

# Zachariah Rutledge

Email: [rutled83@msu.edu](mailto:rutled83@msu.edu)

---

**Current Employment**    **Assistant Professor (August 2022 - Current)**  
Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University

---

**Education**

**Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics (2020)**  
University of California, Davis  
Dissertation Title: "From the Farm to the City: How the Changing Supply of Immigrant Workers Impacts the United States" [Link](#)  
Committee: Pierre Mérel (chair), J. Edward Taylor, and Giovanni Peri  
Fields: Labor, Agriculture, Econometrics, Development

**M.S. in Agricultural and Resource Economics (2016)**  
University of California, Davis

**A.B. in Economics (with highest honors) (2015)**  
University of California, Davis

---

**Publications**

**Peer-Reviewed**

"Farm Labor Supply and Fruit and Vegetable Production," with Pierre Mérel. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. (2022). [Link](#)

"Economic Assimilation of Mexicans and Central Americans in the United States," with Giovanni Peri. *IZA Journal of Development and Migration*. (2022). [Link](#)

"The H-2A Program in California," with Philip Martin. *California Agriculture*, 75(3):135-141. (2022). [Link](#)

"Viewpoint: The Future of Work in Agri-Food," with Luc Christiaensen and J. Edward Taylor. *Food Policy*, 99. (2021). [Link](#)

"Can Wages Rise Quickly Enough to Keep Workers in the Fields?" with Diane Charlton, J. Edward Taylor, and Stavros Vougioukas. *Choices*, 34(2). (2019). [Link](#)

"Innovations for a Shrinking Agricultural Workforce," with Diane Charlton, J. Edward Taylor, and Stavros Vougioukas. *Choices*, 34(2). (2019). [Link](#)

**Book Chapters**

"Evolving Agricultural Labor Markets," with Diane Charlton and J. Edward Taylor. Chapter 77 in C. Barrett and D. Just (Eds.), *The Handbook of Agricultural Economics*. (2022). [Link](#)

"The Short-Run Impacts of Immigration on Native Workers: A Sectoral Approach," with Pierre Mérel. Chapter 6 in R. Sauer (Ed.), *World Scientific Handbook of Global Migration*. (forthcoming). [Link](#)

"Economic and Societal Aspects," with J. Edward Taylor. Chapter 10 in S. G. Vougioukas and Q. Zhang (Eds.), *Advanced Automation for Tree Fruit Orchards and Vineyards*. (forthcoming). [Link](#)

**Technical Reports**

"The H-2A Foreign Worker Program in 2020," with Philip Martin and Marcelo Castillo. USDA-ERS, Economic Information Bulletin. (forthcoming). [Link](#)

"Federal Labor Standards Enforcement in Agriculture: Data Reveal the Biggest Violators and Raise New Questions About How to Improve and Target Efforts to Protect Farmworkers," with Daniel Costa and Philip Martin. *Economic Policy Institute Report*. (2020). [Link](#)

**Outreach**

"What Is the Future of Work in Agri-Food?" with Luc Christiaensen and J. Edward Taylor. *Brookings Institution*. (2020). [Link](#)

"Revisiting Economic Assimilation of Mexican and Central American Immigrants in the United States," with Giovanni Peri. *Cato Institute Research Briefs in Economic Policy*, No. 220. (2020). [Link](#)

"COVID-19 and Farm Workers: Challenges Facing California Agriculture," with Timothy Beatty, Alexandra Hill, and Philip Martin. *ARE Update*, 23(5). (2020). [Link](#)

"Recent Mexican and Central American Immigrants Have Performed Well in the Labor Market, but There Is Room for Improvement." *U.C. Davis Global Migration Center Immigration Facts Series*. (2020). [Link](#)

"California Farmers Change Production Practices as the Farm Labor Supply Declines," with J. Edward Taylor. *ARE Update*, 22(6). (2019). [Link](#)

**Working Papers**

"Agricultural Labor and Bargaining Power," with Timothy Richards. [Link](#)

"Spillover Effects of Minimum Wages in US Agriculture," with Timothy Richards, Marcelo Castillo, and Philip Martin. [Link](#)

"Chinese Trade Competition and Rural Mexican Migration," with Joaquin Mayorga. [Link](#)

---

**Research Experience Postdoctoral Research Scholar**

Under the Supervision of Timothy Richards, Arizona State University, January 2021 - August 2022

**Graduate Student Researcher**

For Professor Pierre Mérel, Intermittently Between July 2016 - December 2020

For Professor J. Edward Taylor, Intermittently Between July 2018 - September 2020

For Professor Giovanni Peri, September 2019 - December 2019

**Consulting**

California Agricultural Labor Relations Board, March 2021 - Current

National Council of Agricultural Employers, March 2021 - Current

Migration Dialogue, March 2020 - December 2020

World Bank Group, November 2018 - June 2019

Hoover Institution, June 2017 - August 2017

---

**Teaching Experience Lecturer, University of California, Davis**

Undergraduate: Agricultural Labor Economics, (ARE 150), Spring 2022

**Guest Lecturer, Arizona State University**

Undergraduate: Food and Agribusiness Policy Issues, Fall 2022

**Guest Lecturer, University of California, Merced**

Master's: Labor, Automation, and Sustainability in Agriculture: A Convergent Study, Winter 2022

**Guest Lecturer, University of California, Davis**

Undergraduate: Continuing and Professional Education: Japanese Agriculture Trainee Program, Fall 2019

**Teaching Assistant, University of California, Davis**

Master's: Applied Econometrics 1 (ARE 256A), Fall 2016

Undergraduate: Agricultural Labor Economics (ARE 150), Spring 2016, Spring 2018, Spring 2019

Econometrics (ARE 106), Winter 2018

Operations Research and Management Science (ARE 155), Winter 2017

Investment (ARE 143), Winter 2016

---

**Selected Presentations**

"Agricultural Labor Outlook." Michigan Agricultural Credit Conference, East Lansing, MI, October 25, 2022.

"Chinese Trade Competition and Rural Mexican Migration." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA, August 2, 2022.

"Dollar Store Entry and Rural Welfare." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA, August 2, 2022.

"Agricultural Labor and Bargaining Power." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA, August 1, 2022.

"The Impact of Minimum Wage Shocks on Low-Skilled Workers in the United States: Evidence from the H-2A Visa Agricultural Guestworker Program." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting. Austin, TX, August 2, 2021.

"Actions the Biden Administration and Congress Can Take to Better Protect Farmworkers." Economic Policy Institute, Virtual Presentation, February 10, 2021.

"No Farm Workers, No Food? Evidence From Specialty Crop Production." United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service Challenges in Specialty Crop Production Workshop. Virtual Presentation, July 29, 2020.

"The Effects of a Declining Farm Labor Supply on California Agriculture." University of California, Davis Global Migration Center Affiliate Meeting. Davis, CA, February 5, 2020.

"The Short-Run Impacts of Immigration on Native Workers: A Sectoral Approach." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, July 23, 2019.

"Adapting to Labor Scarcity." Infaco Live Webinar Series. July 18, 2019.

"The Effects of a Declining Farm Labor Supply on California Agriculture." Poster Session, U.C. Davis Economics Department Alumni Conference. Davis, CA, May 10, 2019.

"Farmworkers and Nonfarm Work: Evidence from the NAWS." Department of Labor's NAWS at 30 Conference. Davis, CA, April 4, 2019.

"The Short-Run Impacts of Immigration on Native Workers: A Sectoral Approach." Gifford Center for Population Studies, Migration Research Cluster Workshop. Davis, CA, December 6, 2018.

"Evidence of a Changing Farm Labor Supply." University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Cooperative Extension Annual Vegetable Crops Meeting. Davis, CA, November 27, 2018.

- "Agricultural Labor in the United States." Peruvian Delegation from Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina. Davis, CA. November 5, 2018.
- "Immigration and Economic Performance Across the Fifty United States from 1980-2015." Poster Session, All-California Economics Labor Conference. Los Angeles, CA, October 4, 2018.
- "Immigration and Economic Performance Across the Fifty United States from 1980-2015." Poster Session, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C., August 7, 2018.
- "The Short-Run Impacts of Immigration on Native Workers: Evidence from the US Construction Sector." Gifford Center for Population Studies, Migration Research Cluster Workshop. Davis, CA, November 9, 2017.
- 

### **Selected Grants**

- USDA-ERS RRED Co-op Grant (with Timothy Richards), 2022: \$20,000
- USDA-ERS RRED Co-op Grant (with Timothy Richards and Lauren Chenarides), 2021: \$20,000
- Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics Minigrant (with Pierre Mérel), 2020: \$30,000
- Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics Minigrant (with J. Edward Taylor), 2020: \$30,000
- Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics Minigrant (with Pierre Mérel), 2019: \$30,000
- Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics Minigrant (with J. Edward Taylor), 2019: \$30,000
- Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics Minigrant (with J. Edward Taylor), 2018: \$27,000
- 

### **Professional Service**

- Referee, American Journal of Agricultural Economics
- Referee, Food Policy
- Referee, Migration Studies
- Referee, Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy
- Referee, Agricultural and Resource Economics Review
- Referee, Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund
- Discussant, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meetings
- Discussant, UC Davis Migration Research Cluster Workshop
- 

### **References**

- Timothy Richards, Marvin and June Morrison Chair of Agribusiness, Morrison School of Agribusiness, W. P. Carey School of Business, Arizona State University  
Email: trichards@asu.edu
- Pierre Mérel, Professor, Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Davis  
Email: merel@primal.ucdavis.edu
- J. Edward Taylor, Distinguished Professor, Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Davis  
Email: taylor@primal.ucdavis.edu
- Giovanni Peri, Professor, Economics, University of California, Davis  
Email: gperi@ucdavis.edu
- Philip Martin, Professor Emeritus, Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Davis  
Email: martin@primal.ucdavis.edu