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## JACOB GIFFORD

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### EDUCATION

#### Bachelor of Science in Economics

Spring 2023

Minors: Mathematics, Sociology

Additional Coursework: Geographic Information Systems, Hydrologic Engineering

Brigham Young University – Idaho

Overall GPA: 3.93 / 4.00

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

#### Sociology Instructor

2021-2022

SOC 295-R Games in Economic Sociology

*Department of Sociology, Brigham Young University – Idaho*

- Designed and prepared an original curriculum for a one-credit economic sociology course.
- Lectured on topics in game theory, geopolitics, social cohesion/trust, war, cartel behavior, the environment, and black markets based on sociological and economic theory.
- Ran six simulated experiments with students to model economic behavior.
- Applied the BYU-I learning model to encourage comprehension and mastery.

#### Teaching Assistant and Tutor

2019–2022

*Department of Economics, Brigham Young University – Idaho*

Upper Division TA Courses:

- Intermediate Microeconomics: Tutored 15 students and graded their exams and assignments.
- Intermediate Macroeconomics: Assisted in designing a new course curriculum, including a Solow-Romer model simulation using GitHub, JavaScript and HTML. Access at: <https://jgifford321.github.io/>
- Quantitative Methods for Economists: Assisted 50 students in teaching and grading topics, including multivariate calculus and linear algebra (4 semesters).
- Economic Thought & History: Performed grading for students covering the history of economic theory and thought (2 semesters).
- Senior Capstone: Prepared students for the economics major field test.

Lower Division TA Courses:

- Assisted for eight semesters in introductory microeconomic & macroeconomic courses.
- Operated a nightly homework lab (8 semesters) for principles of economics students to receive one-on-one tutoring.

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

## **Lead Researcher**

**2022**

*College of Business and Communication, BYU-Idaho*

- Organized a mixed-methods research initiative to assess the state of diversity and inclusion in the College.
- Conducted a survey with 3,500 respondents and a focus group of 11 individuals.
- Designed and compiled an internal use report for the study (please request access).

## **Research Analyst**

**2021-2022**

*Grameen Foundation, Washington D.C.*

- Performed econometric analyses for Ghanaian small-holder cocoa farmers.
- Analyzed and compared attitudes of workers with their adoption of good agricultural practices.
- Worked at the intersection of sustainability, empowerment, and development.
- Developed statistical models using agronomist-facilitated digital monitoring tools and data to better understand the relationship between yields, farmer attitudes, farm quality, and good agricultural principle (GAP) adoption rates.
- Concluded that the adoption of these attitudes and GAPs by small-holder cocoa farmers in Ghana is predictive of increased cocoa production, thus aiding the growth of these small-scale economies.

## **Peer-Reviewed Publications**

- Gifford, J., & Oliver, J. (2021). Black Lives Matter and Granger Causal Testing: A Signal of Economic Deprivation. *Modern Economy*, 12(11), 1666-1685  
<https://doi.org/10.4236/me.2021.1211084>

Note: The principal investigator of “Black Lives Matter and Granger Causal Testing: A Signal of Economic Deprivation” was Jacob Gifford. Dr. Jeffrey Oliver contributed solely to theoretical, methodological, and revisional guidance.

## **Organizational Publications**

- Gifford, J. Martin, M. (2022) *College of Business and Communication Diversity and Inclusion Report*. BYU- Idaho (please request access).
- Sarpong D., Osei-Asare Y., Gray B., Tsekpo E. (2022) *FarmGrow: Farm Development Plans for Smallholder Cocoa Farmers in Ghana Endline Report*. Grameen Foundation (Contributions).

## **Working Papers**

- Gifford, J. (2022). In Our Lovely Deser(e)t: A spatial analysis of food insecurity in Salt Lake City accessed at: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b6f65145ea8b4827af232492f992cd40>
- Gifford J., Martínez, D. (2022) Relational Analysis of Tikuch (Yucatan) Using GIS.

## **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

### **Economics Society President**

**2021**

*Brigham Young University – Idaho*

- Mentored ten students in preparing for post-baccalaureate endeavors.

- Led students in career development, degree planning, and research projects for undergraduate economics journal.

### **Assistant to the President of the Organization**

**2017 – 2019**

*Australia Melbourne Area Mission - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

- Oversaw 350 religious volunteers in New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania through frequent managerial interactions.
- Developed conversational fluency in Vietnamese to further mission directives and advance community welfare.
- Taught English to groups of 15 individuals focusing on conversational skills and academic utilization.
- Presented statistics and training to peers in frequent organization gatherings.
- Interacted daily with a diverse body of individuals in the Melbourne community.

## **RELEVANT SKILLS**

### **Technical**

- Geographic Information Systems for mapping socioeconomic and environmental spatial data: ESRI suite, R, Python, Arcpy, QGIS, Pix4D, and GeoDa.
- Hydrologic Engineering Software: HEC-RAS, HEC-HMS, EPA SWMM.
- Dynamic System Modeling: Vensim.
- Econometric modeling, visualization, and regression: Python, R, JavaScript, and HTML.
- Experience in database management and data wrangling: SQL, R, Python, and Excel.
- Creative Design software: Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Illustrator, Lightroom & Acrobat).

### **Foreign Languages**

- Portuguese (CEFR: B2)
- Vietnamese (CEFR: A2)

## **EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL**

- Australia: Religious Volunteer, March 2017 – March 2019
- Italy, Morocco, Spain, France, and U.K.: 35mm photographic project, March 2020
- Brazil: language acquisition, July 2021 and July-Aug. 2022

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

- Thomas E. Ricks Academic Grant, Brigham Young University - Idaho
- Huntsman Business School Honors Program, Utah State University
- Eagle Scout Award Recipient

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PERSONAL INTERESTS**

- Experienced in rough carpentry.
- Self-published documentary photographic work in 35mm film showcasing the Maghreb region.
- Avid film photographer, musician, backcountry skier, rock climber, and gravel cyclist.