Pierce Plucker — Curriculum Vitae

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Education

May 2027	Ph.D. in Economics, Oklahoma State University (expected)
	Committee: Harounan Kazianga (chair), Rui Du, Ye Liang, Dan Rickman
2022	M.S. in Economics, South Dakota State University
2022	Graduate Certificate in Data Science, South Dakota State University
2020	B.S. in Economics (minor in Mathematics), South Dakota State University

Research Fields

Applied Econometrics; Regional Economics; Development Economics

Working Papers

"A Model Confidence Set for Learner Selection in Generic Machine Learning"

I develop a model confidence set procedure for learner selection in Generic Machine Learning, providing valid post-selection inference while avoiding unnecessary multiplicity penalties across poorly performing learners. Simulations show good size control and limited power loss, while applications to business lending in Egypt and groundwater conservation in the United States illustrate how the method distinguishes relative learner performance from evidence of economically meaningful treatment-effect heterogeneity.

"Social Norms, Local Economies, and Development Policies: Empowering Adolescent Girls and Young Wives in Burkina Faso" (with Harounan Kazianga and Poli Natama)
* *Under Review: Journal of Development Economics*

We study a large-scale empowerment program for adolescent girls and young women in Burkina Faso, showing that the announcement of a future cash grant substantially shifted attitudes toward early marriage even before any transfer was received. Average effects on marriage and fertility are limited, but design-based interactions and Generic Machine Learning reveal substantial heterogeneity across village contexts, with conservative social norms and weak economic infrastructure associated with both larger predicted gains and lower program take-up.

Research in Progress

"Ethanol Plants, Local Tax Bases, and School District Finance"

Other Research

"Technology-Intensive Exports, R&D, Human Capital, and Economic Growth in the Twenty-First Century" (M.S. thesis, South Dakota State University, 2022) [link]

Conference Presentations (including scheduled)

2027	ASSA Annual Meeting, Middle East Economic Association session (virtual)
2026	Midwest Econometrics Group (Cincinnati, OH); Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting (Houston, TX); OU–OSU Ph.D. Economics Conference (Norman, OK)
2025	NEUDC (Boston, MA); OU–OSU Ph.D. Economics Conference (Norman, OK)
2022	WEAI Annual Conference (Portland, OR)

Teaching Experience

Oklahoma State University

Fall 2026	*Instructor of Record.* ECON 2103, Introduction to Microeconomics (sole instructor, 42 students)
2025–2026	*Guest Lecturer.* Microeconomic Principles; Macroeconomic Principles; Econometric Analysis (graduate); Real Estate Economics
2022–2026	*Graduate Teaching Assistant.*
	Ph.D.: ECON 6013 Microeconomics I (2024); ECON 6213 Econometrics I (2024); ECON 6243 Econometrics II (2025) Graduate: ECON 5213 Econometric Analysis (2024, 2025)
	Undergraduate: ECON 3043 Real Estate Economics (2026); ECON 3023 Managerial Economics (2023); ECON 3313 Money and Banking (2022); ECON 2003 Microeconomic Principles (2024, 2025); ECON 1113 Economics of Social Issues (2023)

Fellowships and Awards

2026–2027	Duck Woo Nam Distinguished Graduate Fellowship, Oklahoma State University
2025–2026	Outstanding Graduate Teaching Associate in Economics, Oklahoma State University
2025–2026	Phillips Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Oklahoma State University
2024–2026	Richard & Maxine Leftwich Distinguished Graduate Fellowship, Oklahoma State University
2024–2025	Outstanding Doctoral Student in Economics, Oklahoma State University
2024	South Central Sun Grant Summer Graduate Research Fellowship, USDA-NIFA ($3,000)
2023–2024	Duck Woo Nam Distinguished Graduate Fellowship, Oklahoma State University
2018	Omicron Delta Epsilon, International Economics Honor Society
2017	Core Portfolio Award, Quinnipiac University G.A.M.E. Forum

Professional Service and Leadership

2023	Referee: *Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy*
2018–2020	President, Investment Club, South Dakota State University *Led the Ness School's largest student organization; organized industry seminars, student-led workshops, and the annual trading competition. Helped secure funding to send 10 students to an investment conference at Harvard Business School; represented the school at alumni, donor, and recruitment events.*

2017–2018 Investment Club Secretary

Computing

R, Python, Stata, high-performance computing (bash/linux/SLURM)

Professional Experience

2017–2021	Senior Student Analyst (2018–2021) and Junior Analyst (2017), Student Managed Investment Fund, South Dakota State University
Spring 2018	Research Assistant, South Dakota State University Extension (ethanol plant data; producer risk-management workshops)
2017	Research Intern, Swensen Investments and Commodities

References

Harounan Kazianga
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