

TIFFANY N. HO

tho67@ucmerced.edu [◇](mailto:tho67@ucmerced.edu) tiffanykho.com

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Economics

Aug 2021 - Expected May 2027

University of California, Merced

Fields: Political Economy, Migration, Religion

Committee: Ana Tur-Prats (chair), Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes, Samuel Bazzi

Master of Arts, Economics

June 2016

University of California, Santa Barbara

Bachelor of Arts, Economics with minor in Political Science

May 2015

Chapman University

WORKING PAPERS

[Refugee Placement and Voting Outcomes in the United States](#) (Job Market Paper)

Each year, the United States resettles thousands of refugees from around the world. Despite the long history of the resettlement program, we know little about how United States citizens react to the diverse population of refugees. Using refugee placement data, I study how the resettlement of refugees impacts U.S. natives' voting behavior at the county level in Presidential, Senate, and House elections between 1992 and 2016. To address the non-random placement of refugees, I employ a shift-share instrumental variable approach based on the initial county-level distribution of refugees in 1991 interacted with national refugee flows. I find that refugee resettlement results in an increase of support towards the Republican Party, which historically has platformed more anti-immigration policies. To understand why resettlement increases Republican support, I exploit variation in the geopolitical relationship between the U.S. and refugees' countries of origin. I find that the effect is driven entirely by refugees from adversarial countries, nations at odds with U.S. foreign policy, rather than from friendly countries. These findings suggest that political responses are shaped not only by the number of refugees, but also by the perceived political ideological differences.

The Holy Union: Catholicism Support for Workers' Rights

Throughout history, organized labor unions have been advocating for workers' rights in the labor market. Despite this, union membership across OECD countries has declined since 1985. Previous work on union membership determinants have considered most socioeconomic factors, except for religious affiliation. Religious teachings have been shown to not only be a source of guidance in the household, but also in economic outcomes such as work. This paper tests whether Catholic affiliation, relative to Protestant, predicts union membership. Using six waves (2001–2019) of the German Socio-Economic Panel, I estimate an individual fixed-effect model and find being Catholic increases the rate of union membership by 4.8 PP. To further address endogeneity concerns, I instrument a county's contemporary Catholic share with the religion of its historical territorial ruler under the Peace of Augsburg (1555). I assume that a ruler's decision in 1555 does not correlate with contemporaneous decisions to join a labor union. The two-stage least squares estimates confirm the main result as do the robustness checks. The findings establish religious affiliation as a novel determinant of union membership.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Operation Passage to Freedom: Vietnam's Mass Migration in '54

RESEARCH

Research Assistant

UC Merced, Economics Department

2021-2025

Ana Tur-Prats

TEACHING

Instructor of Record

UC Merced

Spark 10 – Economics of Religion

Fall 2026

Teaching Assistant

UC Merced, Economics Department

ECON101 – Intermediate Macroeconomics Theory

Spring 2024, 2025

Instructor: Jason Lee

ECON100 – Intermediate Microeconomics Theory

Spring, 2026, Spring 2022 – Fall 2023

Instructors: Jason Lee, Justin Hicks

ECON110 – Econometrics

Fall 2024

Instructor: Jesus Sandoval-Hernandez

WORK EXPERIENCE

Agricultural Statistician

USDA – National Agricultural Statistics Service

Aug 2017 – July 2021

Sacramento Field Office, CA

- Developed plans and procedures for the conduct of surveys
- Analyzed and prepared timely and accurate estimates, forecasts, and reports
- Examined listings and tabulations, recognized deviations and trends, and verified the accuracy of data

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Graduate Student Travel Award

UC Merced Graduate Student Association

Spring 2026

Ellis Perry Fellowship

UC Merced Economics Department

Fall 2025

UC President's Lindau Nobel Meetings Fellow – UC Merced

University of California Office of the President

Summer 2025

Outstanding TA Award

UC Merced Economics Department

2024, 2025

Summer Bridge Fellowship

UC Merced Economics Department

Summer 2021

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

2026 (including scheduled)

All-California Labor Economics Conference, EHA 2026 Annual Meeting, UCLA Economic History Mini-Conference, SEA 96th Annual Meeting, ASSA 2027 Annual Meeting

2025

CSU Sacramento, 2025 ACLEC, 8th Lindau Nobel Meeting in Economic Sciences, WEAI Annual Conference, Bay Area Economic History Workshop

2024

3rd Summer School on the Economics of Migration, Graduate Student Workshop on Economics of Religion

OTHER

Skills: R, STATA, $\text{\LaTeX}$, MS Office

English: Native, Vietnamese: Native

Citizenship: U.S.A