

Elías Cisneros

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Education

Ph.D. Agricultural Economics (Dr. Agr.), University of Bonn, 2017

Dissertation: *The impact of public policies on deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon (Summa cum laude)*

Diplom in Economics (equivalent to M.S.) Economics, University of Freiburg, 2011

Academic Positions

The University of Texas at Dallas, School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

Assistant Professor, 2023 – present

The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Geography & the Environment

Visiting scholar, 2021 – 2023

University of Göttingen, Department of Economics

Postdoctoral researcher, Collaborative Research Centre 990: Ecological and Socioeconomic Functions of Tropical Lowland Rainforest Transformation Systems (Sumatra, Indonesia), 2018 – 2021

University of Bonn, Institute for Food and Resource Economics

Research Associate, 2015 – 2017

Research Interests

Environmental Economics; Political Economy; Development Economics

Publications

Journal articles

10. Magalhães de Oliveira, G., **E. Cisneros**, J. Sellare, and J. Börner (2026): [Anti-Environmental Signals and Deforestation: Evidence from Brazil](#), *The Journal of Politics* (conditionally accepted).
9. **Cisneros, E.** and K. Kis-Katos (2024): [Unintended environmental consequences of anti-corruption strategies](#), *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 128: 103073.
8. Damm, Y., **E. Cisneros**, and J. Börner (2024): [Beyond deforestation reductions: Public disclosure, land-use change and commodity sourcing](#), *World Development*, 175: 106481.
7. Seufert, J. D., A. Python, C. Weisser, **E. Cisneros**, K. Kis-Katos, and T. Kneib (2022): [Mapping ex-ante spatial risks of COVID-19 in Indonesia using a Bayesian geostatistical model on airport network data](#), *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series A (Statistics in Society)*, 185: 2121–2155.
6. **Cisneros, E.**, J. Börner, S. Pagiola, and S. Wunder (2022): [Impacts of conservation incentives in protected areas: The case of Bolsa Floresta, Brazil](#), *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 111: 102572.

5. **Cisneros, E.**, K. Kis-Katos, and N. Nuryartono (2021): [Palm oil and the politics of deforestation in Indonesia](#), *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 108: 102453.
4. Correa, J., **E. Cisneros**, J. Börner, A. Pfaff, M. Costa, and R. Rajão (2020): [Evaluating REDD+ at sub-national level: Amazon Fund impacts in Alta Floresta, Brazil](#), *Forest Policy and Economics*, 116: 102178.
3. Giudice, R., J. Börner, S. Wunder, and **E. Cisneros** (2019): [Selection biases and spillovers from collective conservation incentives in the Peruvian Amazon](#), *Environmental Research Letters*, 14 (4): 045004.
2. Rodríguez, L. O., **E. Cisneros**, T. Pequeño, M. T. Fuentes, and Y. Zinngrebe (2018): [Building adaptive capacity in changing social-ecological systems: Integrating knowledge in communal land-use planning in the Peruvian Amazon](#). *Sustainability*, 10 (2): 511.
1. **Cisneros, E.**, S. L. Zhou, and J. Börner (2015): [Naming and shaming for conservation: Evidence from the Brazilian Amazon](#). *PLoS ONE*, 10 (9): 1–24.

Working papers

- Cisneros, E.**, K. Kis-Katos, J. Priebe, and L. Reiners (2024): [Cash transfers and violent crime in Indonesia](#). Hellmundt, T., K. Kis-Katos, and **E. Cisneros** (2024): [Conflicts of rural transformation: The effects of oil palm expansion in Indonesia](#), *SSRN*.
- Cisneros, E.**, L. Reiners, and K. Kis-Katos (2023): [Losing territory: The effect of administrative splits on land use in the tropics](#), *SSRN*.
- Cisneros, E.**, T. Hellmundt, and K. Kis-Katos (2023): [Oil palm expansion and the economics of forest fragmentation](#), *SSRN*.

Research in progress

- Cisneros, E.**, D. V. Seybold, and K. Kis-Katos: *Environmental shocks and land use transformation: The effects of earthquakes on deforestation in Indonesian villages*.
- Cisneros, E.**, I. Eggers del Campo, T. Esch, M. Marconcini, and K. Kis-Katos: *The footprint of economic development: Comparing remotely sensed settlement and nightlight data*.
- Vincent, C., **E. Cisneros** and C. Rondinini: *Effectiveness of protected areas in mitigating threats to biodiversity*.
- E. Cisneros**, J. Seesing, C. Stock, C. Palmer, and J. Börner: *Political rebound effects of environmental law enforcement*.

Other

- Damm Y., **E. Cisneros**, and J. Börner (2024): [Can public scrutiny make supply chains more sustainable?](#), UNIDO, ‘Industrial Analytics Platform’, <https://iap.unido.org/>

Grants and Awards

Grants

- Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship, MSCA-IF-GF, No. 101031461, 2021, €264,669.12.

Awards

Nominee, Provost's Award for Faculty Excellence in Undergraduate Research Mentoring, The University of Texas at Dallas, 2026.

Friends of ZEF Prize for the best dissertation at ZEF of the years 2014–2017, 2018, €2,000.

T.W. Schultz Award for Best Oral Contributed Paper at the XXIX International Conference of Agricultural Economists (jointly with S. L. Zhou and J. Börner), 2015, \$1,000.

BMZ/GIZ Public Policy Award at the 2013 Annual Congress of the International Institute of Public Finance (jointly with J. Hargrave and K. Kis-Katos), 2013, €2,500.

Talks

Keynote Lectures

2023 The 4th International Conference on Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation: “Origin of Land Status, History of Land Use and Development of Plantation Land Cover”

Invited Seminars

2025 Louisiana State University, Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness

2024 University of Bonn, Institute for Food and Resource Economics (ILR)

TU Dresden, Department of Economics

Texas A&M University, Department of Agricultural Economics

2023 The University of Texas at Dallas, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences

2022 The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Economics

2021 The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Geography and the Environment

2016 KfW Development Bank, Frankfurt

Conference & Workshop Presentations

2026 World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists (WCERE) (scheduled)

2025 Southern Economic Association (SEA)

2024 Southern Economic Association (SEA)
European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE)
World Bank Land Conference

2023 RIDGE 2023 December Forum – Environmental Economics
World Congress of the International Economic Association (IEA)
Southern Economic Association (SEA)
Western Economic Association (WEAI)
Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA)
Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Annual Summer Conference (AERE)

2022 Southern Economic Association (SEA)
European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE)
6th Global Conference on Economic Geography (GCEG)

2021 Online Seminar on Environmental Politics and Governance (EPG)

- 2019 Oxford Development Economics Workshop
Annual International Conference of the Research Group on Development Economics
2nd Workshop on Geodata in Economics
European Public Choice Society - Annual Meeting
- 2018 International Symposium on Socio-ecological transformations of tropical lowland rainforests
U4 SSEL Cluster Conference on “Current Challenges for a Sustainable Future”
Workshop on “Measuring the effects of forest policies and interventions”, Center for Environmental Economics, Montpellier
- 2017 Workshop on “Land use spillover and leakage effects”, Robert Bosch Foundation, Berlin
- 2016 International Society for Ecological Economics Conference (ISEE)
- 2015 XXIX International Conference of Agricultural Economics, Milan
Tropentag, Berlin
- 2013 International Workshop Evaluating Forest Conservation Initiatives: New Tools and Policy Needs, Barcelona
Annual Conference on Biodiversity and Economics for Conservation (BIOECON), Cambridge
Annual Congress of the International Institute of Public finance (IIPF), Taormina
- 2012 Annual Conference of the Research Committee in Development Economics (AEL), Bonn

Teaching

University of Texas at Dallas, 2023 – present

Political-Economic Theories (*graduate*), Fall 2024, Fall 2025.

Economics of Sustainability (*undergraduate*), Fall 2025.

Economics of Climate Change (*graduate*), Spring 2025.

Environmental Economics and Policy (*graduate*), Spring 2024.

World Resources and Development (*undergraduate*), Fall 2023, Fall 2024.

University of Göttingen, 2020

The Economics of Deforestation, (*undergraduate*), Spring 2020.

University of Bonn, 2015–2017, (*ABD*)

Environmental Economics and Policies, (*graduate*), Spring 2016, Spring 2017.

Agricultural Environmental Policy, (*undergraduate*), Spring 2017.

Economics on Sustainability, (*graduate*), Fall 2015.

New Institutional Economics, (*undergraduate*), Fall 2015.

Intermediate Microeconomics, (*undergraduate*), Fall 2015, Fall 2016.

Advising

Dissertation Committee

Pyung KIM (UT Dallas, 2025).

Master’s thesis advising

Julian KLOS (UT Dallas, 2024), Krishan FAAS-RICHTER (U Göttingen, 2024), Susanne VÖGELE (U Göttingen, 2023), Maria Luisa FERNANDES DE ARAUJO (U Göttingen, 2023), Dorothee V. SEYBOLD (U Göttingen, 2022), Isabel EGGERS DEL CAMPO (U Göttingen, 2022), Tobias Hellmundt (U Göttingen, 2021), Carlos E. BARBOSA GUEIROS (U Göttingen, 2021), Jacqueline SEUFERT (U Göttingen, 2020), Joshua JÄGER (U Göttingen, 2020), Jonas SEESING (U Göttingen, 2020), Hannah KAUL (U Göttingen, 2019), Killian NUSSBAUM (U Göttingen, 2019), Pia HOPPMAN (U Bonn, 2018), Johanna LAHR (U Bonn, 2015), Elan SWARTZ (U Bonn, 2015).

University Service

University of Texas at Dallas, School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

Junior faculty search committee, 2023, 2024

Public Policy and Political Economy PhD program committee, 2025

The University of Texas System Archer Fellowship Program selection advisory committee, 2024, 2025

Judge for SPUR (Summer Program for Undergraduate Research) Poster Competition, 2024

Judge, UTD Global Health Case Competition, 2025

Judge for Undergraduate Research Scholar Awards Semifinal Poster Competition, Spring 2026

Student Organization Faculty Advisor: Code Green – Biodegradable Medical Supplies Initiative, Fall 2025

Supervisor of visiting student in the Fulbright COMEXUS–OAXACA Program, Fall 2025

Department of Geography and the Environment, University of Texas at Austin

Member of Ecology, Sustainability and Human-Environment Interactions (ESHI), 2020 – 2023

Center for Development Research, University of Bonn

Graduate student representative, Center for Development Research, 2013

Professional Service

Associations and Organizations

Society for Conservation Biology: Impact Evaluation Working Group (SCB-IEWG)

Board member, 2024 – present

Mentor, 2022 – 2025

Academic Circles

Chair, Germ. Scholars Organ. / Germ. Academic Intern. Network (GSO/GAIN) at Dallas, 2021 – present

NAREA Scholars' Circles, 2022–2024

Journal Referee

American Journal of Agricultural Economics (3×) • Applied Geography • Conservation Letters • Conservation Science and Practice • Ecological Economics (3×) • Environment and Development Economics • International Forestry Review • Journal of Environmental Economics and Management (3×) • Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (2×) • Nature • Nature Communications (3×) • PNAS (2×) • Science • World Development (2×)

Proposal Referee

David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship • Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek

Professional Memberships

American Economic Association (AEA) • Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE) • European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE) • Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA) • Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) • Southern Economic Association (SEA)

Languages

German (native), Spanish (fluent), English (fluent), Portuguese (basic), French (basic)

Last updated: July 24, 2026