

# ANTHONY HIGNEY

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## ADVISORS

Dr. Mirko Moro [mirko.moro@stir.ac.uk](mailto:mirko.moro@stir.ac.uk)  
Prof. Nicholas Hanley [Nicholas.Hanley@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Nicholas.Hanley@glasgow.ac.uk)

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, University of Stirling, March 2023  
MSc Economics (Econometrics), University of Edinburgh, 2019  
B.A. Economics, University of Glasgow, 2014

## FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary: Applied Econometrics  
Secondary: Environmental Economics

## DISSERTATION

*Life Unleaded: Three Essays On The Socio-Economic Effects Of Lead Exposure*

## PUBLISHED WORK

**Higney, A.**, Hanley, N., and Moro, M., (2022). [The Lead-Crime Hypothesis: A Meta-Analysis](#). *Regional Science and Urban Economics*. Volume 97, 103826, ISSN 0166-0462,

Szaszi, B., **Higney, A.**, Charlton, A., Gelman, A., Ziano, I., Aczel, B., Goldstein, D.G., Yeager, D.S. and Tipton, E., 2022. [No reason to expect large and consistent effects of nudge interventions](#). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 119(31), p.e2200732119.

**Higney, A.** and Gibb, K. (2024) [Net zero retrofit of older tenement housing – the contribution of cost benefit analysis to wider evaluation of a demonstration project](#). *Energy Policy*, 191, 114181.

**Higney, A.**, Hanley, N., Moro, M., 2025. [The Impact of Lead Water Pollution on Birth Outcomes: A Natural Experiment in Scotland](#). *Environmental and Resource Economics*, Volume 88, pages 3737–3764

Uebel, K., Ratcliffe, E., Buchan, C., Butler, S. J., Hanley, N., **Higney, A.**, and Marselle, M., 2025. [Natural soundscapes are associated with mental well-being via capacity-building and capacity-restoring pathways](#). *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 106, 102735. doi:10.1016/j.jenvp.2025.102735.

Luo, H., **Higney, A.**, Ye, Y., Zhao, J., and Hanley, N., 2026. [Impacts of conservation easements on perceived land tenure security](#). *Ecological Economics*, 242, 108910. doi:10.1016/j.ecolecon.2025.108910.

## WORKING PAPERS

**Higney, A.**, Hanley, N., Moro, M., and Gasteen, A., (2022). The Impact of Lead Pollution on Human Capital Formation: Size of Dose Matters.

**Higney, A.**, Charlotte Gerling, Claire Buchan, Simon Butler, Liam Crowther, Melissa Marselle, Eleanor Ratcliffe, Konrad Uebel, and Nick Hanley, 2024. *Willingness to Pay for Birdsong*

**Higney, A.**, Claire Buchan, Simon Butler, Liam Crowther, Melissa Marselle, Eleanor Ratcliffe, Konrad Uebel, and Nick Hanley, 2025. The Effect of Birdsong on Self-reported Mental Well-Being.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

**Higney, A.**, Nick Hanley, Katherine Simpson, 2026. Willingness to pay to manage the risks of historic coastal landfills.

**Higney, A.**, 2024. *What is Estimated in a Meta-Regression?*

**Higney, A.**, 2022. Meta-Regression and Forecasting

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

*Committee member for RES Symposium of Junior Researchers 2023*

*Referee for Ecological Economics 2023*

*Referee for the International Journal of Educational Research 2023*

*Referee for the Journal of Economic Surveys 2023*

*Referee for the Journal of Economic Surveys 2022*

*Referee for the Journal of Economic Surveys 2021*

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Microeconomics (post-graduate), University of Stirling, Spring 2023

Teaching Assistant, Statistics (undergraduate), University of Stirling, Spring 2020

Teaching Assistant, Microeconomics (undergraduate), University of Stirling, Autumn 2020

Instructor, Special Session on Meta-Analysis (undergraduate), University of Stirling, Autumn 2020

Teaching Assistant, Macroeconomics (undergraduate), University of Stirling, Spring 2021

Teaching Assistant, Microeconomics (undergraduate), University of Stirling, Autumn 2021

Teaching Assistant, Macroeconomics (undergraduate), University of Stirling, Spring 2022

Teaching Assistant, Macroeconomics (undergraduate), University of Stirling, Spring 2023

## PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

**Statistician, UK Department for International Development (DFID), 2014-2019**

**Roles included:**

- **Statistician, Monitoring and Evaluation Lead - South Sudan 2017-2018**  
Carrying out statistical analysis.  
Advising programme teams on monitoring and evaluation of programmes (for example [the Girls' Education in South Sudan Programme](#)).  
Training DFID South Sudan staff in programme monitoring and evaluation techniques.
- **Head of Results 2016-2017**  
Publishing [DFID results estimates](#), for example "[Number of people reached with humanitarian assistance \(food aid, cash and vouchers\)](#)".  
Leading on strategic direction of DFID's results.  
Coordinating the collection, quality assurance and analysis of results data from across DFID's programmes.
- **Data for Development team, Statistician 2014-2016**  
I worked with multilateral organisations, such as the UN and World bank, to help countries improve their statistics.  
Responsible for [£5m project](#) which helped low income countries build their national statistical systems, especially the dissemination and international comparability aspects.  
Assistant on the [International Comparison Programme](#), which funded and monitored the production of Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs). These are used in cross-country income and poverty comparisons.

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

UK Economic and Social Research Council Scholarship, 2018

## CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

2020: Scottish Graduate Programme in Economics Conference  
2021: Scottish Graduate Programme in Economics Conference  
2021: European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE)  
2021: Meta-Analysis in Economics Research Colloquium (MAER)  
2022: Scottish Economic Society Conference  
2022: European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE)  
2022: Economics of Housing (EcHo) Workshop, Royal Holloway  
2023: Scotland and Northern England Conference in Applied Microeconomics  
2024, 2025: BIOECON, Cambridge

## LANGUAGES

English (Native)

## COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS

R, Python, Stata, HTML