

# STEPHEN PITTS, SJ, PHD

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Department of Economics | O'Brien Hall | 1530 W. Wisconsin Ave. | Milwaukee, WI 53233

## Academic Positions

Wade Jesuit Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, Marquette University, 2025-present

Affiliate, Collaborative for Econometrics and Integrated Development Studies (CEIDS) in  
Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame

## Education

PhD, Applied Economics, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, 2025

Fields: Agricultural Development, Labor Economics; PhD minor: GIScience

MS, International and Development Economics, University of San Francisco, 2018

Master of Theology, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University, 2018

Concentration: Ethics and Social Theory

Master of Divinity, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University, 2017

MA, Philosophy, Loyola University Chicago, 2011

BA, Mathematics (Japanese minor), University of Oklahoma, 2006

BS, Computer Science (summa cum laude), University of Oklahoma, 2006

## Fields of Interest

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

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

**Pitts, Stephen**, Chris M. Boyd, and Grant Xavier Storer (2025). Unpacking Side-Selling:  
Experimental Evidence from Mexico. *Agricultural Economics* 56 (6): 1119-1149.

## Working Papers

Information decay and cooperative entry under risk (with Grant Xavier Storer and Jessie Anttila-Hughes)

The Role of Social Networks in Post-Displacement Outcomes (with Juan Pablo Arrendo and Lorenzo Aldeco)

Where You Go Depends on Who You Know: Social Networks as Determinants of Mexican Internal Migration

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).

## Research in Progress

The Causal Impacts of Geographic Targeting on Local Poverty Reduction: Evidence from Mexico (with Alejandro Estefan)

### **Invited Professional Presentations**

"The Role of Social Networks in Post-Displacement Outcomes" (scheduled)	Midwest Economic Association / Society of Labor Economics	2026
"Information decay and cooperative entry under risk" (scheduled)	CSAE Conference 2026: Economic Development in Africa	2026
"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

### **Popular Press**

S. Pitts, "The ICE raid on a Hyundai plant shows how hard it would be to quit globalization", *America Magazine*. 17 Sep 2025. Published online.  
<https://www.americamagazine.org/short-take/2025/09/17/ice-raid-hyundai-plant-korean-globalization/>

### **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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**

**Marquette University:** Principles of Microeconomics (x2), Development Economics

**University of Minnesota:** Applications of Excel in Economics, Microeconomics of International Development, Principles of Microeconomics (TA), Econometric Analysis I-IV (TA)

**Grants**

Catholic Community Foundation of Minnesota (\$10000) 2024-26

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
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University of San Francisco, Department of Economics

Field Research Grant (\$1500)	2017
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**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
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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 (Marquette)**

Undergraduate Committee 2025-

**Department Service (UMN Applied Economics)**

Graduate student member of Priorities and Graduate Committee 2022-23

**Professional Service**

Referee for <i>Agricultural Economics</i>	2025
Referee for <i>American Journal of Agricultural Economics</i>	2023, 2022
Referee for <i>Handbook of Cooperatives</i>	2022

**Invited Popular Presentations**

"Seguimiento y levantamiento de data en proyectos"	2026
Jesuit Collaborative of the Jesuits in Peru (virtual)	
"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**

Supervised a master's student funded through Wade Chair at Marquette University  
 Supervised three master's students who did fieldwork with a Jesuit NGO in Piura, Peru  
 Supervised three master's students who did fieldwork with a Jesuit NGO in Chiapas, Mexico  
 Supervised two undergraduates who did projects with a Jesuit NGO in Chiapas, Mexico

**Board Service**

Santa Clara University, <i>Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education</i>	2021-2024
Built relationship with Jesuit NGO in Chiapas, Mexico	
Built relationship with Jesuit NGOs in Lima and Piura, Peru	
Assisted Long Le (Business School) to incorporate Chiapas and Peru NGO in his classes	

**Relevant Professional Experience**

Mathematics Faculty at Jesuit College Preparatory (Dallas, TX)	2011-2014
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)

**Personal**

Member, US Central and Southern Province of Society of Jesus (Jesuits)

Entrance: 8/15/2006; First Vows: 8/15/2008; Priestly Ordination: 6/10/2017