

Jeremy Garrison
Ph.D. Candidate
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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: Evolutionary Game Theory, Social Economics, Cultural Economics, Political Economy, Ecological Economics

Teaching: Microeconomics, Game Theory, Political Economy, Ecological Economics

Dissertation

Title: Endogenous Preferences and the Human Ecology of Capitalism

Committee: Anders Fremstad (chair), Stephan Kroll, Elissa Braunstein, Sammy Zahran

Working Papers

“The Sociocultural Effects of Markets and Capitalism: Evidence from Folklore and Ethnography” (Job market paper)

Abstract: The sociocultural consequences of economic systems have long been debated by social and economic theorists. In this paper, I employ global folklore and ethnographic text as data to analyze how markets and capitalism shape sociocultural ecology. The results suggest that markets and capitalism give rise to more anthropocentrism, less ecocentrism, less sacredness assigned to nature, and more social stratification. Instrumental variable analyses support a causal interpretation of these findings, providing evidence for theories of cultural and historical materialism. Unlike previous studies, I find little evidence that markets and capitalism promote prosociality and morality. The ethnographic results suggest that the sociocultural effects of capitalism are distinct from those of markets more generally.

“Social Context and the Evolution of Empathy.” (Under review)

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”

“Anonymity, Ephemerality, and Reciprocity”

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

Teaching Experience

Instructor, 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”, ASSA 2026 Annual Meeting, Philadelphia (January 5th, 2026).

“Social Context and the Evolution of Empathy”, UW-CSU Economics Ph.D. Student Symposium, Colorado State University (April 18th, 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 28th, 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 22nd, 2024).

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

Other Experience

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

Languages and Skills

- Proficiency in R

References

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