Stephen Pitts, S.J.

Wade Jesuit Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, Marquette University

Affiliate, Collaborative for Econometrics and Integrated Development Studies, University of Notre Dame

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Academic Appointments

Wade Jesuit Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, Marquette University 2025–present

Affiliate, Collaborative for Econometrics and Integrated Development Studies (CEIDS), Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame 2023–present

Education

Ph.D., Applied Economics, University of Minnesota–Twin Cities
Fields: Agricultural Development, Labor Economics. *Ph.D. minor:* GIScience 2025

M.S., International and Development Economics, University of San Francisco 2018

Th.M., Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University *(Ethics and Social Theory)* 2018

M.Div., Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University 2017

M.A., Philosophy, Loyola University Chicago 2011

B.S., Computer Science *(summa cum laude)*, University of Oklahoma 2006

B.A., Mathematics *(Japanese minor)*, University of Oklahoma 2006

Research Fields

Agricultural Economics; Development Economics; Labor Economics; Migration; Social Networks; Latin America; Catholic Social Teaching.

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Pitts, Stephen, Chris M. Boyd, and Grant X. Storer (2025). "Unpacking Side-Selling: Experimental Evidence from Rural Mexico." *Agricultural Economics* 56 (6): 1119–1149. doi:10.1111/agec.70051

Book Chapters

Pitts, Stephen (2023). "The Role of the Farmer and Their Cooperative in Supply Chain Governance: A Latin American Small Producer Perspective." In *Handbook of Research on Cooperatives and Mutuals*, eds. Michael Boland and Matthew Eliot. Edward Elgar Publishing, pp. 172–184. doi:10.4337/9781802202618.00019

Pitts, Stephen (2019). "Value Chain Integration as an Alternative to Fair Trade for Chiapas Coffee Farmers." In *Entrepreneurship and Development in the 21st Century*, eds. Sergio Bruno and Cole Scanlon. Emerald Publishing, pp. 103–138. doi:10.1108/978-1-78973-233-720191007

Invited Book Reviews

Pitts, Stephen (2024). "Review of *Research Ethics in Applied Economics: A Practical Guide*." *Faith & Economics* 83, Fall 2024.

Pitts, Stephen (2016). "Review of *The Age of Sustainable Development*." *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education* 49, September 2016.

Working Papers

"Coworker Networks and Labor Misallocation" (with Lorenzo Aldeco Leo and Juan Pablo Arredondo Ambriz). *Revising.*

"Where You Go Depends on Who You Know: Social Networks as Determinants of Mexican Internal Migration." *Draft available.*

"Sweet and Timely Income? Beekeeping and Seasonal Food Insecurity in Chiapas, Mexico" (with Grant X. Storer, Jesse Anttila-Hughes, and Chris M. Boyd). *Under review.*

Research in Progress

"The Causal Impacts of Geographic Targeting on Local Poverty Reduction: Evidence from Mexico" (with Alejandro Estefan). *Data analysis in progress.*

"Later, Not Lower: Price Rigidity and the Risk Smallholders Bear" (with Jesse Anttila-Hughes). *Data analysis in progress.*

"Who Pays for Quality? Licensing, Market Exit, and Access to Technical Education in Peru" (with Paul Glewwe and Gabe Velez). *Data analysis in progress.*

Grants and Funding

Marquette University, Center for Applied Economics Summer Stipend ($4,000)	2026
Marquette University, Center for International Education Course Development Grant ($2,000)	2026
Catholic Community Foundation of Minnesota ($10,000)	2024–26
University of Minnesota, Agricultural Experiment Station Summer Stipend ($6,300)	2024
Ralph K. Morris Foundation ($2,500)	2023–24
University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics Travel Grant ($1,000)	2023
University of Minnesota, CIFAP Travel Grant ($1,000)	2023
University of Minnesota, Center for International Food and Agricultural Policy ($25,000)	2022–23
Santa Clara University, Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education ($1,500; $1,000)	2022
University of Minnesota, Office of the Provost Summer Research Stipend ($6,300)	2021, 2022
Society of Jesus, U.S. Central and Southern Province — Social Ministries Grant ($1,100)	2017
Santa Clara University, Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education ($500)	2017
University of San Francisco, Department of Economics Field Research Grant ($1,500)	2017
Santa Clara University, Markkula Center for Applied Ethics Travel Grant ($750)	2015

Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

University of Minnesota, Applied Economics Department TA Award (1000-level courses) 2021–22
University of Minnesota, Dr. Dale C. Dahl and Jean Kinsey Graduate Fellowship 2020–21
University of San Francisco, Department Merit Scholarship ($2,500; $1,000) 2016–18
University of San Francisco, McDermott Scholarship (full tuition) 2015–17

Invited and Conference Presentations

2027 International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI, scheduled); Virginia Tech (Economics, scheduled).

2026 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting (×2); Network Science and Economics Conference; Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) Conference; Midwest Economics Association (MEA) / Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) Annual Meeting; University of Wisconsin–Madison (Development Workshop); University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (Applied Micro Workshop, ×2); Colorado State University; Tec de Monterrey (Mexico City); Universidad del Pacífico (Lima); University of Minnesota (Applied Economics).

2025 Georgetown University (Center for Latin American Studies); Loyola University Chicago.

2024 Boston College (Applied Micro Seminar); Fordham University.

2023 AAEA Annual Meeting (poster ×2); Association for Economic Research of Indigenous Peoples (virtual); University of Minnesota (Applied Economics Student Seminar); University of San Francisco (virtual).

Teaching

Instructor of Record (undergraduate)

Department of Economics, Marquette University:

Principles of Microeconomics — Fall 2025, Spring 2026, Fall 2026, Spring 2027 (scheduled)
Development Economics (also cross-listed at the master's level) — Spring 2026
Economics of Immigration — Spring 2027 (scheduled)

Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota:

Applications of Excel in Economics and Management — Fall 2023
Microeconomics of International Development — Spring 2024

St. Ignatius Institute, University of San Francisco:

Science and Religion — Spring 2015
Intimacy in a Virtual World — Fall 2015
Epic Stories — Spring 2016

Teaching Assistant

Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota:

Principles of Microeconomics (undergraduate) — Spring 2022
Econometric Analysis I–II (Ph.D.) — Fall 2021, Fall 2022
Econometric Analysis III–IV (Ph.D.) — Spring 2023

Advising and Mentoring

Marquette University

Ziggy Fuller-Engelmajer (M.S. Applied Economics) — directed professional project.
Md Anisur Rahman Mollah (M.S. Applied Economics) — supervised as graduate assistant.
Cara Goodwin (B.S. Economics) — supervised as teaching assistant.

University of San Francisco

Juan Pablo Arredondo Ambriz (M.S. Applied Economics) — supervised fieldwork, Piura, Peru.
Mallika Matharu (M.S. International Development Economics) — supervised fieldwork, Piura, Peru.
Brendon Wong (M.S. International Development Economics) — supervised fieldwork, Piura, Peru.
Grant Storer (M.S. International Development Economics) — supervised fieldwork, Chiapas, Mexico.
Melissa Sovik (M.S. International Studies) — supervised fieldwork, Chiapas, Mexico.
Paolo Bicchieri (M.S. International Studies) — supervised fieldwork, Chiapas, Mexico.

Santa Clara University & Loyola University Chicago

Chris Lane (B.A. Political Science) — supervised fieldwork, Chiapas, Mexico.
Calista Cardenas (B.A. Film and Digital Media) — supervised project, Chiapas, Mexico.

Professional Service

Refereeing

Review of Social Economy	2026
Production Economics section, AAEA Annual Meeting	2026
Agricultural Economics	2025
American Journal of Agricultural Economics	2022, 2023
Handbook of Research on Cooperatives and Mutuals	2022

Departmental

Undergraduate Committee, Department of Economics, Marquette University	2025–present
Priorities Committee, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota	2022–23
Graduate Committee, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota	2022–23

Selected Media

Interviewed in "Why This Jesuit Economist Cares So Much About Coffee," *AMDG: A Jesuit Podcast*, 15 October 2026.

Interviewed in "Living Water and Coffee Beans: A Conversation about Coffee, Care for Our Common Home, and Global Solidarity," *American Jesuits International*, 1 October 2026.

Quoted in "Economists express concern about the poor as Supreme Court weighs tariffs," *OSV News*, 7 November 2025.

"The ICE raid on a Hyundai plant shows how hard it would be to quit globalization," *America Magazine*, 17 September 2025.

Profiled in "Jesuit Special Studies: Charting Paths of Learned Ministry," *Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province*, 4 March 2025.

Interviewed in "Catholic Social Teaching and Trump's Tariffs," *America Magazine*, 3 March 2025.

Invited Public Lectures

"What You Know Depends on Who You Know"
- Marquette University (Wade Chair Lecture) 2026
- John Carroll University 2026

"Seguimiento y levantamiento de datos en proyectos"
- Regional Directorate of Education, Trujillo, Peru 2026
- Jesuit Collaborative of the Jesuits in Peru (virtual) 2025

"What Is a Jesuit Approach to Economic Development?"
- CREDO Economics and Catholic Social Teaching Workshop (virtual) 2023
- Jesuit Scholarship in a Secular Age, Loyola University Chicago 2023

"Why Would a Jesuit Study Applied Economics?"
- Jesuit Novitiate of St. Alberto Hurtado, St. Paul, MN 2023
- Jesuit Friends and Alumni Network, St. Paul, MN 2022

"Overview of Economic Causes of U.S./Mexico Migration"
- St. Catherine's University, St. Paul, MN 2024
- Encuentro Project, El Paso, TX 2019–2021
- Archdiocesan Peace & Justice Commission, St. Louis, MO 2019

"Relationships of Solidarity and Depth: Capeltic Coffee Cooperative"
- Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice, Washington, DC 2024
- AJCU Conference on International Education (virtual) 2021
- Pioneers 21, El Paso, TX 2020

Board Service

Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education, Santa Clara University 2021–2024

Built partnerships with Jesuit NGOs in Chiapas, Mexico and in Lima and Piura, Peru.

Supported their integration into undergraduate coursework.

Accompanied student and faculty immersions to both sites.

Professional Experience

Associate Pastor, Sacred Heart Church, El Paso, TX	2018–2020
Associate Pastor, Jesuit Mission of Bachajón, Chiapas, Mexico	Summer 2018
Clinical Pastoral Education, Children's Hospital of San Antonio, San Antonio, TX	Summer 2016
Research Associate, Jesuit Social Research Institute, New Orleans, LA	Summer 2015
Mathematics Faculty, Jesuit College Preparatory, Dallas, TX	2011–2014
Volunteer, Adachi International Academy, Tokyo, Japan	Summers 2010, 2013
Volunteer, Casa de los Pobres, Tijuana, B.C., Mexico	Spring 2008

Languages and Technical Skills

Languages: English (native), Spanish (proficient), Japanese (advanced), Portuguese (intermediate).
Computing: R, Stata, Python, SQL, GIS, JavaScript.

Society of Jesus

Member, U.S. Central and Southern Province of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

Entrance	2006
First Vows	2008
Priestly Ordination	2017

References

Available upon request.