

Western Undergraduate Economics Review

2010

The *Western Undergraduate Economics Review* is an annual publication containing articles written by undergraduate students in Economics at Western. First published in 2002, the *Review* reflects the academic distinction and creativity of the Economics Department at Western. It showcases some of the finest work of our students, and bestows on them a lasting honour and sense of pride. Moreover, publication in the *Review* is a tremendous asset as students continue their education or pursue a career in any field. For many, it is their first taste of professional academic experience – that of becoming a published author – and is a highlight of their undergraduate career. The *Review* is a collaborative effort of the students, faculty and staff of the Economics Department. Selections are made by the edition editor(s) in conjunction with a faculty advisor based on creativity, academic merit, and the written quality of the article.

Editors:

Jerry Lao
Emanuel Marcu

Faculty Advisor

Desmond McKeon

Administrative Support

Jeremy Chambers
Leslie Kostal
Jennifer Hope
Jane McAndrew

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Editors' Comments

The current edition features primarily empirical undergraduate Economics 4400E theses. The scope of the current issue is diverse; topics include public transportation, political economy, the housing market, visible ethnicity, the effects of rising tuition, and financial regulation. An outstanding contribution was made by O'Hare and Yu who are the winners of the Mark K. Inman Senior Essay prize, which is awarded annually to the best Economics 4400E paper.

Some of the papers attracted our attention in particular. First, Crljenica and Willson directly applied their knowledge from class – namely, they calibrated a model which tests a theory presented in Wintrobe's political economy course. Second, Mcleod and Winter appropriately use 2SLS estimation studied in the advanced econometrics course. Finally, Chan and Shi settled the question of whether student renters reduce housing value with economics, i.e., they reached a conclusion by relying on empirical data rather than anecdotal arguments.

We are glad that you are taking the time to read these papers, which not only exemplify the power of the economic method, but also serve as a good representation of the research tools acquired by a UWO undergraduate student.

Jerry Lao

Emanuel Marcu

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