

Elton Mykerezi

Curriculum Vitae

Education

Doctor of Philosophy, Economics, August 2007

Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University (Virginia Tech), Blacksburg, VA, USA

Master of Science, Agricultural and Applied Economics, May 2003

Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University (Virginia Tech), Blacksburg, VA, USA

B.S. Agricultural Business Management, May 2001

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas

Employment

June 2013-Present: Associate Professor, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

August 2007-May 2013: Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

August 2007-Present: Extension Economist, Center for Community Vitality, UM Extension.

January 2002-July 2007: Graduate Research Assistant, Agricultural and Applied Economics, Virginia Tech.

Research Activity

Publications in Peer Reviewed Journals¹

Sojourner, Aaron., Elton Mykerezi and Kristine West* "Teacher Pay Reform and Productivity: Panel Data Evidence from Adoptions of Q-Comp in Minnesota" *Journal of Human Resources* (forthcoming)

Kostandini, Genti, Elton Mykerezi and Cesar Escalante "The Impact of Immigration Enforcement on the U.S. Farming Sector." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* (forthcoming)

Mykerezi, Elton., Bradford Mills and Ilda Melo "On Intra-Annual Consumption-Poverty in the U.S: Response to SNAP and the Importance of Within-Year Variation." *The Social Science Journal* (forthcoming)

¹ Note: * Indicates current or former student coauthor/collaborator.

Reicks, Marla, Joseph P. Redden, Traci Mann, Elton Mykerezi, and Zata Vickers, "Pictures in Lunch Tray Compartments and Vegetable Consumption among Children in Elementary School Cafeterias," *Journal of the American Medical Association*. 307:8(2012):784-785

Jordan, Jeffrey L., Elton Mykerezi and Genti Kostandini "Rural-Urban Human Capital Formation: Are Rural High Schools Different?" *Journal of Research in Rural Education*, 27:12 (2012):1-21.

West, Kristine* and Elton Mykerezi "Teachers' unions and compensation: The impact of collective bargaining on salary schedules and performance pay schemes" *Economics of Education Review* 30:1 (2011): 99-108.

Kostandini, Genti, Elton Mykerezi, Eftila Tanellari* and Nour Dib "Does Buyer Experience Pay off? Evidence from eBay" *Review of Industrial Organization* 39:3 (2011): 253-265.

Kostandini, Genti, Bradford Mills and Elton Mykerezi, "Ex-Ante Evaluation of Alternative Strategies to Increase the Stability of Cropping Systems in Eastern and Central Africa" *Journal of Agricultural Economics* 61:1 (2011):172-206

Kostandini, Genti, Elton Mykerezi and Eftila Tanellari*. "Determinants of Organic Farming: State and County evidence". *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*, 43:3 (2011):443-451

Mykerezi, Elton and Bradford Mills, "The Impact of Food Stamp Program Participation on Household Food Insecurity" *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 92:5 (2010): 1379-1391

Marko, Monika, Joshua Fogel, Elton Mykerezi, Natalie Watson, Benjamin Van Voorhees, "Primary Care Based Depression Prevention for Adolescents: Preferences for Intervention and Predictors of Intentions and Adherence" *Journal of Cyber Therapy and Rehabilitation*, 3:1 (2010).

Mills, Bradford and Elton Mykerezi "Transient and Chronic Poverty in the Russian Federation" *Post-Communist Economies*, 21:3 (2009), pages 283 – 306.

Mykerezi, Elton, Genti Kostandini, and Bradford Mills "Do Rural Community Colleges Supply Unique Educational Benefits?" *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*, 41:2 (2009):411-417.

Mykerezi, Elton and Bradford Mills. "The Earnings Impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities Attendance," *Southern Economic Journal* 75:1 (2008):173-187.

Mykerezi, Elton and Bradford Mills. "Economic Growth in Racially Diverse Rural Counties: The Role of Historically Black Colleges and Universities." *Review of Regional Studies*. 34:3 (2004): 303-319.

Mykerezi, Elton, Bradford Mills, and Sonya Gomes*. "Education and Socio-economic Well-being in Racial Diverse Rural Counties." *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*. 35:2 (2003): 251-262.

Manuscripts Pending (Revisions Requested)

Li, Yiran*, Bradford F. Mills, George C. Davis, and Elton Mykerezi “Child Food Security and the Food Stamp Program: What a Difference a Month Makes”

Manuscripts Pending (Under Review)

Mykerezi, Elton, Jeffrey Jordan, Genti Kostandini and Ilda Melo “On Rural-Urban Differences in Human Capital Formation: Finding the Bottlenecks” (2013)

Mykerezi, Elton., and Genti Kostandini “The Impact of Mandated Labor-Day School Start on Travel Among Households with Children: Evidence from a Quasi-Experiment” (2013)

Working Papers

Mykerezi, Elton., Jeffrey Jordan, Genti Kostandini and Bradford Mills “The Determinants of Rural Urban Migration: Evidence from NLSY Data.” (2013)

Mykerezi, Elton., Genti Kostandini and Kristine West* “On the Economic Returns to a College Degree in Agriculture: What Do we Know?” (2013)

Mykerezi, Elton and Genti Kostandini “Do Hispanic Serving Institutions Provide Unique Educational Benefits?” (2013)

Reicks, Marla, Jeffrey Mills, Colin DeYoung and Elton Mykerezi. “Maternal Personality Traits are Associated with Dietary Practices and Screen Time of Preschool Children” (2013)

Redden, Joseph P., Traci Mann, Zata Vickers, Elton Mykerezi, Marla Reicks. “The Effect of Juxtaposition on the Intake of Healthy Foods” (2013)

Work Presented In:

Agricultural & Applied Economics Association: Annual Meetings (each year 2006-2013); *National Bureau of Economic Research: Economics of Education Spring Institute* (2011); *Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management: Fall Research Conference* (2010, 2011, 2013); *Research Innovation and Development Grants in Economics (RIDGE) Conference* (2006, 2008, 2011, 2013); *TR3 Research Competition, National Council on Teacher Quality* (2009); *Southern Agricultural Economic Association’s Annual Meetings* (2006, 2008, 2009). *Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings* (2012).

Professional Workshops and Symposia

Conference on the Law and Economics of Indian Country Economic Development. August 27, 2012, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Role: Discussant

Organized Symposium titled “Food Assistance and Food Security” 2011 *Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings*. Role: Contributing Author

Invited Session titled "Economic Viability of Rural Areas" in 2011 *Southern Agricultural Economic Association's annual meetings*. Role: Contributing Author

Organized Symposium "How We Talk about Feeding the World: A Minnesota Futures Symposium" March 3-5, 2011, Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Role: Discussant

Invited Session titled "Human Capital and Rural Economic Development" in 2009 *Southern Agricultural Economic Association's annual meetings*. Atlanta GA, January 2009. Role: Organizer & Contributing Author

Invited Research Seminars

Macalister College (Economics), University of Minnesota (Applied Economics, Food Science and Nutrition, Horticulture, Carlson School of Management), St. Claude State University (Economics), University of Georgia (Agricultural and Applied Economics, Family & Consumer Sciences).

Funding:

Research

"A Controlled Experiment to Reduce Menu Item Portion Sizes" Food Policy Research Center, University of Minnesota. Amount \$38,773 (with Marla Reicks and Len Marquart) Role PI, Status (Awarded, January 2013)

"The Effects of SNAP after the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (2009)" Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin Madison (USDA-ERS RIDGE Program, formerly known as the Small Grants Program). Amount \$39,889. (with Tim Beatty) Role Co-Pi, Status (Awarded, July 2012).

"Impact of SNAP on monthly food security status" Southern Rural Development Center, (USDA-ERS RIDGE Program, formerly known as the Small Grants Program), Budget: \$30,000 (with Bradford Mills), Role: Co-PI, (Awarded, 2010)

"The Effects of Federal Food Assistance Programs on Food Insecurity and the Healthy Development of Young Children," Healthy Foods Healthy Lives, University of Minnesota, amount: \$97,011.96 (with Judy Temple, Arthur Reynolds and Jane Fulkerson), Role: Co-PI, (Awarded, 2010).

"Food insecurity and the food stamp program" Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin Madison (USDA-ERS RIDGE Program, formerly known as the Small Grants Program). Amount \$39,889. (with Bradford Mills), Role: Co-PI. (Awarded, 2008)

Integrated: Research & Extension

“Using in-home behavioral economic strategies and enhanced food preparation skills to increase vegetable intake and variety among children.” *USDA/NIFA* Budget \$1,400,000 (With Marla Reicks, Zata Vickers, Traci Mann, Joseph Redden). Role: Co-PI, Status (Awarded, October 27 2011).

“Examining the impact of year-round schooling on travel among households with children” Carlson Travel, Tourism & Hospitality Chair Competitive Grants Program: The Tourism Industry Center, University of Minnesota Extension. Budget: \$14,622 (with Xinyi Qian), Role: PI, Status (Awarded, November, 2013).

“Best practices in rural K-12 education: a review and extension” North Central Regional Center for Rural Development, Michigan State University. Amount \$15,000. Role PI, Status (Awarded, November 2013)

“Developing Research Capacity to Test Behavioral Economic Interventions in Child Nutrition Programs,” Research Planning Grants To Support Application of Behavioral Economics in USDA’s Child Nutrition Programs: US Department of Agriculture. Amount: \$40,000 (with Marla Reicks, Zata Vickers, et al.), Role: Co-PI, (Awarded, 2010)

“Business Retention and Expansion: Lessons from historical survey data” Center for Community Vitality, University of Minnesota Extension, Budget: \$2,000, Role: PI, Status (Awarded, May, 2013).

“The impact of the four day school week on travel and leisure expenditures.” Carlson Travel, Tourism & Hospitality Chair Competitive Grants Program: The Tourism Industry Center, University of Minnesota Extension. Budget: \$13,000 (with Art Nash), Role: PI, Status (Awarded) (February 2011).

“Helping nonmetro communities and underserved entrepreneurs grow together.” North Central Regional Center for Rural Development 2011 Small Grants Program. Budget \$16,000 (With Timothy Borich, Iowa State University [PI] and 10 collaborators from two Federal Reserve branches and several Universities), Role: Co-PI, Status (Awarded, May 2011).

“Estimating demand for local foods” Southwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, University of Minnesota. Amount: \$32,100 (with Rob King), Role Co-PI, (Awarded, 2010)

Integrated: Research and Outreach Contracts

“Labor Market Scan of the Teaching Profession in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota” Bush Foundation. Amount \$17,250. Role PI, Status (Awarded, October 2013)

“Predicting Borrower Default Rates for Minnesota’s SELF Student Loan Program” Minnesota Office of Higher Education. Amount \$2,500. Role PI, Status (Awarded, May 2013).

“Cost-benefit analysis of transition services for students with disabilities”. Minnesota Department of Education, Amount: \$5,000. Role PI. (Awarded, 2012).

“An inventory of Agricultural Surplus in Minnesota”, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Budget: \$1,000, Role PI, (Awarded, 2011).

“A Strategic Partnership Between The Food Industry Center and Second Harvest Heartland” Second Harvest Heartland. Amount: \$40,813 (with Jean Kinsey), Role: Co-PI, (Awarded, 2010).

Center for rural policy and development, St. Peter, MN. Cost-effective policies to improve rural K-12 education in Minnesota. Amount: \$16,000. (with Judy Temple), Role: Co-PI. (Awarded, 2009)

Extension & Outreach Activity

Extension/Outreach Reports

Mykerezi, Elton and Arthur Nash, “The Impact of the Four-day School Week on Travel among Households with Children in Minnesota” *University of Minnesota Extension: Tourism Center Research Report* (March 2012).

Mykerezi, Elton and Genti Kostandini, “Do families vacation more in the summer when school starts after Labor Day?” *University of Minnesota Extension: Tourism Center Research Report* (August 2012).

Mykerezi, Elton, “How do Mandated Sports Practice Start Dates in K-12 Schools affects Summer Travel among Households with Children?” *University of Minnesota Extension: Tourism Center Research Report* (August 2012)

Gerard McCullough, Helen Markelova* and Elton Mykerezi, “Longer Runway: Economic Analysis of the Post-Secondary Education and Training Options for Youth with Developmental Disabilities” (2012).

Elton Mykerezi, Helen Markelova* and Gerard McCullough, “An Analysis of the Success Rates of Transition Services, Program Costs and Benefits” White paper prepared for the Minnesota Department of Education (2012).

Elton Mykerezi and Jean Kinsey, “The costs and benefits of preventing hunger in Minnesota” Study conducted for “Hunger Free Minnesota Campaign” Second Harvest Heartland (2010).

Minnesota Department of Agriculture “Feeding Minnesota Task Force Report and Recommendations” November 1, 2010. (Co-authored with 8 members of the task force).

Mykerezi Elton, Judy Temple and Kristine West* “Cost Effective Policies to Improve rural K-12 education in Minnesota” in A Region Apart: A look at challenges and strategies for rural K-12 schools, Center for Rural Policy and Development, St. Peter MN., April (2009).

Mills, Bradford and Elton Mykerezi. "Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Economic Well-Being in Racially Diverse Rural Counties." *Southern Perspectives* 6:3 (Summer 2003): 4-5.

Extension/Outreach Presentations

Impact of the Four Day School Week on Travel (2 sessions)

Do Families Travel More when School Starts After Labor Day? Presentation at Tourism Center, University of Minnesota, June 27 2011.

"K-12 education policy reform: Role of Student Longitudinal Databases." Presentation for *Public Sector Economics Workshop Series*, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. (April 19 2012)

"Nudging" children towards healthier food choices in a school cafeteria setting. Presentation for *Public Sector Economics Workshop Series*, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. (November 17 2011)

What Does 'Educational Reform' Really Mean for Minnesota? Presentation for *Public Sector Economics Workshop Series*, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. (April 2011)

Agricultural Surplus in Minnesota. Presentation to the *Feeding Minnesota Task Force*. (September 2010)

Meeting Minnesota's Food assistance needs: Presentation for *Public Sector Economics Workshop Series*, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. (November 2010)

Teacher Incentives and Student Performance: Presentation for College in the Schools, Applied Economics Field Day. (2 Sessions) January 9, 2009 and January 15, 2010.

Cost-Effective Policies to Improve Rural K-12 Education in Minnesota: Presentation to Center for Rural Policy and Development. January 2009.

On measures of food insecurity and hunger; Presentation to the *Feeding Minnesota Task Force* (October, 2009)

The impact of HBCUs on the labor market outcomes of African American men. Invited presentation at the Heinz Endowments, Pittsburgh, PA. November 19 2008.

On the mechanics of Input output modeling" Professional Development session with Community Economics Extension Educators, November 6 2008.

Role of Colleges and Universities in Regional development: The HBCU example. Rural Community College Initiative (RCCI) Project Summation Meeting in Duluth, Minnesota on May 21-24, 2007.

Extension Program Development and Evaluation

“Cooking Matters”. Conducting a randomized, controlled experiment to determine if an enhancement to the existing “Cooking Matters for Families” program, based on insight from behavioral economics can improve vegetable intake among children (Funded by USDA/AFRI 5-year \$1.4M grant). (2011-On-going)

“Business Retention and Expansion Program (Br&E)”, Analyzing historical data from the Br&E program (University of Minnesota Extension) to create benchmarks, and improve the internal and external validity of the survey instruments and delivery methods. (May 2013-Ongoing)

Extension & Outreach Service

Member:

Feeding Minnesota Task Force, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, (2009-2010)

Research Steering Committee, Second Harvest Heartland & Boston Consulting SNAP Access Study (2010).

SNAP-Ed program impact study advisory board: U of M Extension, Center for Family Development (2012-Present).

Minnesota P-20 Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System Research Committee, Office of Higher Education & MN Department of Education (spring 2013-Present)

Committee Chair:

Public Sector Economics Workshop, Department of Applied Economics. A monthly forum where public sector employees and other external stakeholders meet University of Minnesota researchers to discuss current issues and explore collaboration opportunities.

Teaching Experience

University of Minnesota, Twin cities:

APEC 5321 “Regional Economic Analysis” (Fall 2008, Spring 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013).

APEC 5031 “Methods of Economic Data Analysis” Fall (2010)

Virginia Tech:

AAEC 3004 “Ag. Production and Consumption Economics” (Spring 2007)

ECON/AAEC Ph.D Math Review (Summer 2006).

AT0474 Advanced Information Technology. Database design and utilization (Guest Lecturer, 2005, 2006, 2007)

Awards

College of Food Agriculture and Natural Sciences, Faculty Diversity and Inclusion Award.
(2012)

First Place in The Impact of Teacher Rules, Roles and Rights on Teacher Quality (TR3)
Research Competition for "Effects of Teachers' Unions on Qualification-Specific and Incentive
Based Teacher Compensation." (\$15,000 prize) (2010).

Service

Manuscript Reviewer

Economics of Education Review, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Oxford
Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Applied Economics, Food Policy, Applied Economic
Perspectives and Policy, The Social Science Journal, Journal of Agricultural and Applied
Economics, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, Economic Research Report Series
(USDA, Economic Research Service).

Professional Organizations

Member: AAEA, AAEA-CRENET SOLE, APPAM, SEA, Minnesota Economic Association

Member: Early Career Development Committee, AAEA.

Member: Minnesota Economic Association board of directors.

Student Advising

Service on Graduate Committees (not thesis advisor)

| <u>Student</u> | <u>Graduation Date</u> |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Kristine West (PhD) | (2012) |
| Sung Soo Lim (PhD) | (2012) |
| Tonya Hansen (Ph.D.) | (2012) |
| Irma Arteaga (Ph.D.) | (2010) |
| Yiran Li (Ph.D. Virginia Tech) | (2013) |
| Ali Bittinger (Ph.D.) | (2013-Present) |
| Renato Ravina (Ph.D.) | (2011-Present) |
| Won Fy Lee (MS) | (2012) |
| Rebecca O'Donnell (Ms) | (2013) |
| Nikki Miller (Ms Nutrition) | (2012) |
| Sarah Berkowitz (Ms Nutrition) | (2013-Present) |

Main Adviser or Co-Chair

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Yuki Wang (Ms) | (2011) |
| Monica Haynes (Ms) | (2011) |
| HynKoo Lee (Ms) | (2011) |
| Henry Thomson (Ms) | (2013) |
| Yiping Zhu (Ms) | (2013) |
| Lorena Cobo (Ms, St. Cloud State) | (2012) |
| David Waldron (Ms) | (2011-present) |
| Nicholas Marchio | (2012-present) |

Undergraduate Research

Rachel Simmons, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) (2011).
Kelly McInnis, Honors Theses Advisor (Expected graduation May 2014)

Contact

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