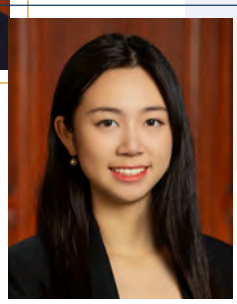
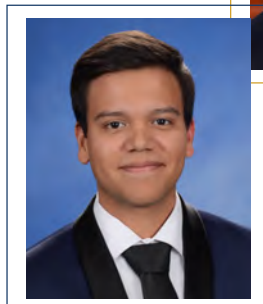
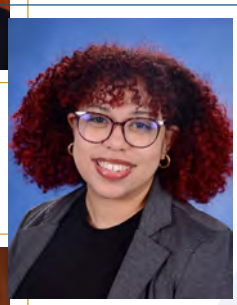
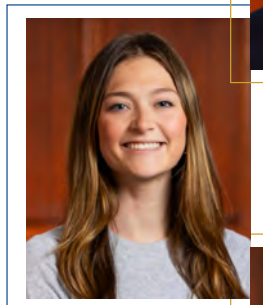
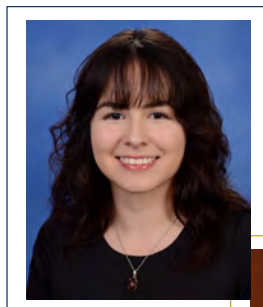




UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

ARTS & LETTERS



2025

SENIOR THESIS PROJECTS

Study everything. Do anything.SM

**Simo Baravelli**

Hometown: Verona, Veneto, Italy

- Majors: Economics and Management Consulting
- Minor: Business Honors Program
- Advisor: Taryn Dinkelman

Education Policy and Digital Employment: The Impact of Uganda's Free Primary Education Reform on Labor Market Outcomes

This project examines the long-term effects of Uganda's 1997 Free Primary Education policy on literacy and digital employment. Using a difference-in-differences approach with census data from 2002 and 2014, it estimates the causal impact of early educational access on labor market outcomes for individuals who were eligible for the reform. The findings show a significant increase in literacy and a measurable rise in digital job participation. These results highlight the enduring economic returns of foundational education and underscore the importance of inclusive schooling policies for workforce development and gender equity in low-income countries.



**Madison Barquet**

Hometown: Miami, Florida

- Major: Political Science
- Supplementary Major: Environmental Sciences
- Minor: Business Economics
- Advisor: Susan Rosato

Family Ties and Political Minds: Examining the Political Socialization of Second- and Third-Generation Cuban Diaspora Members

This thesis explores the political socialization of second- and third-generation Cuban Americans. It analyzes how family narratives, peer groups, origins of knowledge, education, and social media exposure influence attitudes toward U.S.-Cuban relations. While existing research focuses on how Cuban Americans vote, this study examines why they hold particular beliefs. Through survey analysis, it assesses the persistence of exile-driven conservatism versus the emergence of more progressive perspectives. Findings suggest that while educational exposure and digital engagement help shape some of the evolving political identities within the Cuban American community, family remains the most significant influence, particularly in the Miami diaspora.



**Jillian Beilke**

Hometown: Sparks, Nevada

- Major: Economics
- Supplementary Major: Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics
- Advisor: Jeffrey Denning

State Merit Scholarships and College Completion Revisited

My thesis reexamines the effect of state-level merit scholarships on college attendance and completion. Previous research is subject to bias resulting from a two-way fixed effects difference-in-differences method under staggered treatment timing and treatment effect heterogeneity. I apply updated difference-in-differences methods to overcome this bias and determine the true treatment effect.



**Caroline Bishop**

Hometown: Dayton, Ohio

- Major: Psychology
- Supplementary Major: Education, Schooling, and Society
- Minor: Business Economics
- Advisor: Nicole McNeil

The Impact of Components of Visual Clutter on Attention in Shared Book Reading Intervention

Shared book reading is an intervention that supports a wide range of early literacy skills. Given the potential benefits, it is essential to examine factors that affect the quality of shared book reading. One factor may be the design of the books themselves. This study examined how aspects of visual clutter in picture books relate to children's attention during shared reading sessions. Results showed that entropy, one visual clutter feature, predicted students' total utterances during sessions. This research seeks to provide evidence for effective book designs. Future research has the opportunity to expand constructs of visual clutter to gain additional insights.



**Bryce Bustamante**

Hometown: Phoenix, Arizona

- Majors: International Economics (Concentration in Spanish) and Political Science
- Minors: Constitutional Studies and Musical Theatre
- Advisor: Kasey Buckles

Factional Fiction: Affective Polarization and Public Economic Perceptions

As polarization increasingly seems to leave opposing sides without a shared foundation of facts, I explore the relationship between levels of affective polarization — social animosity toward rival partisans — and the public's perceptions of the economy.

I run a fixed-effects regression using data from surveys across 19 countries as collected by the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems. I find a statistically significant correlation between the two phenomena: As national levels of affective polarization rise, so does the gap in partisan perceptions of the economy.



**Martha Byrne**

Hometown: Westfield, New Jersey

- Major: Economics
- Minors: Constitutional Studies, Data Science, and French
- Advisor: César Sosa-Padilla

When are the 'Bad Times': Detrending Data and Testing the Sovereign Debt Model

A major puzzle in sovereign debt literature lies in the mismatch between default predictions by the sovereign debt model and default occurrence observed in empirical data. Most government defaults should occur during economic "bad times," when a country's output is below trend. Different filtering methods produce different "bad times" and sizes of output gaps. With the Hodrick-Prescott filter, fewer defaults occur in bad times than predicted, and negative output gaps are smaller. Recently, the Hamilton filter has been suggested as an alternative. I compare various detrending methods with sovereign debt model estimates to provide a better understanding of the ideal data detrending method and gain insight into when countries default.



**Elaine Carroll**

Hometown: Naperville, Illinois

- Majors: Economics and Applied Computational Mathematics and Statistics
- Minor: Poverty Studies
- Advisor: Margaret Pfeil

Locational Viability of Social Impact Bond-Financed Housing Interventions

My thesis examines specific economic and social conditions that constitute a desirable environment for a social impact bond-financed housing intervention. Social impact bonds (SIBs) are public-private partnerships in which private investors provide upfront capital to local governments so that these governments can scale large, innovative social interventions. In this project, I compare three SIB-financed housing interventions within the U.S. Using data from interviews conducted with the entities involved in these SIBs, I create a comprehensive list of locational traits that better enable the flourishing of this type of project.



**Joshua Chen**

Hometown: Hacienda Heights,
California

- Majors: Economics and English
- Advisor: William Evans

Civil Unrest and Business Health: The Effect of Protests on Retail Employment

Protests are a crucial part of a functioning democracy and a tool that, if used wisely, can prompt effective change. However, protests that turn violent often have negative externalities — the cost of which other social agents, such as small retail storefronts, must often carry. I seek to determine whether the George Floyd protests in 2020 had a measurable impact on retail employment and business health in the cities affected. Using a difference-in-differences econometric model and advanced statistics, I investigate several datasets to determine if there is a causal effect.



**Alexander DelVecchio**

Hometown: Darien, Connecticut

- Majors: A&L Pre-Health and Economics
- Minor: History
- Advisor: Ethan Lieber

Effects of EHR Adoption on Wages in Health Care

I investigate the economic impacts of digitization on the health care field through the lens of how widespread electronic health record (EHR) adoption has affected wages for workers in various professions. I employ a difference-in-differences model, using the passage of the 2009 HITECH Act, which incentivized EHR adoption, as the treatment. I compare trends in wages for physicians, nursing administrators, and medical records librarians to a control group of hospital workers. I find that following HITECH's implementation, all three treatment groups enjoyed relative wage increases; however, employment of medical records personnel likely suffered significantly.



**Abbey Donahue**

Hometown: Bay Village, Ohio

- Major: Economics
- Minor: Italian
- Advisor: Forrest Spence

Betting on the Future: Evaluating the Impact of Trader Volume on Prediction Market Accuracy

Prediction markets have gained attention as a powerful tool for aggregating diverse beliefs to forecast future outcomes, with applications in fields ranging from sports to politics. Proponents argue that prediction markets work because they calibrate many diverse opinions, a phenomenon known as “wisdom of the crowds.” My study is the first to establish a causal relationship between crowd size and accuracy of public markets. In addition to benefiting the economics community by filling this gap in the literature, my results can help others learn how to interpret these increasingly popular, increasingly newsworthy prediction markets.



**Chizoma Duru**

Hometown: Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria

- Major: Economics
- Minors: French and Sustainability
- Advisor: Krister Andersson

Beyond the Grid: A Comparative Cost/Benefit Analysis of Solar Panels Versus Fossil Fuel-Powered Generators in Lagos, Nigeria

Nigeria is burdened with a lack of power stability from the national grid, leaving many households operationally crippled. Due to this instability in national power provision, many households in cosmopolitan states have adopted the use of backup energy sources such as fossil-powered generators due to their historic economic affordability, a reality that has changed over the past few years with fuel prices rising to a ghastly 840 naira per liter. Using Lagos state as a case study, my research analyzes the costs and benefits of solar power in comparison to the more commonly used backup power sources — gasoline and diesel-powered generators — to prove that for most households, solar panels are the most economically and environmentally efficient backup alternative to the grid.



**Hannah Edwards**

Hometown: Galesburg, Illinois

- Majors: Economics and Finance
- Advisor: Benjamin Pugsley

The Apple Doesn't Fall Far from the Tree: Examining the Intergenerational Effect of Having a Stay-at-Home Mother on Her Children's Adult Work Decisions

Women have historically faced a tradeoff between career and family, leading to persistent gaps between maternal and paternal labor force participation. I study the intergenerational relationship between full-time maternal employment during childhood and mothers' children's labor force decisions. Using the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979, I find that daughters who grew up with working mothers spend a greater fraction of their adult life working than their peers whose mothers stayed at home. Additionally, I find a positive but weak correlation between maternal labor force participation and mothers' sons' wives' labor force participation. These results suggest that maternal employment patterns may shape labor force decisions in the next generation, especially for women.



**John Falger**

Hometown: Stamford, Connecticut

- Majors: Economics and Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics
- Minors: Philosophy and Theology
- Advisor: Jeffrey Campbell

Who's Responding to Macroeconomic News?

My thesis explores the effects of macroeconomic news shocks, like FOMC meetings, on the inflation expectations of various demographic groups. Specifically, it examines how publicized information influences point forecasts and underlying subjective density distributions of expected inflation across different ages, genders, incomes, education levels, and numeracy skills.



**Pranav Guntupalli**

Hometown: Frisco, Texas

- Major: Economics
- Minors: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics and Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics
- Advisor: Andrew Ferdowsian

Tyranny of the Weak

Is being strong always an advantage in international relations? I argue that weakness can be strategically advantageous in games with disaster because the weak can more credibly adopt a risky strategy. I develop a game-theoretic model of nuclear strategy to identify how differences in strength determine the riskiness of nuclear threats and aggression of states' military operations.



**Allie Huller**

Hometown: St. Louis, Missouri

- Major: Economics
- Minor: Real Estate
- Advisor: Robert Collinson

The Effects of Abortion Restrictions on Domestic Violence: Evidence from Dobbs

This paper investigates the impact of abortion restrictions on domestic violence rates at the county level. Using both traditional and synthetic difference-in-differences methodologies, I compare domestic violence incidence in states that enacted trigger bans with those that did not following the Supreme Court's 2022 decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. My findings suggest that trigger bans increase domestic violence incidence, with the effects becoming more pronounced as individuals live farther from a non-trigger ban state. Placebo test specifications indicate that these results are unlikely to be driven by omitted variable bias.



**Madeline Jepko**

Hometown: North Oaks, Minnesota

- Majors: International Economics (Concentration in Spanish) and Global Affairs
- Advisor: Forrest Spence

The Impact of Mass Incarceration on Gender Dynamics in El Salvador's Labor Market

This research investigates the impact of President Nayib Bukele's State of Exception policy, which targets and incarcerates suspected gang members, on the gender composition of El Salvador's labor market. With men disproportionately imprisoned and traditional gender roles deeply rooted, the study examines whether this has influenced female labor force participation in El Salvador. By analyzing labor market trends qualitatively and using ordinary least squares regression, the project aims to isolate the effects of male incarceration on gender dynamics. The findings may offer insights for labor markets in similar regions and inform future policies addressing gender disparities.



**Kevin Jun**

Hometown: St. Charles, Illinois

- Majors: Economics and Neuroscience and Behavior
- Advisor: James Brockmole

The Role of Representational Momentum in Changing Facial Expression

Representational momentum is the tendency for us to remember that at any point, a moving object is farther along its trajectory than it is in reality. In our memory, we perceive momentum as still carrying the object forward, even though in reality, it never reached that point. The goal of my study is to identify if representational momentum can be observed in the emotional expression of faces, as previous research has shown the presence of representational momentum in physical movement and the framework of Newtonian physics.



**Grace Karmazin-Schneider**

Hometown: San Diego, California

- Majors: Economics and Theology
- Advisor: Kenneth Oakes

The Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ: An Artistic and Theological Reflection

This thesis consists of a trilogy of paintings depicting the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ and a theological reflection on the meaning of these events in relation to human suffering, death, and life. The thesis artwork is largely influenced by the creative works of Michelangelo, William Blake, Caravaggio, and Kahlil Gibran. The aim of the artwork and reflection is to explore the significance of God's death on the cross as sacrificial love, the reconciliation of humanity to God in death, and the new hope found in the Resurrection of the body through interactive written and artistic work.



**Halle Keane**

Hometown: Avon, Connecticut

- Majors: Economics and Spanish
- Minor: Poverty Studies
- Advisor: Joshua Lund

Machos que Matan, Machismo que Mata: Las Críticas del Disciplinamiento del Cuerpo Cubano en *El Asalto* y *El Rey de La Habana*

My project examines how two Cuban authors, Reinaldo Arenas and Pedro Juan Gutiérrez, critique the formation of male sexuality in two distinct periods of the Cuban Revolution. While the first period of the Revolution, the 1960s through 1980s, consisted of a politics of sexual repression, the second period, called the Special Period, was characterized by the proliferation of prostitution. Pairing close readings of Arenas' *El asalto* and Gutiérrez's *El Rey de La Habana* with historical analysis, I argue that, despite differing aesthetics of repression and commodification, the sexual politics of each revolutionary period led "misfit" Cuban men to express their sexuality destructively, transforming sex into a space of violence in both cases.



**Ryan Kennedy**

Hometown: Winnetka, Illinois

- Majors: Economics and Computer Science
- Advisor: Maciej Kotowski

One Step Ahead: Understanding HFT Order Anticipation and its Impact on Market Quality under Varied Market Designs

Over the past two decades, high-frequency trading has played an increasing role in financial markets, making it ever more important to understand how fast trading affects the market as a whole. In this thesis, I use both high-frequency market data and an original theoretical model to analyze how firms employing order anticipation strategies might affect market quality. I find that order anticipation often harms large investors but can also improve liquidity. Additionally, I analyze how alternative market designs might affect these strategies, finding that they fail to isolate the positive effects of order anticipation but may be useful nonetheless.



**Joey Kositzke**

Hometown: Kenosha, Wisconsin

- Major: American Studies
- Minors: Business Economics and Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Advisor: Peter Cajka

Blueprints to Chaos: *Halloween*, *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre*, and 1970s Horror Films as Cultural Capsules of America's Deepest Fears

In the 1970s, horror films reflected America's collective anxieties, embodying the cultural disillusionment of the decade. Tobe Hooper's *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre* depicted a bleak view of rural America, while John Carpenter's *Halloween* focused on suburban fears of random violence through the figure of Michael Myers. These films serve as significant cultural touchstones, illustrating the deep societal fears of the time. This thesis explores how horror films from this period functioned as a "canon of anxieties," preserving and presenting the fears of an anxious nation in vivid, cinematic terms that continue to resonate today.



**Angel Lai**

Hometown: Wuhan, Hubei, China

- Majors: Economics and Sociology
- Advisor: Jeff Denning

Ōlelo Hawai'i: Factors Shaping Hawaiian Language Class Take-Up in Hawai'i's Public High Schools

There has been an increasing demand for language classes in the U.S. in the past decade. Most existing literature explores the effects of nationwide language policies, and only a limited number of them focus on understanding factors that shape program availability. My paper fills this gap by exploring factors that affect both school- and student-level Hawaiian class take-ups in Hawai'i's public high schools using a longitudinal dataset. I utilize predictive analysis and fixed-effect models and find that both school size and race remain the most significant predictors.



**Ellie Leverett**

Hometown: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

- Major: Film, Television, and Theatre
- Minors: Computing and Digital Technologies and Business Economics
- Advisor: Pamela Wojcik

Televising Disney: How the TV Series *Disneyland* Constructed Disney's Expansive Brand Identity

This thesis argues that the 1954 *Disneyland* TV series expanded Disney's public image beyond entertainment, positioning the company as an innovator in art, technology, and education. Through behind-the-scenes episodes on animation, live-action filmmaking, and the construction of the Disneyland theme park, Disney used the new television medium to grant viewers privileged access to Disney's creative process, technological innovations, and groundbreaking achievements. In doing so, *Disneyland* drew connections across the company's diverse portfolio and business ventures, laying the foundation for the synergistic strategies that would come to define its expanding media empire.



**Liam Linnen**

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

- Major: Economics
- Minors: Hesburgh Program in Public Service and Digital Marketing
- Advisor: Rev. Stephen Koeth, C.S.C.

Assessing the Current Jurisprudence around the Second Amendment

The epidemic of gun violence in American society today is proof that the United States government has not provided the security necessary to ensure domestic tranquility and promote the general welfare. A sufficient method of mitigating gun violence in American communities and schools is necessary. This paper will show how the evolution of policing and Second Amendment jurisprudence have created a humanitarian crisis, and will argue that the right to bear arms should be interpreted, like other mandates in the Bill of Rights, as a privilege rather than an absolute right, allowing for political and public policy solutions of gun control.



**Matthew McCollum**

Hometown: Hammonton, New Jersey

- Major: International Economics
(Concentration in German)
- Minor: Data Science
- Advisor: Rüdiger Bachmann

Effects of ECB Monetary Shocks on the German Yield Curve

This study analyzes the impact of European Central Bank monetary policy shocks on the German sovereign bond using the EA-MPD dataset and Jorda's Local Projections methodology. It decomposes the yield curve into level, slope, and curvature components. Results show that monetary tightening increases yields, initially flattens the curve, and later steepens it, while curvature decreases. These findings highlight the varying impacts of short-term rates across different maturities and emphasize the importance of the yield curve in understanding monetary policy transmission and its market effects.



**Aidan Meath**

Hometown: Washington, D.C.

- Majors: Economics and Global Affairs
- Minor: Accounting
- Advisor: Jeffrey Campbell

Belief Shocks and Monetary Policy: Challenges and Solutions for Emerging Market Growth

My project examines the influence of U.S. monetary policy shocks on capital flows in the Fragile Five economies of India, Indonesia, Turkey, South Africa, and Brazil over the past decade. By employing a recursive vector autoregression VAR model, I analyze the effects of U.S. monetary tightening and expansion on investment holdings by U.S. entities in the Fragile Five and by Fragile Five entities in the U.S. Surprisingly, the shadow federal funds rate shows limited predictive power for capital flows as opposed to other metrics such as inflation and unemployment, which exhibit stronger correlations. The findings suggest capital flows act as a leading indicator for U.S. economic activity, which challenges traditional assumptions about interest rate-driven capital movements.



**Colin Menz**

Hometown: Hartland, Wisconsin

- Majors: Economics, Finance, and Mathematics
- Advisor: Jasmine Xiao

How Risk Manifests in Shifts: An Analysis of Investment Portfolio Composition in Response to Income Changes

There is extensive literature on how households change their investing and risk preferences in response to changes in wealth but not in income. Using PSID data for U.S. households from 2013 to 2021, I find that the relationship between the percentage of household wealth invested in stocks and annual household income is positive on average and, for the average household, supporting decreasing income-based relative risk aversion. Moreover, I find significant heterogeneity by education level: Households with more years of education or college graduates invest significantly more in stocks when their incomes increase than relatively less educated households. Utilizing lagged income as an instrument to mitigate concerns about measurement errors, I show that the above findings are supported.



**Kyle Northrup**

Hometown: Madison, Connecticut

- Majors: Economics and History
- Advisor: Rev. Robert Sullivan

Great Britain, 1945–47: Economic Reality and Imperial Delusions

This thesis analyzes how Great Britain managed its imperial decline 1945–47, a moment when global power dynamics were shifting based on Britain's decreasing economic strength relative to the U.S. and its former colonies. Interagency competition, primarily between the Treasury and Foreign Office, shaped Britain's response to its overextension.



**Jamie Reintjes**

Hometown: Prairie Village, Kansas

- Major: International Economics
(Concentration in Chinese)
- Advisors: Lakshmi Iyer and
Victoria Barone

Rising Fentanyl-Related Deaths and their Impact on U.S. Sentiment toward China

Combining qualitative sentiment analysis and topic modeling with more traditional econometric regression analysis, I sought to quantitatively analyze the causal impacts fentanyl-related mortality had on the rising anti-Chinese sentiment in the news media. Informed by China's primary role in fentanyl production, I sought to analyze these effects on the public's broader awareness of the subject. However, there appeared to be a null effect that fentanyl mortality had on fentanyl- and China-related articles.



**Paulina Rosiles**

Hometown: El Paso, Texas

- Majors: Economics and Studio Art (Concentration in Painting)
- Minor: Latino Studies
- Advisor: Jason Lahr

Let's Play Dress-Up

Let's Play Dress-Up explores the relationship between clothes, identity, and social norms through the lens of my experience as a Mexican American student at Notre Dame.

Through a series of paintings and found objects, including a full-body self-portrait and depictions of different clothes, audiences are invited into an interactive installation to mix and match outfits pertaining to various aspects of my identity. The interaction, akin to playing with a paper doll, allows viewers to explore identity's multifaceted nature.



**Annabelle Sauer**

Hometown: Fort Worth, Texas

- Major: Economics
- Advisor: Daniel Hungerman

Quantity and Quality: Investigating the Impact of Private School Choice Programs on Catholic School Students and Student-Teacher Ratios

Many states have recently introduced or expanded private school choice programs. Limited evidence exists on how the private schooling environment changes in response to these programs, and existing evidence cannot isolate the effects for Catholic schools. I compiled data from the annual Official Catholic Directory and used diocese and year fixed-effects to test whether the introduction of private school choice programs between 1996 and 2017 impacted enrollment and student-teacher ratio in Catholic schools. I found that both enrollment and student-teacher ratio declined over my study period. But I found no significant effect of program introduction on either of these outcomes.



**Abigail Sheerin**

Hometown: Ipswich, Massachusetts

- Major: Honors Economics
- Supplementary Major: Applied Computational Mathematics and Statistics
- Advisor: Jeff Biddle

The Revolving Door: Assessing the Leading Causes of Public Defender Turnover

Chronic underfunding of public defense systems in the United States has led to persistent challenges, including low salaries and excessive caseloads for public defenders. These conditions are widely believed to contribute to high rates of attorney turnover, which may undermine the quality of legal representation available to indigent defendants. My thesis examines how extrinsic factors — primarily salary, caseload, and overall workload — affect public defender turnover.

The findings have important implications for how resources can be more effectively allocated to improve attorney retention and reduce disparities in legal outcomes between indigent defendants and those with private counsel.



**Ellie Spielmann**

Hometown: Ketchum, Oklahoma

- Major: Economics
- Minor: Hesburgh Program in Public Service
- Advisor: Evan Mast

Books before Babies: Contraception's Role in Higher Education for Women

This paper examines whether increased access to reproductive health care affects women's educational outcomes. I use a difference-in-differences model to compare female college enrollment rates in states that expanded Medicaid in 2014–2015 to those that did not, applying kernel-based propensity score matching weights for better comparability. My findings indicate that Medicaid expansion's impact on female college enrollment from 2014–2019 was small (0.75 percentage points) and statistically insignificant. While improved contraception access may reduce educational barriers for some women, its immediate effect on enrollment appears limited.



**Sarah Sterba**

Hometown: Wheaton, Illinois

- Majors: A&L Pre-Health and Economics
- Minor: Health, Humanities, and Society
- Advisor: Ethan Lieber

Can Insurance Help You See? Medicare Eligibility and Cataract Surgery

I examine the impact of health insurance and cataract surgery in the United States by analyzing 1997–2021 data from the National Health Interview Survey. I evaluate a change in cataract surgery rates after Medicare eligibility at age 65. I also use data from a Midwestern ophthalmology practice to construct a cost-basis of cataract surgery; the out-of-pocket costs of cataract surgery are approximately 95% less, on average, with Medicare as compared to commercial health insurance. I find evidence that low-income, white, and high-school equivalent education level groups exhibit signs of delaying treatment until reaching age 65.



**Alex Stevinson**

Hometown: Greenwood Village,
Colorado

- Major: History
- Minors: Business Economics and Constitutional Studies
- Advisor: Joshua Specht

Power Lines: Legal Currents from Insull's Utilities to Enron's Energy Empire

My thesis examines historical and legal links between Samuel Insull's utility empire in the early 20th century and Enron's collapse at the end of the century. It argues that both failures were made possible by similar legal structures — especially opaque financial instruments that allowed companies to hide risk, inflate their value, and avoid accountability. By tracking changes in corporate governance, financial regulation, and energy policy, the study shows how repeated cycles of deregulation and legal innovation have led to recurring instability in the American energy sector. It also highlights the ongoing tension between private business interests and public oversight.



**Anna Teerlinck**

Hometown: Neenah, Wisconsin

- Majors: Computer Science and Honors Economics
- Notre Dame Scholars Program, Stamps Scholars Program
- Advisor: Maciej Kotowski

From Club Budgets to Campus Benefit: An Exploration of Incentives in Club Allocation Mechanisms

The Club Coordination Council (CCC) is the branch of Notre Dame's Student Union responsible for allocating 40% of the annual Student Union budget — approximately \$440,000 — to 334 undergraduate student clubs.

My thesis analyzes the CCC allocation system. After exploring how the current system may incentivize or penalize clubs' external fundraising, I propose an alternate system designed to encourage fundraising while maintaining fairness and transparency.

My thesis was inspired by my work with the CCC. Though my term as CCC president has ended, it remains my steadfast belief that clubs play a vital role in the undergraduate experience. This thesis has been a welcome opportunity to examine the CCC through a theoretical lens and offer insights to help the CCC better serve its clubs.

