

STEPHEN PITTS, SJ

pitts071 [at] umn.edu | +1 773 750 4211 | spittssj.github.io

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

Academic Positions

Marquette University

Wade Jesuit Visiting Assistant Professor

2025-

Department of Economics

Education

University of Minnesota—Twin Cities

2020-2025

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

PhD minor: Geographic Information Science

University of San Francisco

2015-2018

MS in International and Development Economics

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

2014-2018

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

Loyola University of Chicago

2008-2011

MA in Philosophy

University of Oklahoma

2002-2006

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

Junior Year Abroad at Ritsumeikan University (Kyoto, Japan)

Fields of Interest

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

Working Papers

Unpacking Side-Selling: Experimental Evidence from Mexico (with Chris Boyd Leon and Grant Xavier Storer). R&R at *Agricultural Economics*.

Research in Progress

Information decay and technology adoption under risk (with Grant Xavier Storer and Jessie Anttila-Hughes)

Where You Go Depends on Who you Know: The Effect of Social Networks on Mexican Internal Migration (with Alejandro Estefan)

It's All About Who You Know: Social Networks and Job Turnover in Mexico (with Lorenzo Aldeco)

Resting Papers

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

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 21st 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

University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics

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

Catholic Community Foundation of Minnesota (\$10000)	2024-25
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

Department Teaching Assistant Award for 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 (UMN Applied Economics)

Graduate student member of Priorities and Graduate Committee 2022-23

Professional Service

Referee for *Agricultural Economics* 2025
Referee for *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 2023, 2022
Referee for *Handbook of Cooperatives* 2022

Invited Professional Presentations

"Unpacking Side-Selling: Experimental Evidence from Mexico"
Loyola University Chicago 2025
Boston College 2024
Fordham University 2024
Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) 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 (AAEA) 2023

"Where You Go Depends on Who you Know: Social Networks and Mexican Internal Migration"
University of San Francisco Department of Economics (virtual) 2023

Invited Popular Presentations

"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"	
AJCU Conference on International Education (virtual)	2021
Pioneers 21 (El Paso, TX)	2020

Mentoring

I mentored the following three students who did fieldwork with a Jesuit NGO in Piura, Peru

University of San Francisco

Juan Pablo Arredondo Ambriz (MS Applied Economics)
Mallika Matharu (MS International and Development Economics)
Brendon Wong (MS International and Development Economics)

I mentored the following six students on projects related to the Jesuit work in Chiapas, Mexico.

Universidad Iberoamericano-Puebla

Eduardo Hernandez (Master's in Social and Solidarity Economics)

Loyola University Chicago

Calista Cardenas (BS Film and Video Studies)

Santa Clara University

Chris Lane (BS Sociology, Spanish, Food Systems)

University of San Francisco

Grant Storer (MS International Development Econ): Inter-American Development Bank
Paolo Bicchieri (MA International Studies): Vox Media LLC
Melissa Vonmary Sovik (MA International Studies):
 Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

Board Service

Santa Clara University Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education	2021-2024
Built relationship with Jesuit NGO in Chiapas, Mexico	
Initial site visit	July 2022
Initial student immersion group	June 2023
Faculty/staff visit	January 2024
Built relationship with Jesuit NGOs in Lima and Piura, Peru	
Initial site visit	October 2022
Staff visit	March 2024
Initial student immersion group	June 2024

Assisted Long Le (Business School) to incorporate Chiapas and Peru NGO in his classes
Management 172 (Social Entrepreneurship) Fall 2022
Management 110 (Global Microfinance) Winter/Fall 2023
Management 80 (International Business) Winter 2024

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
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)