

# Saule Burkitbayeva

## Australian National University

ANU College of Law, Governance and Policy  
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[ANU Research portal](#)  
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### PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

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Saule is an agricultural economist. The bulk of her applied work has focused on value chains, technology adoption, and agriculture in developing and transition countries, with extensive fieldwork across Central and South Asia. This includes designing questionnaires, implementing surveys, and conducting in-depth data analysis. She currently works at the intersection of climate change, agriculture, and regulation. Her ongoing research focuses on how agricultural products can be included in public embedded emissions accounting frameworks, as well as the challenges associated with carbon footprinting in agri-food value chains. Saule is a highly accomplished researcher who publishes in high-impact journals, contributes to major edited volumes, collaborates on policy-relevant projects, and maintains strong multidisciplinary ties both within and outside of academia. Her education and career to date reflect a diverse journey through various research institutes and international organisations in Canada, Belgium, Germany, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and, now, Australia.

### CURRENT POSITION

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#### COLLEGE OF LAW, GOVERNANCE AND POLICY

Canberra, Australia

#### Research Fellow at the School of Law

2023-Present

- ARC Linkage project on Embedded Emissions Accounting: Frameworks for Trade in a Net-Zero World
- ARC Industrial Transition Research Hub: Frameworks to Support Trade in Embedded Carbon Products

#### Other appointments

- Expert for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Food-Chain Analysis Network
- Visiting Professor at the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Saskatchewan, July 2025
- NECTAR custodian and representative
- Member of the Australasian Agrifood Research Network

### EDUCATION

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#### KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN (KU LEUVEN)

Leuven, Belgium

#### PhD In Economics + Master of Advanced Science in Economics

2013–2020

#### UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatoon, Canada

#### Master of Science in Agricultural Economics

2011–2013

#### UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatoon, Canada

#### Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with Great Distinction

2007–2011

#### Major: Agricultural Economics

#### AL-FARABI KAZAKH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Almaty, Kazakhstan

#### Bachelor of Business and Economics

2005–2007

#### Major: Finance

### PREVIOUS RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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I have had a well-rounded and international career integrating academic research with applied consultancy work

#### SUSTINEO (RESEARCH CONSULTANCY COMPANY)

Canberra, Australia

#### Researcher and Project Manager

Aug. 2022–May 2023

Responsible for undertaking a range of research and project management tasks across a wide range of projects in the Asia-Pacific region. This included client engagement, project management, financial budgeting, quantitative analysis, qualitative interviews, survey design, and report writing.

#### Project experience:

- Coconut Strategic Framework and Regional Network for the Pacific, SPC Pacific Community, Pacific
- Rural Resilience in Myanmar Scoping Study, UNDP, Myanmar
- Australian Pork Industry Work Force and Regional Development Advocacy Pack, Australian Pork Limited, Australia
- Review of Entrepreneurship Support and Incubator Models in the Pacific, CARE Australia, Pacific: Vanuatu, Tonga and Solomon Islands
- Study of COVID-19 Impacts on Women and Marginalised Groups Working in the Pacific Tuna Industry, Forum Fisheries Agency, Tonga, Kiribati, Tuvalu
- Strengthening Competitiveness, Agriculture, Livelihoods and Environment – Natural Resource Management Baseline Study, Winrock International / USAID, Malaita, Solomon Islands

#### **LICOS CENTRE FOR INSTITUTIONS AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE**

**Leuven, Belgium**

##### **Researcher**

**Sep. 2013–Aug. 2020**

- My home institute while pursuing PhD at KU Leuven
- Thesis title: “Agricultural Development, Technology and Value Chains in Developing and Transition Economies” published as a book:
- Burkitbayeva, S. (2020). Agricultural Development, Technology and Value Chains in Developing and Transition Economies. PhD Thesis. KU Leuven. Belgium.
- Quantitative and qualitative survey design, implementation and analysis; fieldwork in Punjab, India

#### **THE LEIBNIZ INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN TRANSITION ECONOMIES**

**Halle (Saale), Germany**

##### **Researcher**

**Sep. 2015–May 2018**

- Within the project “Institutional Change in Land and Labour Relations of Central Asia’s Irrigated Agriculture”
- Survey design and implementation in South Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan
- Organising summer schools and conferences in Central Asia and in Germany

#### **UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

**Kiev, Ukraine**

##### **Intern**

**May 2012–Aug. 2012**

- Within the project “Legal Empowerment of the Poor”
- Preparing research papers, funding proposals
- Writing newsletters, and providing translation services (Russian/English)
- On the basis of UCAN-UNDP initiative between University of Saskatchewan and the UNDP

#### **ANALYTICAL CENTRE OF ECONOMIC POLICY IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**

**Astana, Kazakhstan**

##### **Intern**

**Jun. 2011–Aug. 2011**

- Organising/attending meetings between the OECD working group and Kazakh government institutions devoted to the “OECD Agricultural Policy Review of Kazakhstan” project
- Assisting the OECD working group during their visit to Astana
- Providing interpretation (Kazakh/Russian/English) during meetings

#### **PREVIOUS RESEARCH CONSULTANCIES**

I have been consistently engaged by leading international organisations for research consultancy, including during my doctoral studies. This demonstrates recognition of my academic expertise beyond academia, my strong record of translating research into policy-relevant outputs, and my ability to concurrently manage academic and consultancy work, and foster international collaboration

#### **WORLD BANK**

**Canberra, Australia**

##### **Consultant**

**Jun. 2022–Apr. 2023**

- Within the project “Trade-Related Climate Policy Project: Creating an Evidence Base to Support Policy Development and Diffusion”
- Coding trade related climate policies in Russia and creating a database

#### **TALAP CENTER FOR APPLIED RESEARCH**

**Astana, Kazakhstan**

##### **Consultant**

**Jun. 2021–Mar. 2022**

- Lead economist
- Within the FAO project “Integrated Natural Resource Management in Drought-Prone and Salt-Affected Agricultural Production Landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey (CACILM-2)”
- Questionnaire design, implementation and analysis
- Gender sensitive value chain analysis

**WORLD BANK****Consultant**

Moscow, Russia

Dec. 2017–Oct. 2018

- Within the project “Agricultural and Food Systems Transformation for Better Food Security and Nutrition in Eurasia”
- Lead team member responsible for conducting research and coordinating country lead experts
- Drafted the proposal and synthesised country reports

**ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK****Consultant**

Astana, Kazakhstan

Feb. 2017–Aug. 2017

- Within the project “Country Diagnostic Studies in Selected Developing Member Countries. Realizing Kazakhstan’s Agricultural Potential: Strategic Policy Recommendations”
- Drafting reports, and a chapter on the agricultural sector in Kazakhstan
- Attending meetings with official bodies in Astana and providing interpretation (Kazakh/Russian/English)

**ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS ([GOOGLE SCHOLAR](#)) TOTAL CITATIONS: 300 H-INDEX: 9 I10 INDEX: 9**

I have a sustained record of high-quality, original academic output. My recent work reflects a strategic pivot toward embedded emissions accounting and climate policy, underscoring my capacity to produce cutting-edge research with both academic rigour and policy relevance

**JOURNAL ARTICLES (PEER REVIEWED)**

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- Burkitbayeva, S. (forthcoming). We Don’t Need No Education? Resource Curse on Human Capital in Kazakhstan. *Central Asian Affairs*.
- Burkitbayeva, S., E. Janssen and J. Swinnen (2023). Hiding in Plain Sight. The Emergence of Modern Dairy Farms in India. *Journal of Agribusiness in Developing and Emerging markets*, 13(2):194-210.
- Burkitbayeva, S., E. Janssen and J. Swinnen (2021). Regulations, Value Chains and Food Standards in Developing Countries: Panel Data Evidence from India. *International Journal on Food System Dynamics*, 12(4): 341-357.
- Burkitbayeva, S., E. Janssen and J. Swinnen (2020). Technology Adoption, Vertical Coordination in Value Chains, and FDI in Developing Countries: Panel Evidence from the Dairy Sector in India (Punjab). *Review of Industrial Organization*, 57(2): 433-479.
- Burkitbayeva, S., J. Swinnen and N. Warrinnier (2020). Food and Nutrition Security in Eurasia: Evolution, Shocks and Policies. *Russian Journal of Economics*, 6(1): 6-25.
- Burkitbayeva, S. and J. Swinnen (2018). Smallholder Agriculture in Transition Economies. *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 18 (4): 882-892.
- Swinnen, J., S. Burkitbayeva, F. Schierhorn, A. Prishchepov and D. Muller (2017). Production Potential in the “Bread Basket” of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. *Global Food Security*, 14: 38-53.
- Burkitbayeva, S., M. Qaim and J. Swinnen (2016). A Black (White) Hole in the Global Spread of GM Cotton. *Trends in Biotechnology*, 34: 260-263.

**BOOK CHAPTERS (PEER REVIEWED)**

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- Aisbett, A., J. Borevitz, S. Burkitbayeva, C. Jackson, J. McQueen, O. Pearce and L. White. (2024). Public Embedded Emissions Accounting Frameworks to Support the Asian Net Zero Transition. Background Paper for the Asian Economic Integration Report 2024. Theme Chapter on “Decarbonizing Global Value Chains.”
- Burkitbayeva, S., W. Liefert and J. Swinnen (2020). Agricultural Development and Food Security in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Chapter 7. In K. Otsuka and S. Fan (eds.), *Agricultural Development: New Perspectives in a Changing World*. International Food Policy Institute, Washington.
- Petrick, M., D. Raitzer and S. Burkitbayeva (2018). Policies to Unlock Kazakhstan’s Agricultural Potential. Chapter 2. In K. Anderson, G. Capannelli, E. Ginting, and K. Taniguchi (eds.), *Kazakhstan: Accelerating Economic Diversification*. Asian Development Bank, Philippines.
- Burkitbayeva, S. and K. Deconinck (2016). Hot Chocolate in the Cold: The Economics and Politics of Chocolate in the Former Soviet Union. Chapter 19. In J. Swinnen and M. Squicciarini (eds.), *The Economics of Chocolate*. Oxford University Press.
- Burkitbayeva, S. and W. Kerr (2015). Accession of KRU to the WTO: The Effects of Tariff Reductions on KRU and International Wheat Market. Chapter 18. In A. Schmitz and W. Meyers (eds.), *Transition to Agricultural Market Economies: The Future of Kazakhstan, Russia, and Ukraine*. CABI, Oxon, UK.

**REPORTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

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- Deconinck, K., S. Burkitbayeva and H. Thoms (2025). Measuring and Communicating Environmental Impacts in Food Systems: Towards Reliable and Widespread Carbon Footprints of Food Products. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development report, OECD, Paris.
- Burkitbayeva, S. and N. Davis (2023). Status Report of Coconut Sectors in Pacific Island Countries and Territories. Report for the Pacific Community, Sustineo.
- Allen, M., L. Waring, S. Burkitbayeva, J. Kane and L. Bland (2023). Rural Resilience in Myanmar. Report for the United Nations Development Program, Sustineo.
- Chan-Tung, A., S. Burkitbayeva and R. Hortle (2022). Study of COVID-19 Impact on Women and Marginalised Groups Working in the Tuna Industry in the Pacific: Tonga, Kiribati and Tuvalu. A compilation of three reports for Forum Fisheries Agency, Sustineo.
- Sustineo (2022). Baseline Study Report: Solomon Islands Strengthening Competitiveness, Agriculture, Livelihoods, and Environment–Natural Resource Management (SCALE-NRM). Report for USAID, Sustineo.
- Burkitbayeva S., D. Ryskaliyeva, M. Mussayeva and D. Oshakbayev (2021). Gender-Sensitive Value Chain Analysis. Integrated Natural Resource Management in Drought-Prone and Salt-Affected Agricultural Production Landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey (CACILM-2). Food and Agriculture Organization / TALAP Center for Applied Research.
- Burkitbayeva, S. and W. Kerr (2013). The Accession of Kazakhstan, Russia, and Ukraine to the WTO: What Would it Mean for the World Trade in Wheat? Canadian Agricultural Trade Policy Research Network.

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

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- 29th International Consortium on Applied Bioeconomy Research conference (ICABR). Embedded Emissions Accounting Frameworks for Agricultural Products. Saskatoon, Canada. 8–11 July 2025
- 14th International European Forum on System Dynamics and Innovation in Food Networks, 176th European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE) Seminar. Technology Adoption and Value Chains in Developing Countries: Panel Evidence from Dairy in Punjab. Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. 10–14 Feb. 2020
- 170th European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE) Seminar. Technology Adoption and Value Chains in Developing Countries: Panel Evidence from Dairy in Punjab. Montpellier, France. 15–17 May 2019
- Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting 2019. Session: New Directions in Research on Agri-Food Standards and Rural Poverty. Regulations, Value Chains, and Implementation of Food Standards in Developing Countries: Panel Data Evidence from India. Atlanta, GA, USA. 23 July 2019
- International Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition in Eurasia at Lomonosov Moscow State University. IFPRI's 2018 Global Food Policy Report on Food Security and Nutrition in Eurasia. Moscow, Russia. 30 May 2018
- International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE). A Black (White) Hole in the Global Spread of GM Cotton. Milan, Italy. 9–14 Aug. 2016
- International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE), IAAE Inter-Conference Symposium "Agricultural Transitions along the Silk Road". Almaty, Kazakhstan. 4–6 Apr. 2016
  - Paper presentation "A Black (White) Hole in the Global Spread of GM Cotton"
  - Paper presentation "Echoes from the Soviet Past: Bias in Wheat Production in Kazakhstan"
  - Session chair WTO and Interlinkages - Restructuring, Resources and Trade in the Central Asia Region
- IAMO Forum. Session "Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture and the Role of Public Policies". "Echoes from the Soviet Past: Bias in Wheat Production in Kazakhstan". Halle (Saale), Germany. 17–20 June 2015
- Third Annual Canadian Agricultural Policy Conference: Growing Canada's Agricultural Economy: The Role of Trade. Poster presentation "Accession of Black Sea region Wheat Producers to the WTO: What will it Mean for World Wheat Trade? Ottawa, Canada. 23–25 January 2013.
- Canadian Agricultural Trade Policy and Competitiveness Research Network CATPRN conference. Toronto, Canada. 29 September 2012.

## AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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- Agrifood Innovation Institute Strategic Investment Program, Australian National University 2025.
- Law School internal Travel Grant, Australian National University 2025.
- ANU Early Career Researcher International Travel Grant Scheme, Australian National University 2024.
- DAAD German Academic Exchange Service Alumni Training for Research Managers 2023, Germany 2023.
- Volkswagen Foundation (Volkswagen Stiftung) Research Scholarship in Germany, Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies IAMO, Germany 2015–2018.
- KU Leuven full scholarship for Master of Advanced Studies in Economics and doctoral scholarship, Belgium 2013–2020.
- UCAN-UNDP Initiative Scholarship for UNDP Ukraine country office in Kiev internship, University of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada 2012.

- Master's degree full scholarship from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada 2011–2013.
- Canadian Agricultural Economics Society Undergraduate Book Prize Award, Canada 2011.
- William Allen Memorial Prize for outstanding B.S.A. graduate in Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics 2011, University of Saskatchewan, Canada 2011.
- Bert Hargrave Academic Achievement Scholarship, University of Saskatchewan, Canada 2008.
- Bert Salloum Scholarship in Agriculture Economics, University of Saskatchewan, Canada 2010.
- Harvey Undergraduate Scholarship, University of Saskatchewan, Canada.