

# 2024 Economics Student Research Fair

## Undergraduate Research Abstracts

**Sofia Damer-Salas****Poster Location: U1****Title: The Second Scramble for Africa: Foreign Military Bases and Natural Resource Exportation**

This thesis explores the relationship between foreign base presence and frequency, and total value of natural resource exportation in Africa. Historical context is given, and the relevance of military settlements in Africa by wealthy and rapidly growing countries that were previously considered "developing." There is a significant relationship between the variables, only when the value of natural resources variable is logged, suggesting the relationship is positive and existent, but not linear.

**Elaine Han****Poster Location: U2****Title: Impact of Interest Rate Hikes on SME Credit Accessibility in the United States**

This study examines the impact of increases in federal interest rates on the credit accessibility of U.S. small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), utilizing data from 2001 to 2023 spanning 30 sectors through panel regression and REML models. Results indicate a significant influence of rate fluctuations on SME credit availability, underscoring the importance of monetary policy modifications.

**Josh Jacobs****Poster Location: U3****Title: Elite Price Fixing: Assessing the Competitive Impacts of the 568 Presidents Group**

A consortium of elite, private universities called the 568 Presidents Group recently came under scrutiny for allegedly conspiring to restrict student financial aid awards. Employing a staggered difference-in-differences approach, I argue the group raised the net costs of college tuition but their cooperation had little impact on student enrollment.

**Ron Huang****Poster Location: U4****Title: Redistribution of Patients and Healthcare Provision after Hospital Closure: Evidence from Rural Georgia Hospitals**

This project examines the redistribution of patients after hospital closure and sheds light on its impact on the provision of healthcare and medical resources in the region. Our findings reveal a notable surge in patient influx to the adjacent hospital in short term and a reduction in the number of medical procedures per patient.

**Fareed Khan****Poster Location: U5****Title: Understanding Review Hijacking on Amazon Through Variation Listings: The ABCD's of The Bountiful Company**

This study explores the dynamics of review hijacking on Amazon, focusing on product variants in the Vitamin category. Findings reveal that while product variants generally enhance market presence, the benefits diminish beyond eight variants. Strategies like FBA and Subscribe & Save positively influence rankings, highlighting significant implications for e-commerce policies.



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**Sofia Lozano-Samper**

**Poster Location: U6**

**Title: What Determines the Changing Food Security of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon?**

This study examines factors affecting food security among Syrian refugees in Lebanon amidst the 2019 financial crisis. Utilizing household data and economic analysis, it highlights the significance of demographics, asset access, and aid programs. Findings emphasize the complex interplay of economic factors and humanitarian assistance in shaping food security outcomes, urging targeted interventions and policy responses.



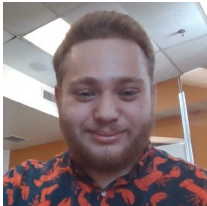
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**Kendall Pollard**

**Poster Location: U7**

**Title: Weighing Inequality: A Comprehensive Analysis of Racial and Gender Disparities in Childhood Overweight and Obesity from 2003 to 2019**

This study examines actual weight and self-perception of weight changes from 2003 to 2019. Boys show higher obesity rates than girls, and Blacks have higher obesity rates than Whites. All groups are becoming more overweight/obese, with gender and racial disparities narrowing slightly. Black girls face a double burden of obesity and weight misperception.



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**Elijah Reisman**

**Poster Location: U8**

**Title: Time Use Trends and Reallocation Decisions: An Exploration Using the American Time Use Survey**

This thesis looks at time use data from the American Time Use Survey (ATUS). It tracks trends in time use and how lost work hours are reallocated. Reallocation decisions are analyzed using Ordinary Least Square regressions with panel data at the state year level and first differencing. Reallocation decisions and time use change with time and demographic groups.



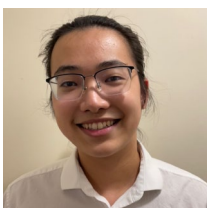
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**Varun Saxena**

**Poster Location: U9**

**Title: Determining the Economic Factors of American Professional Sports Franchise Valuations**

This study analyses the economic and team-specific factors behind the valuation of American professional sports franchises using Ordinary Least Squares and Random Forest regression. The study found that championships, attendance, and market were the three most significant factors.



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**Bowen You**

**Poster Location: U10**

**Title: Consumer Search Market with Rational Inattention**

We consider a model of undirected consumer search where consumers flexibly acquire information to learn about the matching value at each seller. We have shown that higher search costs induce higher optimal prices, which is consistent with previous research, yet the optimal prices are not monotonic in the increase of the unit information cost.

# 2024 Economics Student Research Fair

## Graduate Research Abstracts



**[Ka Yan Cheng](#)**

**Title: Debiasing Shape Restricted Machine Learners**

**Poster Location: G1**

Our study aims to explore how integrating shape constraints into the initial step nuisance machine learners can enhance the finite sample performance of the Debiased Machine Learning estimator. Our estimator is shown to be asymptotically normal and has a confidence interval that is robust to model misspecification in the nuisances.



**[Wonjun Choi](#)**

**Title: Subvector Anderson-Rubin Test with Many Instruments and Many Covariates**

**Poster Location: G2**

We survey empirical papers using instrumental variable models and demonstrate in simulation that the existing identification-robust subvector tests could be potentially oversized in empirical applications with many instruments or controls. We then (plan to) propose a new robust subvector test that allows for high-dimensional instrumental and control variables.



**[Rachel Clohan](#)**

**Title: Hooked Before Cooked: Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and State-level Opioid Policies**

**Poster Location: G3**

This study evaluates how state-level opioid policies that are intended for harm reduction, supply-side restrictions, and demand reduction affect rates of neonatal abstinence syndrome. Counter to the intention of the policies, I find they have not effectively targeted pregnant women who use opioids and instead, exacerbated the opioid epidemic.



**[Justin Eloriaga](#)**

**Title: A Narrative for Fed Information Shocks**

**Poster Location: G4**

The Fed Information Effect represents a shift in interpreting FOMC announcements, suggesting tighter monetary policy signals economic health, diverging from traditional views. Despite skepticism in the literature, I find the presence of this effect in several recent historical events, underscoring its significance in understanding economic dynamics.



**[Amy Lim](#)**

**Title: The Effects of Stricter Licensing on Residential Childcare Supply in Georgia**

**Poster Location: G5**

This study examines the impact of Georgia's 2009 licensing policy for FCCH providers using a difference-in-difference approach. The analysis of a novel dataset reveals that stricter credentials reduced FCCH openings and increased female unemployment, highlighting the trade-off between quality standards and market accessibility in childcare policy.



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**Alessia Scudiero**

**Poster Location: G6**

**Title: Impulse Response Functions in Time Varying VARs: A Clustered Local Projections Approach**

In this paper, I propose a new framework to estimate impulse response functions in Time-varying-parameters vector autoregressive (TVP-VARs) models via local projections and clustering techniques. The goal is to provide a consistent method that can overcome the limitations of the existing literature, such as high computational demand and non-stationarity issues.



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**Shabnam Shahrezaei**

**Poster Location: G7**

**Title: Exploring the Welfare Implications of Social Security Marital Benefits for Elderly Black Women**

This paper explores how declining marriage rates, especially among Black women, impact Social Security wealth inequality. Using percentile rank OLS regression, I show that despite greater labor force participation, Black women have lower lifetime earnings and Social Security wealth than White women, primarily due to race, earnings, and marital history.



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**Nathan Williams**

**Poster Location: G8**

**Title: What Drives Occupational Inequality?**

Race-based occupational differences have decreased in the United States from 1940-2000. We show that a large portion of occupational disparities can be explained by differences in occupational access and find that anti-discrimination policies had a positive impact on occupational access for Black workers.



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**Lucie Xu**

**Poster Location: G9**

**Title: Optimal Consumer Privacy with an Expert**

I study consumer privacy choice in a setting where a consumer, who is uncertain about which product suits his preferences better, receives a product recommendation from an expert. The expert has some intrinsic concern for match suitability but can be influenced by commissions offered by product providers. The consumer-optimal amount of information is the most uninformative one among those that do not create commission competition.