

Why did you pursue a career in economics?

RESEARCH ASSISTANT 1. So I actually wasn't super thrilled about econ in the beginning but then I learned that you can do a lot with econ. So I ended up doing a project in my senior year, a senior thesis, and I was able to quantify the relationship between how people identify racially and hate crimes within their counties. And I was able to show that people change their racial identification based on the presence of hate crimes in their counties. And that was really interesting to me because I was able to use math and I was able to use social science, as we were talking about earlier, to prove this relationship that hadn't been proved before and that's how I fell in love.

SPEAKER. Michael?

RESEARCH ASSISTANT 2. Yeah, I was introduced to economics very early on. I started taking AP micro and AP macro of senior year of high school and I loved it from the beginning. I was very--it just came very naturally, intuitive, and I continued studying economics when I went to college. However in my first class, micro economics, we had to write a naturalist paper where we had to explain, like, a natural phenomenon that we--through an economics lens. And I remember there was this question I always asked, since I was from Miami and I went school in the Northeast, and no one in Miami would wear rain jackets. But everyone in Northeast would wear rain jackets and I was always confused about this. So for my paper, when I was trying to, like, understand the differentials between like why people had a preference for rain jackets, and then in my paper, I was making the argument to claim that the actual rain jacket, there was an added cost of wearing it in Miami just because of the added layer or the heat and just so that high humidity would make it less desirable to wear a rain jacket. And then I just kept taking economics. I wrote a senior thesis and I hope one day to continue pursuing an econ PhD.