

FALL 2013: ECON 384 - ADVANCED RESEARCH IN ECONOMICS

Oral Presentations, Saturday, December 7th, 2013

9:00 am	Reception – CSB Main Building 3 rd Floor Foyer
9:30 am	First Session in rooms Main 322 and Main 323 (Schedule Below)
10:30 am	Break!
10:45 am	Second Session Main 322 and Main 323 (Schedule Below)
Noon	Luncheon for student presenters, parents and invited friends, faculty in 3 rd Floor CSB Main Building Rotunda

Session 1: Topics on Microeconomics

Room: Main 322 from 9:30 am to 10:30 am

Presenter: Andrew Hovel

Title: Crime Rates, Income Inequality, and Density at the Neighborhood Level

Abstract: An economic model of crime can help policy makers understand how income inequality and population density relate to crime on the Census Tract level. Higher levels of income inequality suggest more social tension and higher returns to crime while population density influences the probability of recognition and apprehension of criminals. My cross-sectional Poisson analysis of Los Angeles Census Tracts uses tract-level demographic data comes from the National Neighborhood Crime Study and PUMA-level income data from International Public Use MicroSample database. I find that income inequality, as measured by a Gini Coefficient, and population density both relate negatively and significantly with crime rates.

Presenter: Nhu Nguyen

Title: An Empirical Analysis on Estimating the Demand for Housing Services

Abstract: This research paper attempts to estimate the demand for housing services across the United States. More specifically, the research paper examines the price and income elasticity of demand and compare the results between a single market and multiple markets. An empirical analysis on 32 Metropolitan Statistical Areas in the year 2005 suggests that the price elasticity of demand for multiple markets is inelastic; and the price elasticity of demand has relatively smaller magnitude in multiple markets compared to corresponding elasticity in a single market. In addition, the income elasticity of demand has a relatively larger magnitude than the price elasticity of demand for multiple markets.

Room: Main 323 from 9:30 am to 10:30 am

Presenter: Arianna Stotz

Title: How Does a Firm's Capital Investments Relate to Long Run Performance as Measured by Tobin's Q?

Abstract: The retail industry has become increasingly competitive in the past decade due to technological advancements. With focus on technology, a need to measure the intangible value of investments is critical. This paper uses Tobin's q as a measure of firm performance when looking at capital investments while accounting for industry and firm specific variables. The results of this analysis show that from 2008-2012 there was a significant positive association between capital expenditures and the Tobin's q value. These results are consistent with the hypothesis that a company's investment in its own business favorably affects its future performance.

Presenter: Patrick Kunkel

Title: Quality and Supply of New Music In Relation to Internet Radio

Abstract: Substantial research has been devoted to the effects of file-sharing technologies on sales of recorded music, but existing studies have ignored the presence of other free consumption alternatives. Since 2009, Internet radio options such as Pandora and Spotify have been popular consumer options, and I hypothesize a negative relationship between Internet radio's existence and certifications-based sales figures. Using album certifications data from the Recording Industry Association of America, I find trends suggesting decreasing purchases of music. However, a regression analysis of the same data finds no statistically significant relationship between Internet radio and certifications-based sales figures.

BREAK! BREAK! BREAK!

Session 2: Topics on Macroeconomics

Room: Main 322 from 10:45 am to 11:45 am

Presenter: Licheng Yin

Title: Get In or Get Out: Does Financial Liberalization of Banking Sector Have Impact on China's Economic Growth?

Abstract: On the eve of a major system fail in 2008, whether western financial system is still an optimal choice remains to be tested. Continuing financial liberalization or restricting foreign banks from entering are two choices for the developing world to consider. Thus, it is important to know whether China's 2006 policy with the purpose of liberalizing China's banking sector has positive impact on its economic growth. While the relative theories and empirical findings in the literature provide an ambiguous answer to the economic impact of foreign banks' presence, this paper evaluates China's 2006 policy on economic growth by using the OLS regression model with annual time series data from 1991 to 2011. The main finding of this paper is that there is a potential huge economic benefit under the policy of financial liberalization, and it is recommended for emerging countries like China to open up their financial sector more to the world. The results suggest when the policy is in effect, one percent increase in foreign bank's asset share in China will increase GDP by 212.5%.

Presenter: Kathryn Gaydos:

Title: An Opportunity Overlooked? Foreign Trade between the United States and East Asia, 1865-1914

Abstract: American trade with Asia rose from 10% of total imports in 1870 to 15% in 1913. U.S. exports to China relative to the population quadrupled over this period as well. Scholars have studied U.S.-Japan trade for this period but have done little work on U.S.-China interactions. I therefore developed bilateral trade data for the United States and China from 1865 to 1914 and analyzed these data to reveal trade patterns and terms of trade between these two countries. In general, the terms of trade improved for the U.S. between 1870 and 1913. Cotton manufactures and mineral oil were the United States' key exports to China; exports of these goods increased by factors of 9 and 47, respectively, between 1870 and 1913. Tea imports to the U.S. declined drastically over this time period while imports of silk grew in importance.

Room: Main 323 from 10:45 am to 11:45 am

Presenter: Cody Carlson

Title: College Education and the Kuznets Curve in the United States of America

Abstract: This paper examines education's effect on income inequality. To accomplish this, education acts as a variable of interest in an adaptation of the Kuznets curve. Working under the assumption that the Kuznets curve exists, I use the Ordinary Least Squares Method to find an inverted U-shaped relationship between education and the Gini coefficient. The regression does explain much of the variation in the Gini coefficient as it has a high adjusted R squared statistic. However, the results are not significantly different from zero potentially due to the high level of correlation between education and the other variables.

Presenter: Jace Wiczek

Title: Determinants of Charitable Giving in the United States

Abstract: Charitable giving by individuals in the United States is significant. Individuals account for approximately 70% of total charitable giving in the United States. Over 2% of the gross domestic product (GDP) is comprised of charitable contributions which are an important source of funding for the nonprofit sector. This study gives a detailed analysis of the external factors that affect charitable giving by individuals in the United States using data from the IRS and many other sources. The research finds that personal income, net capital gains, religious group affiliation, volunteerism, race, and age are statistically and economically significant factors in individual charitable giving across U.S. states.