

Anna French

Department of Economics, W. P. Carey School of Business, Arizona State University

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U.S. Permanent Resident (no visa sponsorship required)

PLACEMENT CONTACTS

Kelly Bishop, Placement Director
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Laura Talts, Placement Coordinator
ltalts@asu.edu

EDUCATION

Arizona State University PhD in Economics	<i>Fall 2021–expected May 2027</i>
New York University Visiting PhD Student	<i>Spring 2025</i>
Arizona State University M.S. in Economics	<i>Fall 2021–Fall 2022</i>
New Economic School and Higher School of Economics B.A. in Economics (double degree)	<i>Fall 2017–Spring 2021</i>

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Macroeconomics; Environmental and Energy Economics; Spatial Economics

REFERENCES

Wyatt Brooks (Advisor)
Associate Professor
Arizona State University
wyattjbrooks@gmail.com

Nicolai Kuminoff
Associate Professor
Arizona State University
kuminoff@asu.edu

Nicholas Vreugdenhil
Assistant Professor
Arizona State University
nvreugde@asu.edu

WORKING PAPERS

“The Aggregate Impact of Policy Uncertainty in the Green Energy Transition” <i>Abstract:</i> Federal subsidies for wind and solar are the central instrument of U.S. electricity sector decarbonization, yet their presence has been historically uncertain. I study the macroeconomic and environmental costs of renewable policy uncertainty in a dynamic spatial general-equilibrium model with a stochastic subsidy and irreversible capital. I compute the transition with and without subsidy uncertainty, calibrating the uncertainty to the U.S. record of single-party control. I find that relative to a budget-neutral but uncertain subsidy, a permanent subsidy adds 13% more renewable capacity, which displaces gas, reducing cumulative power-sector emissions by 3.2% (2.29 Gt). At the same budget, making the subsidy credible generates an aggregate welfare gain with a present value of \$322 billion. The uncertainty cost depends on the policy reversal being unforeseen; a repeal with a known date causes renewable capacity to be installed inefficiently early. Uncertainty has the greatest effect in the regions that are least suitable to wind and solar generation, like the Midwest, where renewable adoption depends on subsidies.	JOB MARKET PAPER
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“Spatial Effects of Diesel Tax: Trade and Externalities” — Submitted

Abstract: Freight transported by heavy-duty trucks generates carbon, local pollution, congestion, accident, and pavement damages along their routes. I develop a multi-commodity open-economy trade model that follows each trade flow through the U.S. highway network, allocating emissions, damages, and tax revenue to every state and county it crosses. Using Freight Analysis Framework shipment data and web-scraped diesel prices, I estimate freight responses to fuel costs. Increasing the federal diesel tax to its 1993 real value avoids more than \$700 million in damages over 2018–2024, with pavement damage generating the largest benefit. Most benefits occur in corridor states that freight passes through, and part of the welfare cost is borne by foreign buyers of U.S. exports. A unilateral state diesel tax creates large spillovers: when New Mexico raises its tax to California’s level, freight shifts to alternative corridors, increasing externalities in neighboring states.

“Permits as Real Options: Evidence and Implications for Regulatory Leakage”

(with Nicholas Vreugdenhil) — Submitted

Abstract: We identify a new channel for regulatory leakage: the “permitting channel.” In many settings, permits lock in the regulatory regime at approval, allowing firms to acquire the option to invest under current rules. Unlike the conventional Green Paradox response, this channel operates without accelerating physical investment and pollution. We develop a framework in which firms can use real options to avoid anticipated regulation. We estimate the framework using Colorado’s oil and gas reforms, where permits surged before regulation but drilling did not. Policy-relevant designs that remove the permitting channel substantially reduce the health risks from pollution despite amplifying anticipatory investment.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“The Forest Is Worth More Standing Than Cut” (with Wyatt Brooks)

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

AEA Summer Fellowship, Washington Center for Equitable Growth	<i>Summer 2026</i>
Best Progress Towards Dissertation Award, Arizona State University	<i>Fall 2025</i>
Most Deserving Graduate Student Award, Arizona State University	<i>Spring 2024</i>
Best Oral Presentation Award (Comprehensive Exam), Arizona State University	<i>Spring 2024</i>
Travel Fellowship, Environmental and Energy Economics Summer School, UC Berkeley	<i>Summer 2023</i>
Best Macroeconomics Qualifying Exam Award, Arizona State University	<i>Summer 2022</i>
Outstanding Female Doctoral Fellowship, Arizona State University	<i>Fall 2021</i>
National Winner (top 12 of 10,000+), All-Russian High School Olympiad in Economics	<i>Spring 2017</i>

PRESENTATIONS

2026 Midwest Macroeconomics Meeting (Texas Tech University)*; Arizona Economics Job Market Candidates Mini-Conference (University of Arizona)*; ASU Economics PhD Reunion Conference (Arizona State University)*; Modeling Climate-Dynamics Workshop for Young Scholars (University of Chicago)

2025 Midwest Macroeconomics Meeting (Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City); Environmental & Resource Economics Workshop (University of Colorado); AZ Workshop on Environment, Natural Resource, and Energy Economics (University of Arizona); Center for Environmental Economics and Sustainability Policy Seminar (Arizona State University)

2024 Midwest Macroeconomics Meeting (Virginia Commonwealth University)

2023 AZ Workshop on Environment, Natural Resource, and Energy Economics (Arizona State University)

Internal: ASU Macroeconomics Workshop (2024–2026); ASU General Economics Workshop (2023)

* upcoming

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Arizona State University *Fall 2025*
Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (ECN 312)

Teaching Assistant, Arizona State University *Fall 2022–Spring 2026*
Environmental Economics (ECN 445; Fall 2022, Spring 2023), Microeconomic Principles (ECN 212; Fall 2023, Spring 2024), Economics of Gender & Family (ECN 349; Spring 2026)

PRE-DOCTORAL TEACHING

Instructor and Homeroom Teacher, School No. 57, Moscow *2017–2021*
One of Russia's leading high schools in mathematics. Taught a university-level economics curriculum; 6 students (one third of the class) won national awards at the All-Russian High School Olympiad in Economics. Helped build the mathematics–economics track from scratch, led 8th-grade admissions for four years, and designed and directed a two-week camp for 100 students, hiring and managing its instructors.

Olympiad Economics Coach, Moscow Team and National Training Camps *2017–2021*
Coached Moscow's team, the strongest in the country, for the national final of the All-Russian High School Olympiad in Economics, and taught at 10+ intensive training camps across Russia.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Arizona State University *Summer 2023–present*
Wyatt Brooks (Summer 2023–present); Nicholas Vreugdenhil (Summers 2024–2025); Nicolai Kuminoff (Summer 2024); Kelly Bishop (Summer 2023)

Research Assistant, Higher School of Economics *Fall 2020*
Madina Karamysheva

Research Assistant, Tufts University *Spring 2019*
Christopher R. Miller

Research Assistant, New Economic School *Fall 2018–Fall 2019*
Andrei Markevich

OTHER INFORMATION

Programming Skills: Julia, Python, R, Stata, MATLAB, LaTeX

Languages: English (fluent), Russian (native), French (intermediate)

Former Name: Anna Samodelkina