

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESIS COFFEE HOUR



— Please join us —

2:00–3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 14
Main Conference Room, SSH 2102

(Coffee and light refreshment provided)

Meet the 2018–19
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



Jieyi Chen

Thesis topic:

The investor sentiment is one of the key influences in the financial market due to its strong relationship with the stock returns. This study quantifies the investor sentiment through companies' related searches on Google Trend and compares it with the stock's holding period return. This research analyzes 20 largest companies in the world by its market value because the effects might be magnified due to the size of the corporation.

Faculty Advisor: Jens Hilscher



Xi Chen

Thesis topic:

Many studies from Environmental Sciences have provided evidence on the correlation between extreme weather and climate change. Natural disasters resulted from extreme weather conditions, such as hurricanes, floods, drought, and extreme temperatures can lead to direct economics loss on the local agricultural sector. I am more interested in whether there would be a consequent indirect loss on the stock performances of the related industry followed by the natural disasters. By examining the relationship between natural disasters and stock performances in the relevant industry, I hope to get an implication of the way climate change impact the consumer expectations of the agricultural companies.

Faculty Advisor: Jeffrey Williams



Adam Einbinder

Thesis topic:

This research study aims to assess the correlation between the concentration of cannabis retailers in any given California city and the respective prices for cannabis flower. Utilizing license data from California's Bureau of Cannabis Control and retail price data from popular cannabis dispensary search websites, this study will attempt to corroborate whether or not traditional economic theory on competition can be applied to the state's retail cannabis industry. This information will be examined in tandem with current statewide and city regulations to see if strict municipal ordinances are to blame for the slow growth of California's cannabis market.

Faculty Advisor: Aaron Smith

MANAGERIAL ECONOMICS (AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS):



Emma Maloney

Thesis topic:

I am a managerial economics major, with a focus in international business, and a Spanish minor. My thesis topic is a combination of these aspects. I am interested in the productivity and economic growth of employees who are multilingual, both in a national market and within international markets as well. I am personally connected to this topic as I have become fluent in Spanish while studying in Barcelona for 6 months this past year. I am eager to learn more about how bilingualism can positively affect careers.

Faculty Advisor: Jim Chalfant



Izaac Ornelas

Thesis topic:

The mean age of farm operators in 2012 was about 58 years old, which resumes a trend that has been going on for over thirty years. In 2012, there were about 172,000 farmers who have been working on their farms for less than five years, which is about 52,000 less (-23% decrease) than in 2007. Due to this, I wish to understand if undergraduate students are becoming agricultural majors. I wish to understand why students are (or are not) going into agricultural occupations, especially when there are expected to be a surplus of jobs in the future.

Faculty Advisor: Ed Taylor

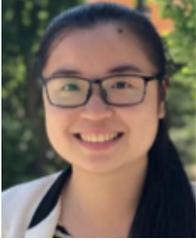


Olivia Rockeman

Thesis topic:

My research will focus on the relationship between sales of gluten free products and the portrayal of a gluten free diet in the media. More specifically, I will explore whether or not the demand for commodities like wheat, rice and barely are effected by the 'gluten free' trend. I am interested in this topic because it will reflect how the media, in the form of news and social media, can influence consumers eating habits and purchasing behaviors. I hypothesize that the portrayal of a gluten free diet as healthy in the news and media increased sales in the sector and encouraged non-Celiac consumers to adopt the trend.

**Faculty Advisors: Kristin Kiesel
and Tim Beatty**



Minhong Yang

Thesis topic:

Marked by a severe lack of affordable homes and apartments for middle-class families, a full-fledged housing affordability crisis has gripped the Bay Area. Workers are forced to look for housing further from economic centers in search of affordability, and employers across all parts of the economy are struggling to attract and retain workers. While demand has been the leading cause of housing shortage in the Bay Area, I'm more interested in seeing how different policy interventions can impact the affordability and supply of housing for individuals and families in the region. After all, policies may restrict or expand housing supply, and provide access to below-market-rate housing for a subset of the population that would otherwise be burdened by costs.

Faculty Advisor: Tu Jarvis



Ziyang Zhou

Thesis topic:

The thesis question for my research paper is whether enforcing the one-child policy increased the average education level in China. I would like to compare average education levels in China's rural and urban areas. Unlike families in urban area, most of the families in the rural area have more than one child, because if the first child of a rural family is a girl, the family is allowed to have a second child. I would like to research if the increase differs by gender and location. Finally, if women's average education level does increase more than men's, I would like to see how this increase contributed to the women's social status in China, and how the gender equity problem has improved after the one-child policy has enforced.

Faculty Advisor: Ashish Shenoy

ECONOMICS:



Kristen Cui

Thesis topic:

In recent years, STEM jobs have boomed at a rapid pace. However, the percentage of people graduating with STEM majors and filling in these roles are lagging. In my research, I'd like to investigate what I see is an "invisible barrier" to choosing STEM. Particularly, I'm interested in looking at how exposure to technology during childhood affects STEM major choice later.

By examining the relationship between technology in the classroom setting and STEM major choice, I hope to pinpoint causes of major choice and contribute to the pre-existing literature on this topic.

**Faculty Advisors: Giovanni Peri
and Marianne Page**



Kusha Gupta

Thesis topic:

I am interested in finding out how one's peers affect their academic performance. Additionally, my focus will be on analyzing cohorts that are not formed by natural selection. Instead, they have been manipulated with the notion of forming optimal peer groups and classroom structures. The affect of peer, mainly a student's rank in a class, might play a huge role

in their performance individually. Taking inspiration from Bertoni's, my research will focus on analyzing ordinal ranking's affect on student's academic performance when they belong to non-naturally selected cohorts.

**Faculty Advisors: Giovanni Peri
and Scott Carrell**



Wendi He

Thesis topic:

When China imposed retaliatory tariffs of 25 percent on U.S. agricultural imports, cargoes on the Atlantic Ocean were the first to experience China's tariff pinch. To avoid tariffs, some cargo ships travel over their recommended speed to arrive in China within the assigned time, while others anchored to other countries. In a larger sense, China's heavy dependence

on soybean import enables its imposed tariff to ripple through the world's future market. The U.S. soybean future prices plunged into a decade low level amid investors' aversion for a demand shock. My research aims to gauge investors' behavioral response to the tariff on soybean by measuring the deviation of U.S. and Brazil soybean's current future price correlation from their original price correlation.

**Faculty Advisors: Giovanni Peri
and Aaron Smith**

ECONOMICS:



Sheila Jamshidi

Thesis topic:

My topic is to look for any gender difference on the hours worked per year as a response to minimum wage changes from 1990 to 2012. My method is to regress the annual hours worked by an individual on minimum wage interacted with gender in a state while controlling for other factors that may affect employment.

If so, assuming that the minimum wages are above the market clearing wage, the changes in hours worked can be a response from employers (demanders of labor) and not the workers. If gender differences exist, this might be a good indicator of statistical discrimination (hiring groups based on averages in the absence of any clear signals).

**Faculty Advisors: Giovanni Peri
and Jenna Stearns**



Joseph Melkonian

Thesis topic:

Remittances, international monetary flows sent by immigrant workers to their home countries, have a significant impact on developing economies. This international financial flow exceeds official development aid and has proven more resilient than foreign direct investment in the face of recent economic crises.

I am researching the impact of household characteristics such as education levels and family size on remittance flows for various immigrant communities in the United States.

Faculty Advisor: Giovanni Peri



Mira Pranav

Thesis topic:

Competition has been found to reduce average prices in the market. But, firms have also been found to engage in price discrimination in attempt to maximize profits. The literature finds contradictory findings regarding competition's effect on the ways firms engage in different forms of price discrimination.

My study will look at the relationship between competition and second-degree price discrimination—specifically, quantity discounts ('more for less' deals) and quality discounts ('upgrade for a fraction of the price' type deals). I will look at the Brazilian rental car market, which offers evidence of both of these discount strategies, using data collected through web-scraping. The study will seek to measure and contribute to the debate surrounding competition's effect on the extent to which firms engage in quantity and quality discounting.

**Faculty Advisors: Giovanni Peri
and Andre Boik**

ECONOMICS:



Betty Wu

Thesis topic:

Economic recessions have a profound and long-term impact on societies. In my research, I am interested in looking at how exposures to economic recessions during childhood affect one's educational attainment in the future. More specifically, I want to see whether high unemployment rates in childhood has an effect on the probability that a person completes high school by the age of 25 from 2000 to 2016. The relationship between the unemployment rate and high school graduation rate allows us to see that long-term impact of recessions on education.

**Faculty Advisors: Giovanni Peri
and Marianne Bitler**



Jianfeng Zhuang

Thesis topic:

It is well-known that in developing countries, more people are in agricultural sector, which has lower productivity comparing to industry and services. This fact has led a large literature in developing economics to argue that reallocating labor from agriculture to non-agriculture would increase aggregate output in poor countries, but that barriers to the mobility of labor prevent this structural transformation from happening. China has a unique system of household registration, Hukou, that has significant effect in preventing people to move out of agricultural sector. Throughout the research, I would like to discover how large is the barrier of structural transformation between agricultural sector vs. non-agricultural sector in China, and what portion of this barrier can be explained by the Hukou system.

Faculty Advisors: Giovanni Peri

MANAGERIAL ECONOMICS STUDENTS



Jieyi Chen



Xi Chen



*Adam
Einbinder*



*Emma
Maloney*



Izaac Ornelas



*Olivia
Rockeman*



Minhon Yang



Ziyang Zhou

ECONOMICS STUDENTS



Kristen Cui



Kusha Gupta



Wendi He



*Sheila
Jamshidi*



*Joseph
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Betty Wu



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