Matthew B. Merrigan

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EDUCATION

Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA — Expected 2027

PhD Candidate in Business Administration (Political Economics)

Field Exam passed August 2023; Candidacy completed May 2025

Relevant Coursework: Microeconomics I–III; Intermediate Econometrics I–III; Quantitative Methods for Empirical Research (Imbens); Industrial Organization I–III; Political Economy I; Foundations of Political Economy; Economic Analysis of Politics; American Political Behavior; American Political Institutions; Money in Politics; Survey Lab I & II; Machine Learning; NLP with Deep Learning; Meta-Research

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ — Class of 2020

A.B. in Politics with certificates in Computer Science, Political Economy, Quantitative Analytics of Political Science. GPA: 3.88. Magna cum laude.

Relevant Coursework: Data Structures and Algorithms; Mathematical Modeling in the Social Sciences; Econometrics: A Mathematical Approach; Economics and Politics; Research Projects in Data Science

RESEARCH

Working Papers

Can Corporate Partisanship Move Employee Politics? Evidence from Campaign Contributions — 2026

Using hand-collected stance events matched to administrative records on employment and itemized giving, I estimate a stacked difference-in-differences design and field a complementary survey experiment. Corporate stances increase employee giving on both margins, concentrated among ideologically aligned employees; misaligned employees exhibit backlash via increased co-partisan giving.

Rethinking AI from Classroom Adversary to Classroom Ally — 2025

with Erik Brynjolfsson

Deploys RealAvatar, an AI learning companion trained on Professor Brynjolfsson's voice and course materials, in Stanford's The AI Awakening. Survey data from 69 students shows that perceived avatar combativeness drives significantly higher satisfaction — pointing to constructive challenge as a key principle for AI-assisted pedagogy.

Works in Progress

Paying for Protection: Understanding the Effects of Market Competition on Firm Lobbying Strategy

Studies how firms change lobbying behavior following a regulatory shock affecting market competition, using firm-level pharmaceutical data (2005–2020) and the 2013 FTC v. Actavis Supreme Court decision as an exogenous shock. Finds that after pay-for-delay agreements became liable to antitrust suits, incumbent firms increased lobbying in response to generic entry — especially firms with drugs nearing exclusivity expiration.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

BUSGEN 143: Finance, Corporations, and Society — Winter 2025

Teaching Assistant · Instructor: Prof. Anat Admati · Stanford GSB

ECON 295: The AI Awakening — Spring 2025

Teaching Assistant · Instructor: Prof. Erik Brynjolfsson · Stanford

GSBGEN 208: Leading with Values — Autumn 2025

Teaching Assistant · Instructor: Prof. Neil Malhotra · Stanford GSB

PRESENTATIONS

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA 2025
(Presenter and Discussant)
Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) Graduate Conference 2025

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Predoctoral Research Fellow · Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA 2020–2022
Research assistant for Professor David Chan (Stanford School of Medicine)

- Applied econometric and machine learning methods to health economics research using VA and Medicare administrative data (>10M observations); employed instrumental variable and ML approaches
- Deployed version control infrastructure via Microsoft SQL Server; taught SQL, SAS, and Stata to incoming team members
- Developed orientation and seminar-style onboarding programming

Investment Intern · Princeton University Investment Company, Princeton, NJ Summer 2019

- Conducted quantitative and qualitative analysis on managers across Princeton's $26 billion endowment portfolio
- Built ML-based models to predict portfolio liquidity through analysis of capital call rates, distribution rates, and market correlations
- Performed manager due diligence using ex-post and ex-ante predictive models

SKILLS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Computational: R, Python, SQL, Stata, SAS, Java, C/C++, Matlab

Methods: Difference-in-differences, survey experiments, NLP/word embeddings, record linkage, causal ML, instrumental variables

Languages: English (native), French (proficient)