepak Rajagopal, and David Zilberman)

*Pre-Graduate School

Working papers

Leveling the playing field: The distributional impact of minimum- and maximum-level contracts on player compensation

How does the presence of maximum- and minimum-level contracts (as a result of a salary cap) impact (i) superstar compensation and (ii) the distribution of player compensation across a league? Using ticket price data from the NBA, I estimate player market values based on observed talent and compare them to their actual salaries. First, I find that as a group, the sum of actual compensation received by players is extremely similar to the total expected compensation received by players, reflecting the efficiency of the collective bargaining process between the player and owner groups. Next, the ratio of actual to expected salary is 1.5–30.6% for the most talented players, resulting primarily from a maximum contract threshold. This results in significant subsidization by the most talented players to less talented players.

Teaching Water Economics (with David Zilberman, Alice Huang, and Lanie Goldberg.)

Water Economics has been a major topic of teaching in Agricultural and Resource Economics programs. This subject can be used both to teach about the specific challenges of water resource management and to introduce students to some of the more generic problems of resource management. While previous courses focus on the microeconomics of water (e.g., water use on the levels of producers and consumers), this course examines water use and allocation in the context of evolving systems and institutions (courses by Colby (2020) and Sunding (2019)). This course is unique in that a key aim is to provide students with a historical, global perspective that emphasizes the importance of political economy and public policy on the development of water systems. Such a perspective will provide students with an expansive (i.e., from diversion and extraction to consumer) view of water resources and an understanding of how key issues (e.g., water scarcity, issues in water management, climate change) affect supply chains.

Works in progress

Preferences and demand for information that entertains (with Oskar Zorrilla. *Previously circulated under the title "Entertainment Utility from Skill and Thrill" and "Entertainment Demand from Expectations."*)

Impact of US sugar-sweetened beverage taxes on prices and purchases: Evidence from a multi-city synthetic control analysis (with Justin White, Sanjay Basu, Kristine Madsen, Dean Schillinger, and Sofia Villas-Boas)

The fear of first strike: quantitative theory of delayed punishments (with Diego Gebhardt and Jacek Rothert)

Are consumers willing to pay to avoid price uncertainty? Evidence from the vehicle leasing market (with Andy Hultgren and Derek Wolfson)

Environmental regulation, market structure, and intellectual property (with David Zilberman)

Research presentations

- 2023 American Economic Association Annual Meeting
- 2022 Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting (x3)
- 2021 United States Naval Academy
- 2020 Auburn University; NYU Stern Marketing Seminar; UC Berkeley Haas School of Business Marketing Seminar Series; UC Berkeley IO Seminar Series; North American Association of Sports Economics (NAASE) Annual Meeting; Reading University ROSES Seminar in Sports Economics
- 2019 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting; BERCKonomics Memorial Conference
- 2018 UC Berkeley Environmental and Resource Economics Seminar
- 2017 21st Annual International Consortium on Applied Bioeconomy Research; Tufts University Future of Food and Nutrition Conference
- 2016 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting

*Coauthor presentation †Scheduled

Books, Technical Reports, and Book Chapters

- 2023 **Environmental and Resource Economics: Theory and Practice**, *Forthcoming in World Scientific*. (with David Wells Roland-Holst and David Zilberman)
- 2018 **Convenient beverage recycling in California. A report to the California state legislature** (with Peter Berck, Gabriel Englander, Samantha Gold, Shelley He, Janet Horsager, Molly Sears, Andrew Stevens, Carly Trachtman, Rebecca Taylor, and Sofia Villas-Boas)

Teaching

- 2023 – **Math with Economics Senior Capstone**, Department of Economics (SA475E, United States Naval Academy)
- 2022 **Quantitative Economics Senior Capstone**, Department of Economics (SE475, United States Naval Academy)
- 2021 – **Econometrics**, Department of Economics (SE445, United States Naval Academy)
- 2019 – 2021 **First Time Graduate Student Teaching Workshop**, Graduate Student Instructor Center (UC Berkeley)
- 2017 – 2020 **Economics “Summer Bootcamp” Lecturer**, Masters of Development Practice (UC Berkeley)
- 2018 **Introductory Applied Econometrics**, Environmental Economics & Policy (Env. Econ. 118, UC Berkeley)

Teaching Assistant

- 2018 – 2020 **Economics of Sustainable Resource Development**, Masters of Development Practice (DEVP 222, UC Berkeley)

Undergraduate Advising

- 2023 **Ryan Hoffman**, *United States Naval Academy*, "Pay Equality Among Heterogeneous Agents" (co-advisor with Ashwin Kambhampati)
Received the *Claire Morris Prize* for Best Honors Project in the Department of Economics and the *Naval Intelligence Foundation Award* for Best Honors Project at the United States Naval Academy for the Class of 2023.
- 2022 **Haydn Tidball**, *United States Naval Academy*, "The Effect of a Suspension of Ridesharing Services on DUI Rates" (co-advisor with Karen Thierfelder)
- Ellie Kroskirty**, *UC Berkeley*, "Examining the Impact of Native American Welfare Policies on Socioeconomic Well-Being: Evidence from the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934" (co-advisor with Sofia Villas-Boas)

Media

Media mentions

ESPN (Outside the Lines - live on-camera interview), Business Insider, NBC Sports, The Action Network, MIT Sloan Management Review, KCBS Radio, Berkeley News, AusTaxPolicy Blog, Breakthroughs Magazine, NBC Bay Area, US News & World Report, San Francisco Chronicle, The Daily Californian

Media publications

- 2019 **Preferences for GMOs: Do purchasing patterns differ from voting behavior?**, *ARE Update* (with Gina Waterfield and David Zilberman)
- Lessons from Berkeley’s sugar-sweetened beverage election and tax**, *ARE Update* (with Rebecca Taylor and Sofia Villas-Boas)
- Did Zion’s ‘shoe explosion’ actually impact Nike’s value?**, *Fansided: Nylon Calculus*
- 2014 **The cost of delaying approval of Golden Rice**, *ARE Update* (with Justus Wesseler and David Zilberman)
- The political economy of biofuel**, *Choices* (with Gal Hochman, Eunice Kim, and David Zilberman)

An overview of California's agricultural adaptation to climate change,
ARE Update (with David Zilberman)

Fellowships and prizes

- 2023 **Junior Naval Academy Research Council (NARC) Award**, United States Naval Academy (\$25,000)
Volgenau Fellowship, United States Naval Academy (\$15,000)
- 2022 **Junior Naval Academy Research Council (NARC) Award**, United States Naval Academy (\$22,500)
- 2021 **Volgenau Fellowship**, United States Naval Academy (\$12,500)
- 2020 **Graduate Remote Instruction Innovation Fellowship**, UC Berkeley (\$4,000)
- 2019 **Sacheti Family Fellowship**, UC Berkeley (\$2,500)
Sloan Sports Analytics Conference: Best Poster Winner, MIT (\$500)
- 2016 – 2018 **National Science Foundation Data Science Fellowship**, UC Berkeley (\$52,000)
- 2015 **Honorable Mention, Quality of Communication Award (for "An Overview of California's Agricultural Adaptation to Climate Change")**, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association
- Earlier **Sponsored Program for Undergraduate Research (SPUR) Grant**, UC Berkeley (\$500)
Leadership Scholarship, UC Berkeley (\$2000)
Horace Albright Memorial Scholarship, UC Berkeley (\$2000)

Professional and University service

Referee, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Economic Inquiry, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Economics, Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy, International Journal of Sport Finance

United States Naval Academy, Economics Department Research Seminar Co-Founder and Co-Chair (2022-23), Economics Department Awards Committee (2022-23)

UC Berkeley, Rausser College of Natural Resources Alumni Board Member (2017-22); Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (URAP) Mentor (2017-20); Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (2019); Giannini Foundation Agricultural and Resource Economics Student Conference Co-Organizer (2018)

Miscellaneous, Big Brothers and Sisters of America (BBSA) Big Brother (2020-21)