

SRO Project: "Public Attitudes Towards Markets and Market Behavior"
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This summer I worked for Professor Robert Shiller, mainly doing research on topics Professor Shiller will address in his upcoming book. In this book, Professor Shiller addresses the big ideas regarding finance, in an effort to help the reader appreciate the role and contribution of the financial sector to our society. Through this all-encompassing approach, he argues that despite the recent evident failings of the financial sector, finance is an institution of central importance to our capitalist societies that has the potential to prevent worsening inequality and other ills, and ultimately lead to a better future.

My work involved the study and synthesis of both theoretical and empirical literatures on several different topics, including: the legal principle of odious debt; Angell's Great Illusion and theoretical work on the relationship between financial globalization and the promotion of peace; how the financial architecture influenced and was influenced by the two world wars; theoretical approaches to Ponzi schemes and their similarities to large-scale financial bubbles; empirical work in neuroscience providing scientific evidence for brain processes justifying behavioral accounts of the causes of the recent financial crisis; socioeconomic mobility in America.

I greatly enjoyed my SRO experience. I learnt a lot about areas of the economic literature that I had not studied before and had the opportunity to have intellectual discussions with one of the most influential economists of our time on some of the most fascinating issues regarding finance and economics. I believe SRO is one of the best opportunities available to undergraduates majoring in economics.