

# Western Undergraduate Economics Review

## 2015

The *Western Undergraduate Economics Review* is an annual publication containing papers 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. By showcasing some of the finest work of our students, it bestows on them a lasting honour and a sense of pride. Moreover, publication in the *Review* is highly beneficial to the students as they continue their studies or pursue other activities after graduation. For many, it is their first publication, and the experience of becoming a published author is a highlight of their undergraduate career. The *Review* is a collaborative effort of the students, faculty, and staff of the Economics Department. All papers submitted to the *Review* are essays written for courses taken in the Department. Some are by students in the early stages of their Economics studies, while others are papers written by senior students for the Department's unique thesis course, Economics 4400. Selections are made by the edition editors, in consultation with a faculty advisor, based on creativity, academic merit, and the written quality of the article.

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## Editors' Comments

We are pleased to present the 2015 edition of the *Western Undergraduate Economics Review*, which once again showcases a variety of high caliber work completed by Western's Undergraduate Economics students. This year, the *Review* includes a collection of papers that provide important conclusions for economic policy both in Canada and around the world.

The 2015 *Review* opens with the winner of the Mark K. Inman Senior Essay Prize written by Lorayne Mercado and Saad Usmani, an examination of the decay of remittances sent by internal migrants within Senegal. Their paper provides an interesting empirical analysis by testing the remittance decay hypothesis and finds significant results that contribute to the literature. This paper is followed by Lorinc Mucsi's analytical essay, in which he provides support for the alternative method of "evaluative voting" and empirically demonstrates how adopting such a system in Canada could result in interesting advantages over the current electoral system. The third paper in this edition is another excellent example of the work completed in the 4400E Thesis Course: Shane Bahmann and Matthew Campo's contribution evaluates the potential presence of the Dutch Disease phenomenon in Canada's economy through a rigorous empirical analysis. Finally, we conclude this year's edition with James Balsillie's paper, which provides an interesting analysis of how Conditional Cash Transfer Programs have had an observable impact on entrepreneurship in Brazil and Mexico, and the implications of this finding for future policy development.

We hope you enjoy reading the 2015 edition of the *Western Undergraduate Economics Review*. We would like to once again congratulate each of the authors for their excellent contributions, which we believe are truly representative of the dedication and talent of undergraduates in the Department of Economics at Western University. We hope that this publication continues to inspire and motivate future students in their academic pursuits.

*Victoria Turner*  
*Mitchell Nicholson*  
London, Ontario  
April 2015

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