

# STEPHEN PITTS, SJ, PHD

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Department of Economics | O'Brien Hall | 1530 W. Wisconsin Ave. | Milwaukee, WI 53233

## Academic Positions

Wade Jesuit Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, Marquette University, 2025-present  
Affiliate, Collaborative for Econometrics and Integrated Development Studies (CEIDS) in  
Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame

## Education

PhD, Applied Economics, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, 2025

Fields: Agricultural Development, Labor Economics; PhD minor: GIScience

MS, International and Development Economics, University of San Francisco, 2018

Master of Theology, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University, 2018

Concentration: Ethics and Social Theory

Master of Divinity, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University, 2017

MA, Philosophy, Loyola University Chicago, 2011

BA, Mathematics (Japanese minor), University of Oklahoma, 2006

BS, Computer Science (summa cum laude), University of Oklahoma, 2006

## Fields of Interest

Agriculture, Development, Labor, Migration, Latin America, Catholic Social Teaching

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

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

## Working Papers

Information decay and cooperative entry under risk (with Grant X. Storer and Jesse Anttila-Hughes)

The Role of Social Networks in Post-Displacement Outcomes (with Juan Pablo Arrendondo Ambriz and Lorenzo Aldeco Leo)

Where You Go Depends on Who You Know: Social Networks as Determinants of Mexican Internal Migration

Sweet and Timely Income: The Effect of Honey Production in Reducing Food Insecurity of Coffee Producers (with Chris M. Boyd, Grant X. Storer, Jesse Anttila-Hughes).

## Research in Progress

The Causal Impacts of Geographic Targeting on Local Poverty Reduction: Evidence from Mexico (with Alejandro Estefan)

### Invited Professional Presentations

- "The Role of Social Networks in Post-Displacement Outcomes"  
Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting 2026  
TEC-Monterrey (Mexico City campus) 2026  
Colorado State University 2026  
UWisconsin-Milwaukee Applied Micro Workshop 2026  
Midwest Economic Association / Society of Labor Economics 2026
- "Information decay and cooperative entry under risk"  
Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting 2026  
UW-Madison Development Workshop 2026  
Network Science and Economics Conference 2026  
CSAE Conference 2026: Economic Development in Africa 2026
- "Unpacking Side-Selling: Experimental Evidence from Mexico"  
Loyola University Chicago 2025  
Boston College 2024  
Fordham University 2024  
Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Poster Session 2023  
Association for Economics Research of Indigenous Peoples 2023
- "Sweet and Timely Income: The Effect of Honey Production in Reducing Food Insecurity"  
University of Minnesota Applied Economics Student Seminar 2023  
Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Poster Session 2023
- "Where You Go Depends on Who you Know: Social Networks and Mexican Internal Migration"  
University of San Francisco Department of Economics (virtual) 2023

### Popular Press

- S. Pitts, quoted in "Economists express concern about the poor as Supreme Court weighs tariffs", *OSV News*. 7 Nov 2025.
- S. Pitts, "The ICE raid on a Hyundai plant shows how hard it would be to quit globalization", *America Magazine*. 17 Sep 2025.
- S. Pitts, profiled in "Jesuit Special Studies: Charting Paths of Learned Ministry", *Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province*. 4 Mar 2025.
- S. Pitts, interviewed in "Catholic Social Teaching and Trump's Tariffs", *America Magazine*. 3 Mar 2025.

### Book Chapters

- 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, eds. Sergio Bruno and Cole Scanlon, Emerald Publishing, 2019, pp 103-138.

### Invited Book Reviews

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

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

### Teaching Experience

**Marquette University:** Principles of Microeconomics (x2), Development Economics

**University of Minnesota:** Applications of Excel in Economics, Microeconomics of International Development, Principles of Microeconomics (TA), Econometric Analysis I-IV (TA)

### Grants

Marquette University

Center for Applied Economics Summer Stipend (\$4000) 2026

Center for International Education Course Development (\$2000) 2026

Catholic Community Foundation of Minnesota (\$10000) 2024-26

Ralph K Morris Foundation (\$2500) 2023-24

University of Minnesota

Agricultural Experimental Station Summer Stipend (\$6300) 2024

Department of Applied Economics Travel Grant (\$1000) 2023

CIFAP Travel Grant (\$1000) 2023

Center for International Food and Agricultural Policy (\$25000) 2022-23

Office of Provost Summer Research Stipend (\$6300) 2022, 2021

Santa Clara University

Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education (\$1500, \$1000) 2022

Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education (\$500) 2017

Markula Center for Applied Ethics Travel Grant (\$750) 2015

US Central and Southern Province, Society of Jesus

Social Ministries Grant (\$1100) 2017

University of San Francisco, Department of Economics

Field Research Grant (\$1500) 2017

### Honors and Awards

UMN Applied Economics Department TA Award (1000-level classes) 2021-22

**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, \$1000)	2017-18; 2016-17
McDermott Scholarship (full tuition)	2015-16; 2016-17

**Department Service (Marquette)**

Undergraduate Committee	2025-
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**Department Service (UMN Applied Economics)**

Graduate student member of Priorities and Graduate Committee	2022-23
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**Professional Service**

Referee for Production Economics section of AAEA conference	2026
Referee for <i>Agricultural Economics</i>	2025
Referee for <i>American Journal of Agricultural Economics</i>	2023, 2022
Referee for <i>Handbook of Cooperatives</i>	2022

**Invited Popular Presentations**

"What You Know Depends on Who You Know" Wade Chair Lecture, Marquette University	2026
"Seguimiento y levantamiento de data 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	2023
Jesuit Scholarship in a Secular Age	2023
"Why would a Jesuit study Applied Economics?" Jesuit Novitiate of St. Albert Hurtado (St Paul, MN)	2023
Jesuit Friends and Alumni Network (St. Paul, MN)	2022
"Overview of Economic Causes of US/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	2024
AJCU Conference on International Education (virtual)	2021
Pioneers 21 (El Paso, TX)	2020

## Mentoring

### Marquette University

Ziggy Fuller-Engelmajer (MS Applied Econ): directed professional project  
Md Anisur Rahman Mollah (MS Applied Econ): supervised as Graduate Assistant  
Cara Goodwin (BS Economics): supervised as Teaching Assistant

### University of San Francisco

Juan Pablo Arrendondo Ambriz (MS Applied Econ): supervised fieldwork in Piura, Peru  
Mallika Matharu (MS Intl Dev Econ): supervised fieldwork in Piura, Peru  
Brendon Wong (MS Intl Dev Econ): supervised fieldwork in Piura, Peru  
Grant Storer (MS Intl Dev Econ): supervised fieldwork in Chiapas, Mexico  
Melissa Sovik (MS Intl Studies): supervised fieldwork in Chiapas, Mexico  
Paolo Bicchieri (MS Intl Studies): supervised fieldwork in Chiapas, Mexico

### Santa Clara University

Chris Lane (BA Political Science): supervised fieldwork in Chiapas, Mexico

### Loyola University Chicago

Calista Cardenas (BA Film and Digital Media): supervised project in Chiapas, Mexico

## Board Service

Santa Clara University, *Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education* 2021-2024  
Built relationship with Jesuit NGO in Chiapas, Mexico  
Built relationship with Jesuit NGOs in Lima and Piura, Peru  
Assisted Long Le (Business School) to incorporate Chiapas and Peru NGO in his classes

## Relevant Professional Experience

Associate Pastor at Sacred Heart Church (El Paso, TX) 2018-2020  
Associate Pastor at Jesuit Mission of Bachajón (Chiapas, Mexico) 2018  
Research Associate at Jesuit Social Research Institute (New Orleans, LA) 2015  
Mathematics Faculty at Jesuit College Preparatory (Dallas, TX) 2011-2014  
Volunteer at Adachi International Academy (Tokyo, Japan) 2010, 2013  
Volunteer at Casa de los Pobres (Tijuana, BC, México) 2008

## Language and Technical Proficiency

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

## Personal

Member, US Central and Southern Province of Society of Jesus (Jesuits)  
Entrance: 8/15/2006; First Vows: 8/15/2008; Priestly Ordination: 6/10/2017