

Summary of Ford Scholars
Projects
Vassar Economics Department
Summer 2020

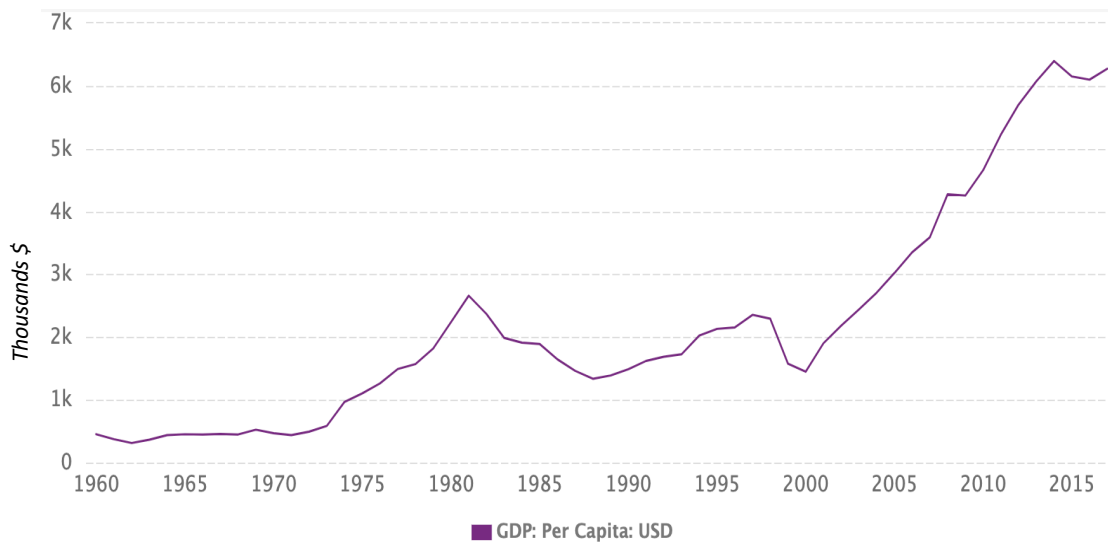
Redistribution or Illusion? A closer look at Ecuador's Economic Reform

Professor: Esteban Argudo

The Project

- Observation 1: Ecuador implemented several economic reforms during Rafael Correa's administration (2007-2017)
- Observation 2: Ecuador experienced significant economic and social progress during this decade
- **Question of Interest: Was Ecuador's progress a consequence of the implemented reforms?**

Ecuador's GDP per Capita (1960 - 2018)



Who can apply?

- ANYONE! It is open for all majors and class years

If you are just beginning your research journey you will

- Collect and clean data
- Read academic articles
- Perform basic regression analysis

If you have more experience under your belt you will

- Go beyond basic regression analysis
- Help construct a macroeconomic model
- Help solve and estimate the macroeconomic model
- Use the macroeconomic model to conduct analysis

Extremely beneficial if you are familiar with

- Programming (Python, Matlab, C++, Fortran)
- Statistics/Econometrics

Federal Oversight and the Formation of Credit Markets on American Indian Reservations

- Professor Dustin Frye
- Objective
 - Explore the institutional factors that influenced the development of credit and housing markets on American Indian Reservations
- Tasks
 - Archival data collection and transcription.
 - Land and housing data construction
 - Preliminary analysis
- Qualifications
 - Experience with Stata or R is *required*
 - Experience cleaning and constructing datasets is *preferred*
 - Experience working with spatial data is *slightly preferred*

Vertical Integration and Competitive Balance in Professional Sports: Evidence from the Minor League Baseball

- Faculty Sponsor: Qi Ge
- Project description: Minor League Baseball (MiLB) serves as a feeder league for Major League Baseball (MLB). Each MiLB team is either independently owned or (partially or wholly) owned by an MLB team. The vertical relationship between MiLB and MLB teams also varies over time, with an increasing level of vertical integration. Our panel data analysis will utilize a manually collected dataset of MiLB teams' ownership structures matched with team-level competitive balance measures in MiLB. This project contributes to the literature and provides important policy implications by 1) being the first study to consider the competitive impact of a vertical relationship between professional sports leagues and 2) being among the first to explore competitive balance issues in secondary feeder leagues.
- Anticipated student project activities: Literature search, literature review, data collection (web-scraping based), data processing (cleaning and merging), and preliminary descriptive and/or regression analyses.
- Preferred student qualifications and skills: Prior coursework in statistics and/or econometrics, advanced microeconomics, industrial organization, sports economics; proficiency in LaTeX, Stata, R, Python; prior experience with web scraping; strong time management skills and ability to multitask; attention to detail.

Behavioral Economics

Prof. Ben Ho

- Project: Help develop a new behavioral economics project. Will work with scholar to find a good match between my current projects and the interests of the student.
Examples: (see <http://benho.org> for more)
 - using machine learning to understand political biases of charities
 - analyzing apologies on twitter
 - understanding the low number of Asian-American faculty
 - understanding the relationship between income, niceness, inequality, mobility
- Tasks...
 - Every part of a research project, from hypothesis generation to lit review to experimental design to execution to statistical analysis, to publication and presentation.
- Looking for...
 - Able to independently learn simple programming (e.g. use python to download tweets and/or web design)
 - Ability to run a regression in Stata (maybe also python, understanding Stata loops and macros a plus)
 - An ability to read and consolidate diverse literatures (psychology, philosophy, political science, anthropology, computer science, etc.)
 - An interest in continuing behavioral econ research as a senior thesis

Women's Empowerment in Bangladesh

➤ Work with Professor Gisella Kagy

➤ Details:

- We will explore women's decision-making power and the likelihood that women experience domestic violence in Bangladesh

➤ What will we do?

- Use data to make tables and figures
- Read academic articles

➤ Who can apply?

- Anyone! All class years and majors are invited to apply

➤ What skills do I need?

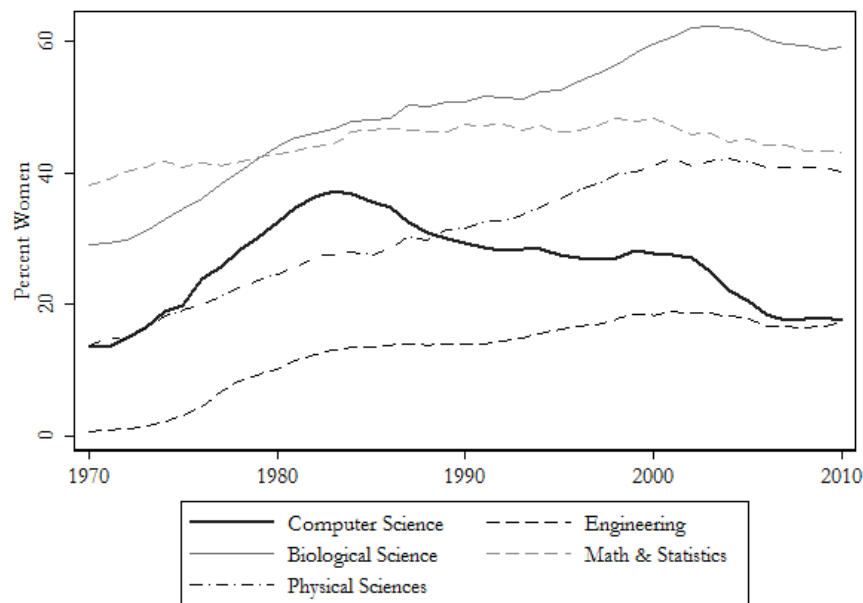
- Knowledge of statistics and a programming language is preferred.

➤ How do I apply?

- Online (<https://ford.vassar.edu/>)

PROJECT: WHY DON'T WOMEN CODE? MEDIA AND OCCUPATIONAL CHOICE IN THE U.S.

PROFESSOR: SARAH PEARLMAN



- In the mid 1980s the percentage of women in computer science began to fall
- This project will look at whether the expansion of cable television and increasing images of men using computers explain the decline
- Will Involve:
 - Reading and summarizing relevant literature
 - Working with data on cable television expansion and occupational choice
- Requirement: Experience working with R or Stata
- Benefit: Great way to learn more about how to do empirical analysis!
- Questions? Email sapearlman@vassar.edu

