Welcome  
Professor Andrés Rodríguez-Clare  
Chair, Department of Economics

Commencement Address  
Professor Maurice Obstfeld  
Class of 1958 Professor of Economics

Student Address  
Vidushee Mishra  
Class of 2024
We recognize that Berkeley sits on the territory of xučyun (Huichin (Hoo-Choon)), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo (Cho-chen-yo) speaking Ohlone people, the successors of the historic and sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to the Muwekma (Muh-wek-muh) Ohlone Tribe and other familial descendants of the Verona Band.

We recognize that every member of the Berkeley community has benefitted, and continues to benefit, from the use and occupation of this land since the institution’s founding in 1868. Consistent with our values of community and diversity, we have a responsibility to acknowledge and make visible the university’s relationship to Native peoples.

By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and will work to hold the University of California, Berkeley more accountable to the needs of American Indian and Indigenous peoples.

Visit [https://cejce.berkeley.edu/nasd](https://cejce.berkeley.edu/nasd) to learn more
Graduate Awards

**Eliot J. Swan Prize**  
Yahu Cong

The Eliot J. Swan Prize is awarded for the best performance in the first year of the Ph.D. program. It includes a cash component to recognize the discipline and dedication of this achievement. Eliot J. Swan was a graduate student, teaching assistant and instructor in the Department of Economics at UC Berkeley from 1932-1941. He then went on to a career at the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank, where he eventually served as President. He retired from the bank in 1972, after 31 years of service.

**George Break Prize in Public Finance**  
Dustin Swonder

The George Break Prize in Public Finance is awarded to a student with outstanding performance in the Public Finance field courses. The prize was established in honor of George Break, a leading figure in public finance and a professor in the Economics Department for 40 years.

**The Opportunity Lab/Stone Center Award for Excellence in Research on Economic Inequality**  
Hadar Avivi

The Opportunity Lab/Stone Center Award for Excellence in Research on Economic Inequality is awarded to recognize graduating students who have produced exceptional work on economic inequality and opportunity through their Dissertation or Senior Honors Thesis. The goal of this award is to encourage and support rigorous, quantitative research on economic inequality and social mobility. The decision is made by faculty members from the Opportunity Lab and the James M. and Catherine D. Stone Center on Wealth and Income Inequality.

**Public Policy Research Award**  
Felipe Lobel

The Public Policy Prize is awarded to a student performing research in Economics relating directly to issues of Public Policy. Typical subjects include (but are not limited to) Public Finance, Regulation, Health, Transportation and Education. The decision is made by the faculty members who specialize in Public Policy.
Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) Doctoral Dissertation Prize in Development Economics
Nicholas Swanson

The CEGA Doctoral Dissertation Prize in Development Economics Prize is awarded in recognition of outstanding work or research in Development Economics completed during the academic year. Its goal is to support students in their thesis writing. The decision is made by the faculty members who specialize in Development Economics.

2024 Outstanding GSI Award Recipients

Sarah Baker
Julie Chen
Peter Flo Grinde-Hollevik
Jingwen Hu
Ryan Keane
Junru Lyu
Daniela Paz Cruzat
Sebastián Puerta
Yassine Sbai Sassi
Nachiket Shah
Elaine Shen
Aidan Wang
Jacob Wu
Undergraduate Awards

Steve Goldman Memorial Prize and Departmental Citation
Meiqi Sun

The Steve Goldman Memorial Prize and Departmental Citation is awarded to the top undergraduate student in recognition of outstanding achievement in the Department of Economics. The Goldman Prize Fund was established in memory of Professor Goldman, who joined the Berkeley faculty in 1966. He was a micro-theorist, devoted mentor to many students, and strong supporter of academic excellence.

Mark A. Schimbor Award
Rohan Jha

The Mark A. Schimbor Prize in Economics was established in 2012 in memory of Mark A. Schimbor, who passed away in 2012. Mark earned a degree in Economics with Honors, Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of California, Berkeley in 1967. The Mark A. Schimbor Prize in Economics enables the Department to celebrate excellence in the study of Economics, making note of Mark’s legacy as an honors student, and recognizing the spirit in which the prize was established. The prize is awarded to the honors student that demonstrates not only academic excellence but also exemplary research abilities. The winner is selected by the Economics Undergraduate Committee based on the outstanding nature of their honors thesis.

Thomas E. Bowman Award
Henry Isselbacher

The Thomas E. Bowman Prize for Student Support in Economics is awarded to the student who has demonstrated not only academic excellence, but has shown an outstanding commitment to contributing to the department, the university, and the community. The award was established in honor of Thomas E. Bowman, who graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a bachelor’s degree in Economics in 1947. The award is funded by the Better Business Bureau of Oakland, in honor of Tom’s many years of service.
CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Ph.D. Candidates
Professor Benjamin Faber

B.A. Honors Candidates
Professor Edward Miguel
Professor Demian Pouzo

B.A. Candidates
Professor Stephen Bianchi
Professor Ryan Edwards
Ph.D. CANDIDATES

Felipe Arteaga
“Essays on Empirical Market Design”
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Ben Handel

Hadar Avivi
“Essays in Intergenerational Mobility and Inequality”
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Patrick Kline

Martín Caruso Bloeck
“Essays on Macroeconomic Expectations”
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Yuriy Gorodnichenko

Andrea Cerrato
“Essays in Empirical Macroeconomics”
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Emi Nakamura

Bryan Paul Chu
“Essays in Hospital Organization, Infrastructure, and Productivity”
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Ben Handel

Kevin Dano
“Essays in Panel Data and Network Econometrics”
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Bryan Graham

Nicholas Gebbia
“Essays in Public and Labor Economics”
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Patrick Kline

Abhi Gupta
“Essays in Empirical Macroeconomics”
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Yuriy Gorodnichenko

Collin Jones
“Essays in Financial Economics”
Dissertation Advisor: Professor David Romer

Sreeraahul Kancherla
“Essays in Public and Labor Economics”
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Emmanuel Saez
Felipe Lobel
“Essays in Inequality and Tax Policy”
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Emmanuel Saez

Michael Love
“Essays on the Responses to Taxation by US Firms”
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Alan Auerbach

Joan Jennifer Martínez
“Essays on Labor Economics, Economics of Education, and Inequality”
Dissertation Advisors: Professor Patrick Kline and Professor Christopher Walters

Cesia Margarita Sanchez
“The Effect of Early Economic Conditions on Young Adults’ Transition Into Adulthood, Occupational Characteristics, and Parental Labor Market Outcomes”
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Jesse Rothstein

Yassine Sbai Sassi
“Essays in Network Econometrics”
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Bryan Graham

Nicholas Swanson
“Essays in Development Economics”
Dissertation Advisors: Professor Supreet Kaur and Professor Edward Miguel

Andrew Tai
“Essays in Microeconomic Theory”
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Haluk Ergin

David Qihang Wu
“Essays in Development Economics”
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Edward Miguel

Kai Zen
“Essays on Information Frictions in Labor Markets”
Dissertation Advisor: Professor David Card
Melvin George Adams III
“Racial and Ethnic Differences in Risk Attitudes: The Impact of Stock and Bond Market Experiences on Participation in the United States”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Ulrike Malmendier

Jeffrey Ambriz
“Exploring the Relationship Between Market Capitalization and Employment in the Early 21st Century”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Emi Nakamura

Samin Bhalla
“The Impact of Algorithmic Trading on U.S. Stock Market Volatility”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Demian Pouzo

Ria Bhandarkar
“Gender Neutral Nationalization: The Nitaquat Program’s Effect on Female Employment in Saudi Arabia”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Frederico Finan

Nur Marsya Binti Zuhairi
“Ethnic Dynamics and Economic Outcomes: Malaysian Immigrants in the US”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Ryan D. Edwards

Vaidehi Bulusu
“Estimating the Effect of Development Interventions on Development Outcomes in Kenya”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Marco Gonzales-Navarro

Julian Chan
“Causal Effect of Raising Minimum Wage on Company Stock Prices”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Benjamin Hermalin

Yijing Chen
“Addressing Climate Change: The Green Comparative Advantage and Trade”
Thesis Advisor: Professor David Roland-Holst
Joshua Choi
“Inaccuracy in Uncertainty: Evidence from Inflation Forecasters”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Yuriy Gorodnichenko

Laura Costa De Carvalho
“Economic Shocks and Violent Crime in Rural Brazil: Evidence from the 1989 Witches Broom Pest in Bahia”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Edward Miguel

Ainslie Deanne Coughran
“Roll the Dice: The Impact of Risk Tolerance on Consumers’ Financial Recovery from the Great Recession”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Julien Lafortune

Nick Deng
“Using Electoral Cycle to Estimate the Impact of Police Funding on Violent Crime Rates in the United States”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Aaron Edlin

Xiaogeng (Nora) Gong
“Temporary Employment As A Leading Employment Indicator”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Yuriy Gorodnichenko

Sarah Jane Hager
“Plugged In: Assessing Economic Incentives and Socioeconomic Factors in Relation to Electric Vehicle Adoption”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Aprajit Mahajan

Sameen Islam Sakib Islam
“Shifting Patterns: A Longitudinal Analysis of RMG Employment and Its Relation to Child Education in Bangladesh”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Andrés Rodríguez-Clare

Rohan Jha
“Surprises and Fan Engagement: Lessons from Reddit”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Stefano DellaVigna

Jinse Kim
“The Relationship Between Plant-Based Diets and Mental Health”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Demian Pouzo
Gunay Kiran
“Quantifying Residential Water Demand in a Warming World”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Maximilian Auffhammer

Joshua G. Klein
Thesis Advisor: Professor Jón Steinsson

Jasmine Lee
“Examining the Impact of Gender, Marital Status, Education, Age and Family Size on Unemployment Examined Between 1971-2000 in Indonesia”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Enrico Moretti

Carol Li
“The Direct Impact of Remote Work (WFH) on Employment Patterns: A Shift in Restaurant and Retail Opportunities from Central Cities to Suburban Areas.”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Michael Reich

Haocheng Li
“Evaluating the Impact of California’s Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban: An Econometric Analysis of Environmental and Economic Outcomes”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Demian Pouzo

Ryan Liou
“Wage Legislation and Labor Markets: An Investigation of Causal Effects and Monopsonistic Considerations”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Michael Reich

Vidushee Mishra
“Understanding the Relationship Between Economic Performance and Voter Turnout in the Bay Area”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Gerard Roland

Pallavi Murthy
“Amending the Hindu Succession Act: Inheritance Rights Reform and Women’s Education and Employment in India”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Aprajit Mahajan
Christina Isabel Owen
“Replicating “Coherent Arbitrariness: Stable Demand Curves without Stable Preferences”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Leif D. Nelson

Ashley Sonali Pandya
“Feeding Cycles: An Analysis of the Intersection Between Food Insecurity, SNAP Benefits, and Disordered Eating Behaviors”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Jonathan Kolstad

Pranav Prabhakaran
“The Impact of Hosting the Cricket World Cup on a Country’s Foreign Direct Investment Inflows”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Ryan D. Edwards

Jennifer Ramirez
“Transforming Education Through Community Schools: Evaluating the Impact of Caseworkers on Youth Violence in the City of San Pablo”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Anibel Ferus-Comelo

Pietro Risso
“The Effect of Unemployment Benefits and Nonemployment Durations on Wages”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Enrico Moretti

James Rooney
“Inequality Dynamics: The Effect of Monetary and Fiscal Policy Shocks on Wealth Inequality in the United States”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Regis Barnichon

Timea Alexandra Ryan
“Unveiling California’s Housing Market Vulnerability: Effects of Wildfires and Insurance Moratoriums”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Reed Walker

Gian Singh Sandhu
“Understanding the Effects of Hurricanes on U.S. Banking Resilience: A Localized Analysis”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Supreet Kaur

Nicolas Issei Sarullo
“Horizontal Inequalities and Conflict Duration”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Yuriy Gorodnichenko
Anand Shankar
“U.S. Air Travel and the COVID-19 Pandemic”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Nano Barahona

Yilin Shi
“Playing with Emotions: Investigation of How Dynamic Expectation Influence Happiness in Gambling”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Ming Hsu

Griffin Shufeldt
“Analyzing The Demand Elasticity of Public Transportation, a Taiwanese Case Study”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Benjamin Faber

Eaton Marie Chi Sia
Thesis Advisor: Professor Demian Pouzo

Gregory Simitian
“Effects of Macroeconomic Surprises on Digital Assets”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Yuriy Gorodnichenko

Aayush Singh
“Unions in a Tea Party Era: The Effect of Right-To-Work Laws on the Female Unionization Rate from 2007 to 2019”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Enrico Moretti

Natania Wong
“First-generation Immigrants’ Upward Mobility: Exploring the Effects of Language Spoken At Home”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Nano Barahona

Sophie Xue
Thesis Advisor: Professor Enrico Moretti
BACHELOR OF ARTS CANDIDATES

Patrick Abousleiman
Carolina Accorsi Albaneze
Ciara Cherise Acosta
Melvin George Adams III
Cameron Agapito
Rohan Agarwal
Varun Agarwal
Siddhant Agarwal
Aisha Ahmed
Tara Ahsan
Amy Muyan Ai
Saif Ali
Abdel Alkam
Saruul Amarbayar
Jeffrey Ambriz
Melissa Mariko Angel
Sara Arango Gomez
Awsaf Tamjid Arko
Colin Michael Asbill
Rohan Aurora
Sofia Grace Avila
Fariha Jahan Babar
Bohan Bai
Isha Bains
James (Yifan) Bao
Benjamin Timothy Barnett
Elias Liam Bazan
Ella Lura Bebarta
Trey Benedict
Samin Bhalla
Ria Bhandarkar
Francesca Giovanna Bingaman
Nur Marsya Binti Zuhairi
Nikita Bogdanov
Bruno Bonifaz
Clark Boyce
Gila Michelle Braun
Tammy Linh Bui
Vaiidehi Bulusu
Chloe Byun
Zihao Cai
Zhiyuan Cai
Marco Alexander Camacho
Sindre Iversen Carlsen
Georgios Chalkias
Eric Aung Chan
Wing Hei Chan
Yanyu Adrian Chan
Julian Chan
Sonya Chang
Agustin Chavez Jr.
Nuo (Kristin) Chen
Eric Chen
Jessica Chen
Angela Kailin Chen
Wenxin Chen
Angela Kailin Chen
Taylor Chen
Jade Chen
Evan Chen
Yijing Chen
Tanisha Chhetri
Amanda Noelle Chi
YunYi (Claire) Cho
Joshue Choi
Ashley Haewon Chon
Sumit Choudhary
Sarkis Chrikjian
Emily Chu
Miles Chun
Yoonoo Brian Chung
Laura Costa De Carvalho
Kathryn Grace Cota
Ainslie Deanne Coughran
Nicholas Paul Couture
Zoe Jane Cox
Zhining Cui
Robert Cummings
Aidan Miguel Pineda Curran
Fanyi Dai
Sehyeon Dam
Lkhagva Damdinbazar
David Abraham Dardashti
Oishee Das
Dylan Joseph Davis
Sinéad Hiu Tung de Cléir
Yadira de Dios
Bianca Rein Angeles Del Rosario
Dilara Demirel
Benjamin Yan Deng
Nick Deng
Sarang Deshpande
Nicholas Singh Dhaliwal
Thomas Michael Michael Dixon
Nam Do
Kavi Dolasia
In Memoriam

“Those we love we never lose,
For always they will be,
Loved, remembered, treasured,
Always in our memory.”

- unknown
HAIL TO CALIFORNIA

Hail to California,
Alma mater dear;
Sing the joyful chorus,
Sound it far and near.
Rallying round her banner,
We will never fail;
California, alma mater,
Hail! Hail! Hail!

Hail to California,
Queen in whom we're blest;
Spreading light and goodness
Over all the West.
Fighting 'neath her standard,
We shall sure prevail;
California, alma mater,
Hail! Hail! Hail!

“Hail to California,” composed by Clinton R. “Brick” Morse in 1896

Congratulations to the Class of 2024, and welcome to the global Berkeley Economics Alumni Network. As alumni, you will have access to a wide range of events, networking opportunities, and volunteer roles. To get started, please use the QR codes below to complete your graduating student survey, join our LinkedIn group, and to support the Berkeley Economics class gift. New graduates are able to enjoy the benefits of our annual giving society at a reduced rate, with a wide array of events and volunteer opportunities. Congratulations again and stay in touch.

Please visit the “Alumni” tab on the Berkeley Economics website to learn more. I look forward to seeing you at an alumni event soon.

Congratulations and Fiat Lux!

Andrés Rodríguez-Clare
Chair, Department of Economics