

SUMMARY

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I worked this summer with Professor Alessandro Gavazza of the Yale School of Management. My main project consisted of work I did for his paper, entitled “Income Heterogeneity and Trade in Used Goods: Evidence from European Car Markets”.

Professor Gavazza theorized that rates of trade in durable goods in European markets, which had surprising differences given the close geographical proximity of such markets as well as the deterioration of significant barriers between them, was closely linked to the income disparities of the residents who were a part of those markets. He chose to study price movement in used cars in France and the UK to investigate his theory.

In order to help Professor Gavazza with the above-mentioned work, I first created programming files for later use with data and played an important role in helping him obtain and organize the preliminary information that he needed for his project.

Besides the above endeavor, I also helped Professor Gavazza with studies that he was conducting on trade in aircraft markets and the effects of employer provided health care. In both of these projects, I independently programmed code files for later execution or re-programmed important bits of code for immediate use.

Along with a much expanded understanding of Stata that complemented what I had learned in my economics courses, I honed an understanding of the ingenuity and patience that interesting and engaging research such as Professor Gavazza’s requires. I was especially impressed with how much useful familiarity I gained in using a range of statistical packages and in searching for relevant data for my own projects.

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience working with Professor Gavazza. In general, the SRO provided me with a valuable opportunity to hone my skills in preparation for my senior project, and gave me an invaluable first exposure to professional level research that I would like to become more familiar with in the future.