UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESIS COFFEE HOUR

— Please join us —

2:00–3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, December 2  
Zoom Meeting

Zoom Link: https://ucdavis.zoom.us/j/98172791914

Meet the 2020–21 Undergraduate Honors Thesis Students in Managerial Economics and Economics!

For more information contact:  
Kristin Kiesel (thesis coordinator)  
e-mail: kiesel@ucdavis.edu  
Office: SSH 2147
Christine Jun How

Thesis topic:
I am using regression analyses to explore achievement gaps amongst STEM student body in higher education, especially in light of COVID-19. In my analysis, I am focusing on differences in gender, mitigated by socio-economic status and other factors that potentially contribute to the gap, and I hope to draw inferences that can help in finding solutions to address the achievement gap in higher education.

Faculty Advisor: Jeffrey Williams and Kristin Kiesel

Laurel Krovetz

Thesis topic:
This paper will seek to assess the nature of impact size heterogeneity in a business development program in Kenya that provides women with business grants along with training services, mentor support, and health insurance in order to empower women in business, as well as to promote poverty graduation. Using pre-treatment and midline data on income and mental health, this paper will use OLS and quantile regression analysis to observe treatment effect heterogeneity. The goal of this paper is to determine the relationship between depression, poverty, and impact size as well as the role that depression and poverty play as driving forces of impact heterogeneity.

Faculty Advisor: Michael Carter

Qiuying (Britney) Lin

Thesis topic:
My topic is to examine in what ways Chinese commercial banks have adapted to the Covid-19 pandemic by transitioning to online services. I plan to study the change in Chinese banking service and structure by interviewing the managers of different banks. In addition, bank financial reports, summary of deposits, and deposit market share reports are also my data source. I will look into the relationship between banks and local businesses, as well as the relationship between banks and individuals in this research.

Faculty Advisor: Colin Carter
Managerial Economics (Agricultural and Resource Economics):

Kate Tran
Thesis topic:
The model minority is a minority demographic that is perceived to gain higher levels of socioeconomic than the average population. Due to the model minority myth, many Americans neglect the fact that Asians still face racism in America. Through my study, I hope to show how Asians still face discrimination and racism, which is especially apparent during the rise of COVID-19. I plan to create a regression model to see if there is any correlation between the numbers of guests dining at restaurants and whether the restaurant is an Asian restaurant. I will use reservation websites, such as Open Tables and Yelp, to gather data on the number of customers at restaurants in the United States.

Faculty Advisor: Aaron Smith

Zhenzhi Wang
Thesis topic:
Soft commodities - biological products that are grown are largely affected by extreme weather events, such as frosts, droughts, floods, hurricanes, and El Nino etc. These extreme weathers may sharply reduce crop yields and significantly impact commodity prices in the futures markets. Therefore, it is crucial for us to understand the impacts of extreme weather events on commodity prices. In this thesis, I will focus on analyzing the effects on sugar and coffee prices in the past 50 years.

Faculty Advisor: Colin Carter

Kate Thompson
Thesis topic:
I am researching the effects climate change will have on California’s Market Squid fishery. The species is heavily impacted by changing ocean conditions; with increasing ocean temperatures, the species' population will fall and experience range shifts. Through examining multiple climate change scenarios, I will analyze the potential economic effects climate change will have on the fishery. I will tackle this by comparing previous landing data and associated ex-vessel revenue with ocean temperatures. I will evaluate, using current climate change data, how revenue for this fishery will be impacted in the coming decades.

Faculty Advisor: Jim Sanchirico
Miranda Willard

Thesis topic:

Maize is a staple crop in East African countries, such as Mozambique and Tanzania. It is a vital crop to both income and food security in these countries. Farmers are largely dependent on crops like maize, and the harmful nature of drought stress creates a large threat to these crops. My research will look into whether the introduction of drought-tolerant (DT) maize will provide a significant yield advantage to farmers in practice in Mozambique and Tanzania under different types of drought, such as early-season drought, mid-season drought, and full-season drought. The research aims to determine if DT maize provides a yield advantage for East African farmers that is worth the investment in this new technology.

Faculty Advisor: Steve Boucher
ECONOMICS:

Tomer Fidelman
Thesis topic:
This paper examines the implications of economic downturn, generated by specific types of asset price bubbles, on income shares of individuals at the top and at the bottom of the distribution, across 17 advanced economies, from 1945 onward. The preliminary results indicate that the top and bottom income groups respond to different asset price bubbles and recovery patterns that challenge current consensus. These findings suggest that policymakers may want to consider a tailored response in dealing with asset price bubbles, considering the varying impact different income groups experience. Lastly, the analysis offers a nuanced view of what high-income inequality can mean for a nation undergoing economic decline.

Faculty Advisors: Giovanni Peri

Ariel Zhengqian He
Thesis topic:
I will analyze the correlation between governance and speed of recovery in the aftermath of two global crises: the Asian Financial Crisis of 1998-2003, and the Great Recession of 2008-2013. I will use data on six different governance variables, including Political Stability, Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality, Rule of Law, Control of Corruption, and Voice and Accountability, from the Worldwide Governance Indicator by the World Bank as explanatory variables. The dependent variable will be an efficiency of recovery indicator using the summation of output gap in five years following a crisis. The ultimate goal is to check if any institutional quality factors have a significant partial correlation with economic recovery.

Faculty Advisors: Giovanni Peri

Katie Laursen
Thesis topic:
My thesis investigates the effect of environmental circumstances, specifically pollution, on voter turnout. Past studies have linked rainy election days to a decrease in voter turnout. I hope to see if increased air pollution also leads to fewer people showing up on election day to avoid exposing themselves to air pollution while waiting in line. With climate change leading to more extreme weather events, it will be interesting to see how much environmental circumstances on election day affect voter turnout. Furthermore, if turnout decreases as a result of these weather events, which voters are more impacted, and does either party benefit? Moreover, I will investigate whether expanding mail-in voting and early voting as alternatives to going to a polling place would reduce the impact on pollution on election turnout.

Faculty Advisors: Giovanni Peri
**ECONOMICS:**

**Shannon Meyer**

**Thesis topic:**
In this paper, I consider the case of the U.S. manufacturing sector and compare the extent to which regional manufacturing employment has been affected by productivity booms from international partners, particularly China, to the effects that can be traced to changes in stability between trade relations between the United States and China. Specifically, I augment a regional analysis of the effects of import exposure on regional U.S. manufacturing employment developed by Autor, Dorn, and Hanson (2015) by adapting a measure developed by Pierce and Schott (2016), which captures the level of protection, that uncertain trade relations implicitly offered to certain U.S. industries, that was lost after the U.S. extended Permanent Normal Trade Relations to China. The results will provide a framework for understanding the relative importance of the stability of trade relations in local employment outcomes compared to the effect of international productivity shocks which are out of control of U.S. policymakers.

**Faculty Advisors: Giovanni Peri**

**Vanessa Nguyen**

**Thesis topic:**
As women’s labor force participation rates have increased since the start of the Industrial Revolution, many women today strive to have it all: a fulfilling career and family life. Despite the fact that many women are full-time working professionals now, childcare and family expectations still fall largely on them. My research makes use of linear probability models as well as multiple regression models to analyze how women’s life satisfaction is affected by the presence and interaction of career and family, as well as how “family-friendly” their jobs are in terms of flexibility of hours and presence of other women. If certain job conditions are correlated with increased satisfaction with life, career, and family for women, we can gain insight into what kind of labor policies might help create a more equitable workforce for women trying to balance a satisfying career with a modern family.

**Faculty Advisor: Giovanni Peri**
Cecilia Rodarte

Thesis topic:
In an effort to ensure that students graduating high school are academically prepared for college, some districts across California have incorporated the A-G requirements into their high school graduation requirements. The A-G requirements are courses in seven different subject areas that are required to be completed with a grade of a “C” or better in order to be eligible to attend a four-year public university in California, such as a University of California (UC) or a California State University (CSU). My research will be on how requiring students to complete the A-G requirements in order to graduate from high school has impacted educational outcomes like high school graduation rates and college enrollment.

Faculty Advisors: Giovanni Peri

Xianzheng Sun

Thesis topic:
The 1959-1961 famine of China has great salience in history. Many studies have been conducted on its consequences in various aspects, yet little about the famine’s effects on economic attitudes are known. A large literature has documented that exposure to adverse experiences significantly alters the attitudes of the survivors, especially for those who were exposed early in life. This project aims to examine the long-lasting effects of China’s 1959-1961 famine on the survivors’ economic attitudes focusing on prenatal and early childhood exposure. Based on the individuals’ birth cohort, I define the type of exposure they have experienced for those who are born between 1955 and 1962 and compare their outcomes to cohorts born after the famine to trace the effects of the famine.

Faculty Advisors: Giovanni Peri
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