Isabella Aguado   **Poster Location: U1**

Title: *"Temporary Status, Uneven Gains: Labor Market Effects of TPS on Central American Immigrants"*

This paper analyzes how Temporary Protected Status (TPS) influences labor market outcomes for Central American immigrants. Using a Difference-in-Differences approach, it finds that TPS's economic benefits vary by country, gender, and education, revealing unequal impacts of temporary legalization across key subgroups.

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Niels Armbruster   **Poster Location: U2**

Title: *"Cryptocurrency Regulation: Insights from Demographics, Crime Rates, and Traditional Banking"*

I explore predictors of cryptocurrency ownership in the U.S. and find that fintech adopters, Asians, and younger Americans are more likely to own cryptocurrency. Ownership is linked to theft rates and paying bank fees (financial illiteracy) but negatively related to violent crime. Cryptocurrency is not an alternative to traditional banking.

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Joshitha Arora   **Poster Location: U3**

Title: *"Housing Prices and Birth Outcomes: The Hidden Cost of a Home"*

This paper examines how county-level housing prices (2010–2018) relate to birth outcomes. Using a two-way fixed effects model, I find rising home values are modestly associated with increased birthweight and gestational age, especially for Black and non-White mothers and in high-inequality counties, with no significant effects on preterm birth.

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Jingzhou Huang   **Poster Location: U4**

Title: *"Redistribution of Patients, Medical Resource Utilization, and Quality of Care after Hospital Closure"*

Over the past decade, rural hospitals have faced increasing closure risks, raising concerns about healthcare access and regional disparities. Using a data-driven approach for treatment assignment and a modern difference-in-differences framework with novel donor selection, we analyze eight closures in Georgia (2010–2020). Closures led to patient redistribution, increased regional medical resource consumption, and impaired healthcare access. The impact varies significantly across rural-urban, outpatient-inpatient, and regional-hospital level dimensions.

Minsol Kim   Poster Location: U5

Title: *"U.S. Dollar Effect on Currency Interdependence: Case Study of Korean Won"*

This study investigates how USD fluctuations influence currency correlations, focusing on KRW and its top 20 trading partners from 2006–2024. Using vine copula models, findings reveal that USD appreciation inflates correlations, with stronger dependencies among economically integrated countries, especially during prolonged periods of dollar strength.

Jihan Lee   Poster Location: U6

Title: *"Quantitative Easing Transmission to Mortgage Market During COVID-19: Evidence from the Conforming Loan Segment"*

This paper examines the Federal Reserve's COVID-era quantitative easing and its impact on mortgage refinancing. Exploiting a regulatory cutoff between conforming and nonconforming loans, it finds that conforming interest rates declined by an additional 32–42 basis points, spurring a 92–97% jump in refinance originations. Overall, the findings demonstrate MBS purchases' effectiveness.

Shuqian Ni   Poster Location: U7

Title: *"Algorithmic Self-Preference in E-Commerce: Analyzing Amazon's Buy Box Allocation Across Different Seller Types and its Antitrust Implications"*

This thesis examines Amazon's Buy Box allocation in the grocery category across the U.S., France, and Japan. Results show Amazon's probability of winning Buy Box varies with referral fee levels, revealing Amazon's algorithmic decisions are either platform-neutral or driven solely by self-preferencing but by deeper economic and strategic incentives.

Ettan Patel   Poster Location: U8

Title: *"ML-based Geographic Sampling Frames Miss Transitory Populations in Fragile Regions"*

Post-conflict environments lack reliable survey data, complicating aid distribution. Studying 18 Iraqi communities, we compared machine learning and traditional sampling methods. Validating Microsoft's GlobalMLBuildingFootprints in QGIS, we identified 61,603 buildings, visiting 1,225. Machine learning identified fewer IDPs (20.62%) than manual methods (27.54%), suggesting limitations in detecting transient populations.

Sammy Ramacher   Poster Location: U9

Title: *"Evaluating the Success of the Flex Program in Reaching the Most Vulnerable Hospitals"*

The Flex Program and accompanying critical access hospital (CAH) designation aims to support and protect rural hospitals from closure. Through a fixed-effects linear regression analysis on financial factors of rural hospitals, CAH designation was found to effectively reach hospitals most at risk of closure, establishing it as an efficient policy.

Davis Shelton   Poster Location: **U10**

Title: *"Fast Cars and Debutantes: Manufacturing-Induced Firm and Labor Outcomes in the South"*

This paper estimates the causal impact of auto manufacturing plant openings on firms and labor markets in the American South. Using Staggered DiDs and commuting zones, I find significant growth in large firms and employment, modest wage gains, and heterogeneous effects by individual plants -- highlighting manufacturing's continued role in regional economic development.

Mason Wang   Poster Location: **U11**

Title: *"A Model for Equilibrium Consumer Search in Markets with Correlated Products"*

I consider a duopoly market model to illustrate how consumers optimally search based on information about product correlation. Using the typical cases of perfect correlation, independence, and perfect negative correlation, I analyze the effect of search costs in the unique equilibria. I demonstrate how these findings extend to broader cases.
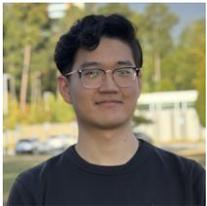

Wendy Wang   Poster Location: **U12**

Title: *"Do Investors Value Earnouts? Evidence from China's M&A Market"*

In M&A transactions, transaction consideration is inherently complex and often becomes the focus of disputes between the parties. For this reason, earnouts can alleviate the information asymmetry problem in M&A. This paper examines how investors in China's capital market respond to the announcement of earnout clauses in M&A transactions.

Tianqi Zhang   Poster Location: **U13**

Title: *"Social Networks in Aid Allocation: A Comparative Analysis of Social Welfare"*

I develop and assess a welfare benefit targeting plan that incorporates network spillover effects, comparing it to traditional methods. My findings show spillover targeting selects distinct recipients, improves program effectiveness, and enhances economic well-being and social cohesion. This research underscores the value of integrating network effects into aid distribution policies.

Jessie Zhu   Poster Location: **U14**

Title: *"Lives on the Line: The Effects of 988 Funding on Crisis Lines and Suicide Prevention"*

This paper examines the effects of funding towards crisis lines on their access, performance, and effectiveness in reducing suicides. Using a difference-in-differences approach, I find that greater funding per capita increases call volume and reduces suicides, highlighting the importance of adequately funding crisis lines to increase their access and effectiveness.

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Department of Economics

Jafet Baca
Poster Location: G1

Title: *"Remittance Inflows and Financial Amplification in Emerging Economies"*

How do remittances affect the dynamics of emerging markets during abrupt current account reversals? We show that remittance-recipient economies experience fewer and milder sudden stops using an open economy model with debt constraints. The model successfully reproduces the anatomy of these crises across remittance and non-remittance recipient emerging economies.

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Shirley Cai
Poster Location: G2

Title: *"To Operate or Not to Operate: The Effects of Medical School Training on Current Practice Intensity"*

Surgery constitutes nearly one-third of US healthcare expenditures, and surgeons have substantial discretion over the choice to operate. While medical school is a foundational part of a surgeon's medical knowledge, I find that its impact on how often a surgeon operates is limited.

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Emerson Hamer
Poster Location: G3

Title: *"From Storm Surge to Rent Surge: Spillover Effects of Hurricane Sandy on the Rental Market"*

I analyze how Hurricane Sandy, which hit the northeast U.S. in 2012, affected rental housing markets in areas near FEMA-designated disaster zones. I conclude that Sandy caused rents to rise in regions near disaster zones, exposing gaps in disaster aid programs that overlook renters outside directly affected housing markets.

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Marcelo Ortiz
Poster Location: G4

Title: *"Doubly Robust Triple Differences Estimators"*

This paper revisits Triple Difference (DDD) designs, showing that ATT estimators generally can't be expressed as the difference of two DiD estimators when covariates are needed. We propose new estimators—including regression adjustment and GMM—to address bias in staggered treatment settings, supported by simulations and an empirical application.

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Michaela Philip
Poster Location: G5

Title: *"Highway Dividers: Determinants of the US Interstate Highway System"*

The US Interstate Highway System established connectivity that changed the country economically and culturally. However, qualitative evidence suggests that these benefits were borne from targeted displacement of Black communities. I use historical zoning maps to provide causal evidence of the impact of race on highway placement in the 20th century.

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Hannah Pitzer   **Poster Location: G6**

Title: *"The Effects of Interstate Licensure Compacts on Mental Health"*

This study examines the effect on mental health outcomes of interstate licensure compacts that ease multistate licensing among MDs and psychologists. The findings show no significant improvements in self-reported mental health, antidepressant prescribing rates, or suicide rates, suggesting the need for broader interventions.

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Guido Romero   **Poster Location: G7**

Title: *"A Superpopulation Framework of Potential Outcomes under Network Interference"*

State-of-the-art methods of causal inference under network interference condition on the sample and network structure, limiting internal and external validity. This project allows the network to be random, identifying new estimands. A set of simulations studies the feasibility to apply double-debiased machine learning techniques for estimation under asymptotically, k-wise dependence.

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Qianqian (Ivy) Tang   **Poster Location: G8**

Title: *"Inequality, Electric Vehicles, and Energy Transition"*

We analyze income-based heterogeneity in U.S. electric vehicle (EV) adoption and its environmental impacts using a general equilibrium model with oligopoly market structure, non-homothetic preferences, and endogenous electricity prices. High-income areas adopt more EVs, and the gap widens with new model entry, influencing the clean energy transition.

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Michelle Tao   **Poster Location: G9**

Title: *"The Missing Homebuyers: Demographic Changes and Financial Constraints"*

Do mortgage constraints distort homeownership decisions for young single borrowers? When debt-to-income limits bind, young single borrowers are 30% more likely to forgo homeownership compared to co-borrowers. Restrictive zoning regulations exacerbate these effects, reinforcing a mismatch between the housing stock and the needs of a changing population.

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Jin Zhang   **Poster Location: G10**

Title: *"Profit Smoothing at a Cost: How Banks' Bond Holdings Amplify Interest Rate Risk and Failure Probability"*

This paper documents banks' usage of bond holdings to smooth profits facing monetary shocks, increasing interest-rate exposure. Combining empirical evidence and a DSGE framework, I show how this behavior raises bank failure risk when rates rise persistently. The findings reveal a trade-off: short-term earnings stability comes at the cost of long-term solvency.