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Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Colorado State University, expected Spring 2026
M.A. in Economics, Colorado State University, 2022
B.S. in Mathematics, University of Tulsa, 2020, *magna cum laude*
B.A. in Environmental Policy, University of Tulsa, 2020, *magna cum laude*

Fields

Research: Political Economy, Evolutionary Game Theory, Ecological/Environmental Economics, Social/Cultural Economics, Economic History, Stratification Economics
Teaching: Microeconomics, Political Economy, Ecological/Environmental Economics, Game Theory, Behavioral Economics, Economic History

Dissertation

Title: Endogenous Preferences and the Human Ecology of Capitalism
Committee: Anders Fremstad (chair), Elissa Braunstein, Sammy Zahran, Stephan Kroll

Working Papers

“The Social and Cultural Effects of Markets and Capitalism: Evidence from Folklore and Ethnography.”

[PDF](#)

Abstract: The social and cultural consequences of economic systems have long been debated by social and economic theorists. In this paper, I employ global folklore text (from the Berezkin catalogue of folklore motifs) and ethnographic text (from the eHRAF World Cultures database) as data to analyze the social and cultural effects of markets and capitalism. I construct indices for social, cultural, and economic characteristics based on the textual prevalence of relevant words and themes and apply regression analysis to these indices. The results suggest that markets and capitalism are associated with decreased ecocentrism and increased stratification and that, in folklore, markets are associated with increased moral content. Additionally, while markets are weakly associated with increased prosociality, capitalism is associated with decreased prosociality. I also estimate the markets coefficients using distance from historic trade route as an instrument, providing some support for a causal interpretation.

“Social Context and the Evolution of Empathy.” R & R at *Evolution and Human Behavior*. [PDF](#)

Abstract: How does social context influence the evolution and behavioral expression of empathy? Experimental evidence consistently shows that empathy increases with social closeness. Using evolutionary game theory, I examine how empathy evolves in various social-economic ecologies. I situate the evolutionary game on a network with distinct social and economic layers and define empathy as cooperating conditional on social proximity. The results reveal that when interactions occur among both familiars and strangers, discriminatory empathy outperforms unconditional cooperation, but when interactions occur only among strangers, empathy produces no cooperation. These findings highlight the behavioral consequences of modern human ecologies characterized by anonymity and provide insights for designing institutions and structuring human ecologies that better foster cooperation.

Works in Progress

“Markets and Prosociality: A Synthesis of Literatures”

“A Unifying Framework for the Evolution of Cooperation”

“Indigeneity and Sustainable Ecological Relationships: An Evolutionary Theory”

“The Political Economy of Selfishness: Behavioral Consequences of the Logic of Capitalism”

“Identity, Stigma, and Power in Social Movements”

“Ephemerality and Reciprocity”

“Ecological Networks and Human Niches: Moving Beyond Homo Economicus”

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record, Colorado State University

- Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025

Teaching Assistant, Colorado State University

- Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023
- Principles of Macroeconomics, Fall 2020, Spring 2021

Fellowships, Grants, and Honors

- Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award, Colorado State University, 2023-2024
- L.S. & Chuen-Mei Fan Graduate Scholarship, Colorado State University, 2022-2023
- Outstanding Environmental Policy Award, University of Tulsa, 2020
- Award for Outstanding Achievement in Mathematics, University of Tulsa, 2020
- Presidential Scholarship, University of Tulsa, 2016-2020

Presentations

“Social Context and the Evolution of Empathy”, Association for Social Economics session at the ASSA 2026 Annual Meeting, Philadelphia (upcoming January, 2026).

“The Sociocultural Effects of Markets and Capitalism: Evidence from Folklore and Ethnography”, Graduate Student Showcase, Colorado State University (November, 2025).

“The Sociocultural Effects of Markets and Capitalism: Evidence from Folklore and Ethnography”, CSU-UW Fall Research Day, University of Wyoming (November, 2025).

“The Sociocultural Effects of Markets and Capitalism: Evidence from Folklore and Ethnography”, Department of Economics Seminar, Colorado State University (October, 2025).

“The Sociocultural Effects of Markets and Capitalism: Evidence from Folklore and Ethnography”, Western States Graduate Workshop in Economics, Colorado State University (October, 2025).

“Social Context and the Evolution of Empathy”, UW-CSU Economics Ph.D. Student Symposium, Colorado State University (April, 2025).

“Empathy and Embeddedness: Endogenous Social Preferences on a Multiplex Network”, Graduate Student Showcase, Colorado State University (November, 2024).

“Empathy and Embeddedness: Endogenous Social Preferences on a Multiplex Network”, Western States Graduate Workshop in Economics, University of Utah (September, 2024).

“Evolutionary Game Theory”, Complex Systems Summer School, Santa Fe Institute (June, 2024).

“Identity, Stigma, and Power in Social Movements” (with Enock Appiah Tieku, Corrina Fuller, and Shravika Mittal), Complex Systems Summer School, Santa Fe Institute (June, 2024).

“Evolution of Conditional Cooperation on a Multiplex Network”, UW-CSU Economics Ph.D. Student Symposium, Colorado State University (March, 2024).

“Evolution of Conditional Cooperation on a Multiplex Network”, Graduate Student Showcase, Colorado State University (November, 2023).

Other Experience

- Complex Systems Summer School, Santa Fe Institute, June-July 2024
- Summer School in Social Economics, Association for Social Economics, June 2024
- Global Scholar, University of Tulsa, 2017-2020
- Studied Himalayan forests and rural livelihoods, School for Field Studies, Bhutan, Summer 2018
- Studied globalization and the environment, TU Global Scholars, Panama, December 2018
- President of Students for Sustainability, University of Tulsa, 2017-2019
- Assistant summer camp instructor, Tulsa Zoo, 2017, 2019
- Volunteer summer camp counselor, Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice, 2017, 2019

Programming Skills

- Proficiency in R

References

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