

STEPHEN PITTS

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Department of Applied Economics | 231 Ruttan Hall | 1994 Buford Avenue | St. Paul, MN 55108

Education

University of Minnesota—Twin Cities (St. Paul, MN) **2020-present**

PhD in Applied Economics; Fields: Agricultural Development and Labor Economics

PhD minor: Geographic Information Science

University of San Francisco (San Francisco, CA) **2015-2018**

MS in International and Development Economics

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University (Berkeley, CA) **2014-2018**

Master of Divinity; Master of Theology (Concentration: Ethics and Social Theory)

Loyola University of Chicago (Chicago, IL) **2008-2011**

MA in Philosophy

University of Oklahoma (Norman, OK) **2002-2006**

BA in Mathematics (Japanese minor) and BS in Computer Science (with honors)

Junior Year Abroad at Ritsumeikan University (Kyoto, Japan)

Publications

S. Pitts, “The role of the farmer and their cooperative in supply chain governance: a Latin American small producer perspective,” *Handbook of Cooperatives*, eds. Michael Boland and Matthew Eliot, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2023, pp 172-184.

S. Pitts, “Value Chain Integration as an Alternative to Fair Trade for Chiapas Coffee Farmers,” *Entrepreneurship and Development in the 21st Century*, eds. Sergio Bruno and Cole Scanlon, Emerald Publishing, 2019, pp 103-138.

Work in Progress

What is a Jesuit approach to economic development? Lessons from Chiapas

Side-Selling: Experimental Evidence from Mexico (with Chris Boyd Leon and Grant Xavier Storer). AAEA 2022-23 Invited Poster Session. Under review.

Can honey production serve as a coping strategy for coffee producers? Evidence from Mexico (with Chris Boyd Leon and Grant Xavier Storer). AAEA 2022-23 Invited Poster Session.

“Where You Go Depends on Who you Know: The Effect of Social Networks on Mexican Internal Migration” (Second Year Paper).

Teaching Experience

University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics

Instructor:	Microeconomics of International Development	Spring 2024
	Applications of Excel in Economics	Fall 2023
TA	Econometric Analysis I/II (PhD)	Fall 2021, Fall 2022
	Econometric Analysis III/IV (PhD)	Spring 2023
	Principles of Microeconomics (undergraduate)	Spring 2022

University of San Francisco, St Ignatius Institute **2015-2016**
Designed and taught three undergraduate seminar courses
“Intimacy in a Virtual World”, “Science and Religion”, “Epic Stories”

Jesuit College Preparatory School (Dallas, TX) **2011-2014**
Instructor: Algebra 1, Honors Geometry, Algebra 2 (team leader), Honors Precalculus

Grants and Awards

Ralph K Morris Foundation	
Elroy Webster Cooperative Studies (\$2500)	2023-24
University of Minnesota	
Department of Applied Economics Travel Grant (\$1000)	Summer 2023
CIFAP Travel Grant (\$1000)	Summer 2023
Center for International Food and Agricultural Policy (\$25000)	2022-23
Office of Provost Summer Research Stipend (\$6300)	Summer 2021
Office of Provost Summer Research Stipend (\$6300)	Summer 2022
Department Teaching Assistant Award for 1000-level classes	2021-22
Santa Clara University	
Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education (\$1000)	Fall 2022
Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education (\$1500)	Summer 2022
Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education (\$500)	Summer 2017
Markula Center for Applied Ethics Travel Grant (\$750)	Spring 2015
US Central and Southern Province, Society of Jesus	
Social Ministries Grant (\$1100)	Summer 2017
University of San Francisco, Department of Economics	
Field Research Grant (\$1500)	Summer 2017

Fellowships

University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics	
Dr. Dale C. Dahl and Jean Kinsey Graduate Fellowship	2020-21
University of San Francisco, Department of Economics	
Department Merit Scholarship (\$2500)	2017-18
Department Merit Scholarship (\$1000)	2016-17
McDermott Scholarship (full tuition)	2015-16; 2016-17

Department Service (UMN Applied Economics)

2022-23: Graduate student member of Priorities Committee and Graduate Committee

Professional Service

2023: Referee for *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*
2022: Referee for *Handbook of Cooperatives, American Journal of Agricultural Economics*

Invited Professional Presentations

- 2023: CREDO Economics and Catholic Social Teaching Virtual Workshop,
University of Minnesota Applied Economics Student Seminar, Agricultural and Applied
Economics Association (AAEA) Meetings, Jesuit Scholarship in a Secular Age,
Association for Economics Research of Indigenous Peoples (virtual)
- 2022: University of San Francisco Department of Economics (virtual),
University of Minnesota Applied Economics Student Seminar
- 2021: AJCU Conference on International Education (virtual)

Invited Popular Presentations

- 2023: Jesuit Novitiate of St. Albert Hurtado,
Jesuit Friends and Alumni Network (St. Paul, MN)
- 2021: Encuentro Project (El Paso, TX)
- 2020: Pioneers 21 (El Paso, TX)
- 2019: Archdiocesan Peace & Justice Commission (St. Louis, MO),
Encuentro Project (El Paso, TX)

Mentoring

I mentored the following five students who did fieldwork in Chiapas, Mexico.

Loyola University Chicago

Calista Cardenas (BS, 2024): Film and Video Studies

Santa Clara University

Chris Lane (BS, 2024): BS Sociology, Spanish, Food Systems

University of San Francisco

Grant Storer (MS, 2023): Inter American Development Bank

Paolo Bicchieri (MA, 2021): Vox Media LLC

Melissa Vonmary Sovik (MA, 2020): Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

Relevant Professional Experience

Associate Pastor at Sacred Heart Church (El Paso, TX): Fall 2018-Spring 2020

Associate Pastor at Jesuit Mission of Bachajón (Chiapas, Mexico): Summer 2018

Research Associate at Jesuit Social Research Institute (New Orleans, LA): Summer 2015

Volunteer at Adachi International Academy (Tokyo, Japan): Summer 2010, Summer 2013

Volunteer at Casa de los Pobres (Tijuana, BC, Mexico): Spring 2008

Language and Technical Proficiency

Computer: R, SQL, GIS, Python, Stata, JavaScript

Languages: English (native), Spanish (proficient), Portuguese (intermediate), Japanese (rusty)

Personal

Member of US Central and Southern Province of Society of Jesus

Entrance: August 15, 2006

First Vows: August 15, 2008

Ordination as a Roman Catholic Priest: June 10, 2017