

ARE Faculty Profile

Catherine Morrison Paul was born in Champaign, Illinois, and grew up in Los Altos California, which is now known as part of Silicon Valley. She became interested in economics when attending UC Davis in 1972 for two quarters and pursued this interest through additional undergraduate training in economics at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia, and then at the University of British Columbia, where she received her undergraduate degree in 1977. After becoming increasingly interested in economic research while doing her undergraduate honors thesis on labor unions and strike behavior, Cathy decided to pursue her M.A. and ultimately her Ph.D in economics at the University of British Columbia, where she became more interested in natural resource and production economics. Her first teaching job was as an instructor at New York University in 1981-82. She then moved to a permanent position at Tufts University in Massachusetts, where she was on the faculty in the Department of Economics and served as chair of the department from 1994-95. Cathy joined the faculty at UC Davis as a professor of agricultural and resource economics in 1995.

Morrison Paul's research area is applied production economics. Her published articles have primarily focused on measurement and analysis of the technological and cost structure of manufacturing industries. This has included extensive work on the modeling and measurement of productivity growth, capacity utilization, investment, expectation formation, energy demand, employment decisions, output pricing and costs of regulation.

Cathy's recent work has focused on the interaction of technological or cost and market structure in food industries. For example, she is examining the stimulus for increased concentration resulting from various types of cost economies in the meat products industries in several countries. Her current research focuses on linkages among the layers and levels of the food system and resulting implications for productivity patterns and food prices, and on capacity utilization, performance and regulation in U.S. and European Union fisheries.

Morrison Paul is well-renowned in her field, and has been ranked eleventh among applied econometricians publishing in the top journals, and fifteenth in the economics profession in terms of publishing productivity in the top 36 economics journals. She serves as an associate editor for



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prestigious journals including the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* and the *Journal of Productivity Analysis*.

Cathy teaches both microeconomic theory and applied microeconomics at UC Davis. She tries to foster interest among her students in answering important questions about economic behavior and performance. She raises topical questions such as: how biotechnological advances might affect producers and consumers of food products; how regulatory changes might have driven shortages and high prices of energy; and showing how economic models might be used – or misused – to address these types of issues.

Despite the rigorous demands of her teaching and research, Cathy enjoys her free time with her husband exploring California with their travel trailer and Rottweiler, Kodi, and playing golf (or trying to). She also tries to find time to do other activities that she has enjoyed over the years, including being a teddy bear artist (hand-crafting teddy bears), exercising as much as possible (and palatable), cooking (and eating), and dabbling in tennis and other sports and games.

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