Thomas J. Weinandy

703 Clinton Ave • Kalamazoo, MI 49001 • **CELL** (419) 575-9152 • **E-MAIL** thomas.j.weinandy@wmich.edu
linkedin.com/in/tomweinandy • github.com/tomweinandy

OVERVIEW

I am a current Ph.D. Candidate in Applied Economics at Western Michigan University specializing in data analytics and consumer behavior in the digital age. My research interests are to understand the micro effects and macro consequences in how digital technologies impact individual decision-making. My professional goal is to serve as a bridge between the technology and economics communities.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate in Applied Economics — Cumulative GPA 3.83/4.0
Western Michigan University — *January 2017 – Present*

- Major Fields: Econometrics, Applied Microeconomics
- Minor Fields: International Economics, Development Economics
- Ph.D. Dissertation Topic: Applied Microeconomics and Business Intelligence in the Digital Age

Specialization Certificate in Applied Data Science with Python
University of Michigan — *July 2018 – December 2018*

Masters in Applied Economics — Cumulative GPA 3.80/4.0
Western Michigan University — *August 2016 – December 2017*

Master of Business Administration — Cumulative GPA 3.92/4.0
Wheeling Jesuit University — *August 2012 – May 2014*

B.A. Spanish, Social Entrepreneurship *(with honors)* — Majors GPA 3.79/4.0
John Carroll University — *August 2007 – May 2011*

EXPERIENCE

Data Scientist — **BlueGranite, Inc.**
AI/ML Team — *March 2020-Present*

- Consultant specialized in using Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to solve business problems.
- Clients include a national health insurance provider, a retail marketing analytics firm, and a nonprofit seeking employment for disabled adults.

Teaching Assistant — **Western Michigan University**
Department of Economics — *August 2016-April 2020*

- Courses taught (with full pedagogical control): Principles of Microeconomics.
- Courses assisted: Exploring Economic Data, Intermediate Microeconomics, Principles of Macroeconomics, Women and the Economy.
- Graduate Student Mentor for Ph.D., Masters students (Fall 2018-May 2020).

Adjunct Professor — **Wheeling Jesuit University**
Department of Business — *August 2014-May 2016*

- Courses taught (with full pedagogical control): Quantitative Business Analysis, First Year Seminar, Emerging Leadership.

Co-Organizer — **Crisis Mappers Network**
International Conference of Crisis Mappers — *October 2013-October 2016*

- Annual humanitarian technology conferences with 180-350 attendees, $150,000+ budget, held between three continents. Primary hosting organizations included United Nations, Google, and Map the Philippines.
- Planned virtually on a geographically dispersed team of four organizers.

PUBLICATIONS

"Volunteer and Technical Communities in Humanitarian Response: Lessons in Digital Humanitarianism from Typhoon Haiyan." *United Nations Chronicle* 53.1 (2016): 29-30.

UNDER REVIEW

"Flexible Ubers and Fixed Taxis: The Effect of Fuel Prices on Car Services"

- *"Revise and resubmit" status at the Journal of Industry, Competition and Trade, September 2020.*
- *Winner "Best Graduate Economics Paper," Ohio Association of Economists and Political Scientists, 2019 Annual Meeting.*

CURRENT RESEARCH

"Twitter-Patter: Social Media's Effect on Foot Traffic to Monopolistically Competitive Firms"

- *Working paper finished, under review by dissertation committee.*

"Shopping Time, Zip Codes and Tax Returns"

- *Data analysis stage. Using machine learning techniques on mobile phone data and zip code level tax data to predict customer behavior at Walmart.*

SPECIAL PROJECTS

"Out of Stock Product Recommender: Solving the Peanut Butter Problem," (Co-author) *White Paper*. July 2020. https://bit.ly/pb_problem

"Quantifying Retail Panic Buying Using Mobile Device Data," *Blog Post*, August 20, 2020. http://bit.ly/retail_panic_buying

"Building a Twitter bot in Python to write bigram poems," *Blog Post*, August 2, 2019. http://bit.ly/bigrampoetry

PRESENTATIONS

"The Peanut Butter Problem: Building an Out of Stock Product Recommender." *Big Data Ignite*, Grand Rapids, October 2020.

"Big Data Hubris: Limitations in Aggregating Uber and Google Data." *Data Science & Analytics West Michigan*, Grand Rapids, March 2020.

"Economic Lessons from the #ChickenSandwichWars." *Three Minute Thesis Competition—Western Michigan University*, Kalamazoo, Michigan, February 2020.

- *1st place winner and voted People's Choice. Advanced to regional competition.*
- *Paced in top six for all Midwest graduate colleges and universities (Sept. 2020).*

"Is a Recession Coming? The Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Economic Trends." Keynote Speaker, *Great Lakes Ice Cream and Fast Food Association Trade Show*, Battle Creek, Michigan, February 2020.

"Predicting Brand Sales with Twitter Text Analysis." *International Conference on Big Data Analytics and Data Science*, Las Vegas, November 2019.

"Flexible Ubers and Fixed Taxis: The Effect of Fuel Prices on Car Services."

- *Midwest Economic Association*, St. Louis, March 2019.
- *Ohio Association for Economics and Political Scientists Annual Meeting*, Cleveland, Ohio, September 2019.
- *Grand Valley State University Seminar*, Grand Rapids, Michigan, November 2019.

CODING SKILLS

Advanced: Python, R

Experienced: Azure Ecosystem, Databricks, PySpark

Proficient: Power BI, Hadoop Ecosystem, SQL, LaTeX

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

Michael Ryan (chair), *Professor of Economics*, *Western Michigan University*

Susan Pozo, *Professor of Economics*, *Western Michigan University*

Kuanchin Chen, *Professor of Business Information Systems*, *Western Michigan University*