

MUSTAHSIN UL AZIZ

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Career Summary

Innovative Development Practitioner and Applied Microeconomic Researcher with 8+ years of experience in multiple countries. Demonstrates prowess in project management and impactful research, as evidenced by 3+ years of contributions at The World Bank and successful leadership across diverse projects. Currently pursuing a Ph.D. focused on Environmental Economics at West Virginia University, specializing in advanced programming-based econometric and remote-sensed spatial data analysis. Aspiring to leverage data-driven policy-making to empower communities.

Education

West Virginia University

Ph.D., Natural Resource Economics (Expected Graduation: May 2025)

August 2021 – Present

Morgantown, WV, USA

University of Dhaka

Master of Social Sciences (MSS), Economics

2017

Dhaka, Bangladesh

University of Dhaka

Bachelor of Social Sciences (BSS), Economics

2012 – 2016

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Experience

West Virginia University

Graduate Research Assistant – *Division of Resource Economics and Management*

August 2021 – Present

Morgantown, WV, USA

- Undertake comprehensive literature review and research design to explore socio-economic environmental challenges using advanced spatial and econometric techniques.
- Initiate remote-sensing data collection within the department, to better understand the spatial analysis of air, water, and wind dynamics.
- Facilitate training workshops on AI-enhanced research workflows for students and faculty.

Researcher – *The Regional Research Institute*

May 2024 – Present

- Lead the design of an empirical study to better understand the role of Regional Transportation Planning Organizations; including methodology, data collection process and analysis
- Supervise carbon forecasting models and draft action plans in exploring different mitigation strategies for West Virginia under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) by the U. S. Environment Protection Agency (EPA)
- Provide research support to other existing RRI initiatives

Instructor – *ARE 150 (Introductory Agricultural & Agribusiness Economics)*

August 2024 – December 2024

- Conduct rigorous instruction of fundamental curriculum in introductory microeconomics for 50 freshmen students. Provide them with real-world scenarios and applications for better comprehension
- 80% of the students found the instructor helpful and 70% of the 41 students found the course beneficial

The World Bank – *Education Global Practice*

January 2019 – June 2021

Short-Term Consultant (*Education Economist*)

based in Dhaka, Bangladesh

- Played a key role in designing the second generation regional Higher Education and Tertiary Education projects with a combined proposed portfolio of \$700 million with the aim of modernizing higher education and developing regional collaboration. Led the development of budget, Environment and Social Assessment, and Economic Analysis, including the drafting of the Project Appraisal Document.
- Developed the Emergency School Sector Response project in response to COVID-19 under a fast-track system to ensure minimal learning loss. Contributed to the project appraisal document and facilitated joint development with the Government of Bangladesh and UNICEF.
- Contributed to the Implementation Completion Report for multiple projects, overseeing logistics and reporting, resulting in a satisfactory outcome rating.

- Organized an Early Childhood Education Global Learning Conference in China under the Beijing office. Coordinated guest logistics and led conference proceedings, engaging 60 government officials from various South Asian and Southeast Asian countries.
- Supported research initiatives by conducting Randomized Control Trials to assess pilot programs, such as the Recognition of Prior Learning Assessment under the skills sector project.

Short-Term Consultant (*Education Economist*)

February 2018 – December 2018

- Managed project operations for national-level initiatives with a combined portfolio of approximately \$500 million, conducting target assessments and providing support to clients in ensuring seamless project execution.
- Organized two International Skills Conferences in Dhaka, overseeing guest management and conference reporting. Engaged over 1000 national and international stakeholders, resulting in the signing of a Joint Skills Development resolution.
- Directed outreach activities, including workshops and seminars with project officials. Published six blogs to showcase project success stories and challenges.
- Coordinated sector-wide development efforts by liaising with government officials and non-governmental stakeholders.
- Supported research data cleaning and analysis for ongoing projects to ensure proper impact assessment of initiatives.

Char Tobacco Assessment Project (CTAP)

2019

Co-Principal Investigator

Bangladesh

- Led grant application drafting and submission in securing a \$10,000 funding from John's Hopkins Institute of Global Tobacco Control.
- Conducted a Randomized Control Trial using nudge-based behavioral economics intervention, resulting in a 14% reduction of tobacco consumption expenditure per household in the study sample of rural Bangladesh.
- Supervised intervention and primary data collection logistics for 1000 survey households and managed a team of 30 enumerators and data analysts to deliver research output in time and within budget.
- Coordinated research design and questionnaire development, data analysis and publication of project research papers.

Publications

- **Aziz, M.,** & Elbakidze, L. (2024). Invisible Barrier: The Impact of Air Quality on Chronic School Absenteeism in the US. *Environmental and Resource Economics*, 1-26. doi.org/10.1596/1813-9450-9644
- Nakata, S., Sharma, U., Rahman, T., Rahman, M., & **Aziz, M.** (2021). Effects of Recognition of Prior Learning on Job Market Outcomes. *Policy Research Working Papers, The World Bank* doi.org/10.1596/1813-9450-9644
- Fakir, A., Karim, A., Mubde, M., **Aziz, M.,** & Ahmad, A. (2020). Can visual nudges reduce smoking tobacco expenditure? Evidence from a clustered randomized controlled trial in rural Bangladesh. *Journal of Smoking Cessation*, 15(3), 163-170. doi:10.1017/jsc.2020.20
- Fakir, A., Karim, A., Mubde, M., **Aziz, M.,** & Ahmad, A. (2020). A single-blind clustered randomised controlled trial of daily record-keeping for reducing smoking tobacco expenditure among adult male household heads in rural Bangladesh. *Journal of Smoking Cessation*, 15(2), 76-83. doi:10.1017/jsc.2020.12
- Fakir, A.M., **Aziz, M.,** Mubde, M.B., Karim, A., Khan, A.S., Raisa, R., Alim, L.F. & Fahmin, M. (2018). Bangladesh chars tobacco assessment project (ctap) 2018: A data note. *BMC Research Notes*, 11, 914. doi:10.1186/s13104-018-4015-0

Working Papers

- **Aziz, M.,** & Stephens, H., Nature at Work: The role of Urban Greenspace on Workers' Amenity
- **Aziz, M.,** & Elbakidze, L., Safe Drinking Water Act compliance and nutrient runoff from agricultural production

Academic Presentations

- Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. (2024)
- North American Regional Science Council Conference, Louisiana (2024)
- Southern Economics Association Annual Meeting, Louisiana (2023)
- Agricultural & Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, California (2022)
- Western Economic Association International (WEAI), Oregon (2022);

Awards & Fellowships

Public Choice Society - <i>Student Fellow</i>	Jan 2025 – Present
Mercatus Center - <i>Adam Smith Fellow</i>	August 2024 – Present
Mercatus Center - <i>Oskar Morgenstern Fellow</i>	August 2023 – May 2024
USDA - <i>Graduate Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Partners Fellow</i>	August 2023 – May 2024
Division of Resource Economics and Management - <i>Gempesaw/Alaby Family scholarship</i>	November 2022

Other Experiences

Graduate Resource Economics Club - <i>President</i>	April 2023 – April 2024
Finding Bangladesh - A Documentary - <i>Video Editor</i>	2012 – 2019

Professional Affiliations

- The Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA)
- Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE)
- Southern Economics Association (SEA)
- North American Regional Science Council (NARSC)
- Western Economic Association International (WEAI)
- Public Choice Society
- Institute of Humane Studies

COMPUTER SOFTWARE PROGRAMS

STATA, GIS, Python, R, SQL, L^AT_EX, GAMS, Notion, Adobe Creative Suite

Language Proficiency

English – *Full Professional Proficiency*

Bengali – *Native Proficiency*

Hindi – *Intermediate Proficiency*

English – *Elementary Proficiency*

REFERENCES

Levan Elbakidze, Ph.D. - <i>Professor, West Virginia University</i>	levan.elbakidze@mail.wvu.edu
Tashmina Rahman - <i>Senior Education Specialist, The World Bank</i>	trahman3@worldbank.org
Heather Stephens, Ph.D. - <i>Director, Regional Research Institute, WVU</i>	heather.stephens@mail.wvu.edu