

Heidi Peltier, PhD
heidi_peltier@brown.edu

Key Skills

- Quantitative skills, including economic modelling and statistical analysis
- Research and writing for both technical and public-oriented publications
- Public speaking
- Budgeting and writing grant proposals and reports
- Organizing workshops, seminars, and other events
- Managing multi-disciplinary research projects

Employment

Present Employment

Senior Researcher, October 2021 - present

The Watson School of International and Public Affairs, Brown University

Providence, R.I.

Research Areas: Economics of War; Employment Effects of Military and Other Domestic Spending; Conversion from Military to Green Economy; Military Contracting.

Director of Programs, October 2021 - present

Costs of War Project, Brown University, Providence, R.I.

Past Employment

Director, “20 Years of War” Project, October 2019 - September 2021

Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future, Boston

University, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts

Research Assistant Professor in Political Science, October 2019 - September 2021

Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts

Research Fellow, June 2009 – September 2019

Research Assistant, Summer 2006 & Jan. 2007 – May 2009

Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Amherst, Massachusetts

Staff Economist, Oct. 2005 – August 2010

Center for Popular Economics, Amherst, Massachusetts

Program Assistant, Oct. 2005-May 2007

Center for Popular Economics, Amherst, Massachusetts

Instructor, Economics, Fall 2006
University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts
Course: Introduction to Macroeconomics

Teaching Assistant, Fall 2005-Spring 2006
University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts
Courses: Introduction to Microeconomics, Introduction to Macroeconomics

Job Developer, February 2003 – July 2004
Train and Gain, Homes for the Homeless, New York, NY

Peace Corps Volunteer, January 2000 - December 2001
Small Enterprise Development Project
Peace Corps Cameroon, Sa'a and Bafia, Cameroon, Africa

Research Assistant, January 1999 - May 1999
Connecticut Policy and Economic Council, Hartford, Connecticut

Consultancies

- United Nations Environment Programme
- United National Industrial Development Organization
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- International Labour Organization
- U.S. Department of Energy

Current Fellowships

- Climate and Community Institute
- Transition Security Project

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge
Certificate in Applied Data Science, October 2025

University of Massachusetts, Amherst
PhD, Economics, September 2010
Dissertation Title: “*The Employment Impacts of Economy-wide Investments in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency*”
Fields: Labor and Econometrics
Comprehensive Examinations: Macroeconomics and Political Economy

University of Massachusetts, Amherst
MA, Economics, May 2006

University of Connecticut, Storrs
BA, Economics and French, 1999 (summa cum laude)

Woman Scholar of the Year, 1999

Honor's Thesis: U.S./Mexico Labor Migration and Workers' Remittances

Publications

Reports and Scholarly Articles

“Confronting the Power of the Global Military Industry.” Transition Security Project, December 2025.

<https://transitionsecurity.org/confronting-the-power-of-the-global-military-industry/>

“The Relationship between Military Spending & Inequality: A Review.”

Daedalus (2025) 154 (4): 192–213.

“The Employment Impacts of Cuts to Federal Spending: Not All Cuts Are Created Equal.” *Costs of War*. Providence: The Watson School of International and Public Affairs, Brown University. September 2, 2025.

“Jobs for More Mobility and Less Mining,” *Climate and Community Institute*. February 2025.

<https://climateandcommunity.org/research/jobs-for-more-mining-and-less-mobility/>.

With Emmett Hopkins.

“We Get What We Pay For: The Cycle of Military Spending, Industry Power, and Economic Dependence,” *Costs of War*. Providence: Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University. June 8, 2023.

“Wartime Contract Spending in Afghanistan Since 2001,” *Costs of War*. Providence: Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University. August 9, 2022.

“Eight Things You Should Know About Defense Spending and Inflation,” *Costs of War*. Providence: Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University. May 3, 2022.

“The environmental costs of US militarization toward China,” *Greening U.S.-China Relations: A Symposium*. Washington, D.C.: Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft. September 18, 2020.

“The Growth of the ‘Camo Economy’ and the Commercialization of the Post-9/11 Wars,” *Costs of War*. Providence and Boston: Watson Institute at Brown University and Pardee Center at Boston University. June 30, 2020.

“Employment Impacts of Conservation Spending.” Research Brief. Boston: Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future, Boston University. May 2020.

“The Cost of Debt-Financed War: Public Debt and Rising Interest for Post-9/11 War Spending,” *Costs of War*. Providence, Rhode Island: Watson Institute, Brown University. January 2020.

“Cut Military Spending, Fund Green Manufacturing,” *Costs of War*. Providence, Rhode Island: Watson Institute, Brown University. November 2019.

“War Spending and Lost Opportunities,” *Costs of War*. Providence, Rhode Island: Watson Institute, Brown University. March 2019.

“Kuznets, Kaya, and Shapley: The economic and energetic determinants of carbon emissions and the implications for development and environmental policy,” PERI Working Paper Number 474. Amherst, MA: Political Economy Research Institute. November 2018.

“A Green New Deal for Washington State.” Amherst, MA: Political Economy Research Institute. December 2017. With Robert Pollin and Jeannette Wicks-Lim.

“Clean Energy Investments for New York State: An Economic Framework for Promoting Climate Stabilization and Expanding Good Job Opportunities.” Amherst, MA: Political Economy Research Institute. November 2017. With Robert Pollin and Jeannette Wicks-Lim.

“The Job Opportunity Cost of War,” *Costs of War*. Providence, Rhode Island: Watson Institute, Brown University. May 2017.

“Green Versus Brown: Comparing the Employment Impacts of Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Fossil Fuels using an Input-Output Model,” *Economic Modelling*, Vol 61, pp. 439-447. February 2017.

“An Egalitarian Clean Energy Investment Program for Spain.” Working Paper. Amherst, MA: Political Economy Research Institute. August 2015. With Robert Pollin and Shouvik Chakraborty.

Global Green Growth: Clean Energy Industrial Investments and Expanding Job Opportunities. Vienna, Austria and Seoul, Korea: United Nations Industrial Development Organization and Global Green Growth Institute. July 2015. With Robert Pollin, James Heintz, and Shouvik Chakraborty.

“The Job Opportunity Cost of War,” *Costs of War*. Providence, Rhode Island: Watson Institute, Brown University. December 2014.

Green Growth: A U.S. Program for Controlling Climate Change and Expanding Job Opportunities. Washington, D.C. and Amherst, MA: Center for American Progress and Political Economy Research Institute. September 2014. With Robert Pollin, James Heintz, and Bracken Hendricks.

“The Employment Impacts of a Low-Carbon Fuel Standard for Minnesota.” Amherst, MA: Political Economy Research Institute. September 2012.

“Military Spending and Jobs in Massachusetts.” Amherst, MA: Political Economy Research Institute. May 2012. With Prasanna Parthasarathi.

“Analysis of Job Creation and Energy Cost Savings from Building Energy Rating and Disclosure Policy.” Amherst, MA: Political Economy Research Institute and Washington, D.C.: Institute for Market Transformation. March 2012.

“The Economic Consequences of Cutting the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.” Amherst, MA: Political Economy Research Institute and Washington, D.C.: Center for American Progress. March 2012. With Jeffrey Thompson.

“Creating a Clean-Energy Economy: How Investments in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Can Create Jobs in a Sustainable Economy,” *The European Financial Review*, Dec 2011/Jan 2012.

“19 Million Jobs for U.S. Workers: The Impact of Channeling \$1.4 Trillion in Excess Liquid Asset Holdings into Productive Investments.” Amherst, MA: Political Economy Research Institute. December 2011. With Robert Pollin, James Heintz, and Jeannette Wicks-Lim.

“The U.S. Employment Effects of Military and Domestic Spending Priorities: 2011 Update.” Amherst, MA: Political Economy Research Institute. November 2011. With Robert Pollin.

“Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure: A National Study of Employment Impacts.” Amherst, MA: Political Economy Research Institute. June 2011.

“Employment Estimates for Energy-Efficiency Retrofits of Commercial Buildings.” Amherst, MA: Political Economy Research Institute. June 2011.

“New Jobs – Cleaner Air: Employment Effects Under Planned Changes to the EPA’s Air Pollution Rules.” Amherst, MA: Political Economy Research Institute. February 2011. With James Heintz and Ben Zipperer.

“Generating Jobs through State Employer Tax Credits: Is there a Better Way?” Amherst, MA: Political Economy Research Institute. Working Paper 219. April 2010. With Jeff Thompson.

“The Impact of IMPACT: Creating Jobs in Ohio.” Policy Matters Ohio. February 2010. With Wendy Patton of PMO.

“The U.S. Employment Effects of Military and Domestic Spending Priorities: An Updated Analysis.” Amherst, MA: Political Economy Research Institute. January 2010. With Robert Pollin.

Green Prosperity: How Clean-Energy Policies Can Fight Poverty and Raise Living Standards in the United States, Political Economy Research Institute with Green for All and Natural Resources Defense Council, June 2009. With Robert Pollin and Jeannette Wicks-Lim.

The Economic Benefits of Investing in Clean Energy: How the Economic Stimulus Program and New Legislation Can Boost U.S. Economic Growth and Employment, Political Economy Research Institute and Center for American Progress, June 2009. With Robert Pollin and James Heintz.

Building the Green Economy: Employment Effects of Green Energy Investments for Ontario, Political Economy Research Institute, May 2009. With Robert Pollin.

New York State Park System: An Asset to the Empire State, Political Economy Research Institute, March 2009. With James Heintz and Robert Pollin.

How Infrastructure Investments Support the U.S. Economy: Employment, Productivity and Growth, Political Economy Research Institute and Alliance for American Manufacturing, January 2009. With James Heintz and Robert Pollin.

Green Recovery – A Program to Create Good Jobs and Start Building a Low-Carbon Economy, prepared by PERI under commission by the Center for American Progress, September 2008. With Robert Pollin, James Heintz, and Helen Scharber.

“The Employment Effects of Downsizing the U.S. Military.” PERI Working Paper No. 152. November 2007. With Robert Pollin.

“The U.S. Employment Effects of Military and Domestic Spending Priorities.” PERI Working Paper No. 151. October 2007. With Robert Pollin.

Books

Creating a Clean-Energy Economy: How Investments in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Can Create Jobs in a Sustainable Economy. Lambert Academic Publishing, 2011, 138 pages.

Book Chapters

"Introduction to Neoliberalism," Chapter 1 in *Solidarity Economy: Building Alternatives for People and Planet*, edited by Jenna Allard, Carl Davidson and Julie Matthaai, Chicago, Changemaker Publications, 2008.

World Employment Social Outlook 2018: Greening with Jobs. Geneva: International Labour Office. May 2018. (Contributor to full report; Author of U.S. Chapter.)

Columns and Popular Press

“The Myth Behind Increased Military Spending,” *InkStick Media*. July 26, 2023.
<https://inkstickmedia.com/the-myth-behind-increased-military-spending/>

“The Real Winners of the US War in Afghanistan,” *InkStick Media*. September 7, 2022.
<https://inkstickmedia.com/the-real-winners-of-the-us-war-in-afghanistan/>

“What the Pentagon Doesn’t Need,” *InkStick Media*. May 5, 2022.
<https://inkstickmedia.com/what-the-pentagon-doesnt-need/>

“It’s time to shift from the ‘war on terror’ to a war on climate change.” *The Guardian*. November 7, 2021.
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/nov/07/its-time-to-shift-from-the-war-on-terror-to-a-war-on-climate-change>

“Will the War in Afghanistan Really End? The Numbers Suggest Otherwise.” *The Boston Globe*. May 4, 2021.
<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/05/04/opinion/will-war-afghanistan-really-end-numbers-suggest-otherwise/>

“The ‘Camo Economy’ Hides Military Costs and Exacerbates Inequality.” *Inequality.org*. July 7, 2020. <https://inequality.org/research/military-contractors-inequality/>

“Conservation could create jobs post-pandemic.” *The Conversation*. June 18, 2020.
<https://theconversation.com/conservation-could-create-jobs-post-pandemic-140505>

“Clinton says the ‘clean energy economy’ will create millions of jobs. Can it?” *The Conversation*. October 2016.

“Benefits of a Slimmer Pentagon,” *The Nation*, May 28, 2012, with Robert Pollin.

“Don’t Drive Off the Fiscal Cliff,” *Dollars & Sense*, September/October 2012.

“Living up to Standards: Transportation Emissions and the Renewable Fuel Standards,” *Dollars & Sense*, March/April 2012.

“The Costs of Extreme Weather: Climate *Inaction* is Expensive – and Inequitable.” *Dollars & Sense*, November/December 2011.

“The EPA: A Phantom Menace” *Dollars & Sense*, June 2011.

“The Case for a National Infrastructure Bank,” *Dollars & Sense*, November 2010.

“Is Military Keynesianism the Solution?” *Dollars & Sense*, March 2010.

“Another Road to Recovery: On Environment, Living Standards, and Jobs, Transportation is a Winner,” *Dollars & Sense*, October 2009.

“The Wages of Peace,” *The Nation*, Vol. 286, No. 12, March 31, 2008. Co-authored with Robert Pollin.

Fellowships and Awards

John Kenneth Galbraith Prize, UMass Amherst Dept. of Economics, Dec. 2008

Seymour Melman Fellowship, Institute for Policy Studies, Spring 2007

Graduate School Fellowship, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 2004-2005

Graduate Studies Fellowship, Political Economy Research Institute, 2004-2005

Woman Scholar of the Year, University of Connecticut, 1999

Other Service and Related Activities

Board Member, Institute for Policy Studies, Washington D.C., 2017-present

Chair of the Board, National Priorities Project, Northampton, MA, 2016-2017

Treasurer of the Board, National Priorities Project, Northampton, MA, 2014-2016

External or Peer Reviewer

- *Energy Economics*
- *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*
- *Public Administration Review*
- *International Labour Review*, International Labour Office, Geneva
- *Taylor & Francis* (book manuscript reviews)
- *Review of Radical Political Economics*
- *Peace Review*
- *The Extractive Industries and Society*
- *Daedalus*
- *Cambridge University Press*