

About the project, “A Losing Bet Regardless of Outcome”

This project started when I got into an argument with a girl about the US economy and the real estate market in New York. She said — completely earnestly — “none of my friends are that concerned, and besides, if something bad was going to happen, the experts would do something about it.” I decided right then and there that I’d had enough of everyone’s bullshit, and that I was going to do something about it.

“A Losing Bet Regardless of Outcome” is a satirical macroeconomics dissertation. It is a 250-page independent structural analysis of the US economy assessing technology, interconnected systemic risks, and their implications for generational living standards in the United States. It can be approximately broken down as:

- 40% serious macroeconomics paper with over 100-citations,
- 20% reporting of the American condition from the ground level, as reported by the author who quit his job, sold everything he owned, and spent six months in 2025 traveling the country, sleeping on air mattresses, and talking to thousands of people on the street as field research and deliberate personal preparation given his macro thesis,
- 40% satire.

Why satire? The joke — not really a joke — is that one guy with a laptop can outperform most organizations with billion-dollar valuations, endowments, research budgets, etc.

This is not my first rodeo — just my first time going public.

I produced the entire paper in 16 weeks of effort while repositioning based on my own research findings — taking care of my personal affairs, reallocating my portfolio, and strategically relocating internationally.

- Week 1 (spread over roughly two months before committing to the project): Build a structured deductive argument with empirical premises about the direction of middle class living standards and spend 70 hours trying to break it.
 - Weeks 2-8: Produce a 100-page economics paper with multiple novel contributions and 100+ citations (with an undergraduate research assistant).
 - Weeks 9-10: Send the paper out for feedback from friends and family, informal peer review from intellectual peers.
 - Weeks 10-15: Add satire, ground-level reporting on American condition, iterate tone and simplify language based on feedback from casual readers to make it readable, tighten arguments based on peer review, research securities law, incorporate and set up institutional overhead.
 - Week 16: Create social media accounts, update my LinkedIn, Write Public Statement (“The public self-immolation of my career in the American tech industry on behalf of the American people”), Publish.
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FAQ

Q: What's your goal?

A: Awareness and accountability. This is also a live test of whether US institutions — the SEC, the NASDAQ, the courts, rule of law, congress, media, etc. — have any legitimacy left to stand on, or whether they are captured beyond repair and need to be rebuilt from scratch.

I'm really curious to see how this all plays out. Aren't you?

Q: This whole project really started because you got into an argument with a girl? Did you actually break up because of a disagreement about the US economy?

A: Yeah. She really believed "the experts will handle it." What was I supposed to do?

Q: So what's next?

A: I just published 250 pages in 16 weeks while moving abroad and gave it away for free as a 250th birthday present to America. I put some weight on and need to get on a treadmill.

I will also continue fundraising, building my team, recruiting allies, and sending notices to the relevant implicated parties, government regulators, legislators, and prosecutors.

Q: Is this a stand against AI?

A: Not particularly. I'm against fraud. Aren't you?

Q: Is this a stand against capitalism?

A: I'm literally trying to protect investors and shareholders. I'm against fraud.

Q: Is this a stand against America?

A: I'm doing this for the American people. I'm against fraud.

Q: Is this a crusade?

A: No. I'm doing the obvious thing. I'm embarrassed that no one else did it first. Aren't you?

Q: So what's your agenda? What's in this for you personally?

A: I started writing to win an argument with a girl. Maybe I took it a little far.

Q: How'd you come up with the King Midas parable?

A: I came up with a different King Midas parable when I was exposing fraud somewhere else a few years ago. King Midas — "King Midas" — riding into the medieval village on a camel is just my favorite character for explaining fraud. Lots of senior financial professionals struggle with complex ideas so I wrap them in poems or children's stories to make my work accessible.

Q: This is a serious matter. Why make your work satirical?

A: The matter is serious, but the people who got us into this mess aren't worth taking seriously. I want everyone to know who to point and laugh at while they're on trial.

About the Author



I was born in 1999.

I moved to the United States in 2005.

My family — already struggling — got run over by the Global Financial Crisis in 2008.

I got kicked off my first robotics team in high school so I started a rival team and built it into one of the top 25 in the world. I taught myself using online forums and scored in the top 25 of a global programming competition within 5 months of writing my first line of code.

I probably set a handful of school records for standardized test scores and academic rigor.

I studied CS at UIUC (full ride, full merit, top-5 CS program).

I got headhunted to intern as a SWE at Google as an underclassman without connections or submitting an application. I pushed to production at the Goog within 3 years of starting to code.

I had the strongest resume in my class after my freshman year in 2018.

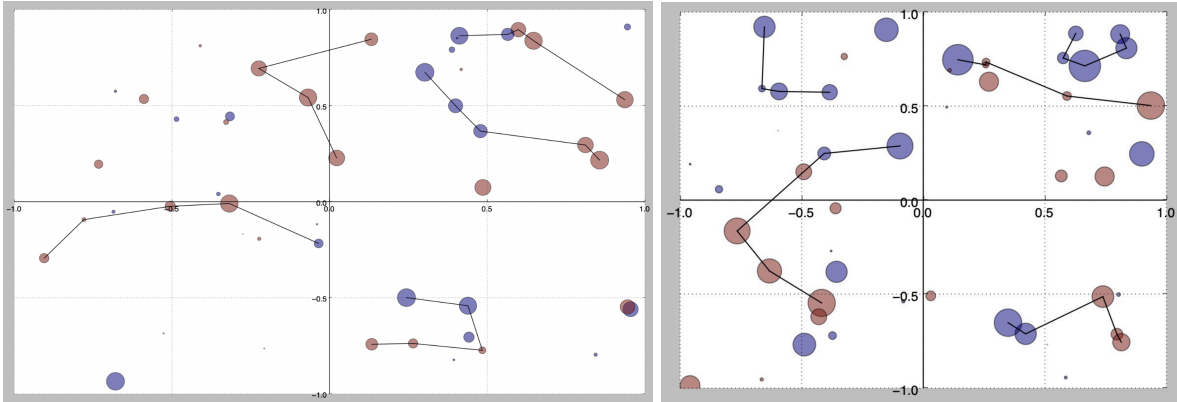
I had the strongest resume in my class after my sophomore year in 2019.

I had the strongest resume in my class after my junior year in 2020.

I had the strongest resume in my class after my ~~senior year~~ “academic victory lap” in 2021.

I created a position for myself leading R&D at a unicorn tech startup when I was 22.

I earned full autonomy within 45 days and personally delivered value comparable to the output of the entire engineering org during my time there — a novel routing algorithm, a simulation engine, and an analytics dashboard for evaluating historical and simulated technician route combinations, etc. — in addition to my nominal responsibilities as a mid-level Product Manager. I invented the Fernandez-Wang algorithm for optimized technician routing in an evening.



The company wouldn't accept my resignation after a notable disagreement — or meet my terms to continue and recognize me as Director of R&D at 23 — and we went our separate ways.

I invented a portable deductive framework for exposing CapEx fraud.

I did a bunch of other cool stuff. I kicked back for a while. I taught some kids to juggle.

I spent a few years helping families navigate debt and collections at Beyond Finance.

In 2025 I looked at the AI CapEx figures and realized the economy was going to capsize.

I quit my job, got on a train with an air mattress and a sleeping bag, and started talking to thousands of Americans on the streets to learn sales skills and perform field research.

In 2026 I sat down, published “A Losing Bet Regardless of Outcome” in 16 weeks while packing my bags, left the United States, posted on LinkedIn to formally light my resume on fire and put my professional network on notice, and started building a team to distribute the work.

FAQ

Q: Are you an optimist or a pessimist?

A: I am a deeply optimistic person who values his own judgement and epistemics over consensus. I am an empiricist who aggressively challenges his own beliefs. I made my conclusion falsifiable because I am willing to update publicly if I am wrong. I believe very deeply in human agency and in the individual to overcome their circumstances.

Q: How can an “optimist” publish something with such dark conclusions?

A: My optimism is grounded in reality rather than in institutional discourse or collective delusion.

A pessimist would shrug rather than publish a satirical economics dissertation in 120 days.

A pessimist wouldn't believe his effort could make a difference.

A pessimist wouldn't publicly burn his career and just have faith that things will work out.

Q: What are you an “expert” in?

A: Nothing, really. I'm a generalist and a first principles thinker. I've tested my limits to enough extremes that I trust myself to get pretty good at pretty much anything in a short period of time.

Q: Do you consider yourself an intellectual?

A: No, I don't particularly fit the label. I get bored easily. I'm curious. I like solving problems.

Q: Are you competitive?

A: Not generally, but I'm the most competitive person I know when I'm pissed off. I'm not even that ambitious in the traditional sense — you can tie every single one of my accomplishments back to a moment someone said something that pissed me off. And now I just challenged the entire planet to an intellectual gunfight and threw down \$10,000 in prize money.

Q: Democrat? Republican?

A: My views don't fit cleanly into either party. I currently vote based on crisis character — who I would prefer behind the wheel if things go very, very poorly.

Q: Why didn't you publish your work anonymously?

A: I'm demanding accountability from everyone, and putting my name on my work keeps me accountable to the truth as well. I can't publicly update if I'm wrong if I published anonymously.

I'm not an epistemic coward.

Q: Do you like to brag about your accomplishments?

A: Not particularly, but the work I'm doing now requires that I establish standing to issue a serious moral and intellectual challenge, which requires I disclose my background.

Q: Do you have an accomplishment that you're most proud of?

A: Not really, or at least not that I can disclose publicly.

Q: Have you always been this audacious?

A: I've always been audacious when the moment requires it.

Q: What's the most audacious thing you've ever done?

A: Probably this. A few of my teachers might disagree. Sorry teachers.

Q: What do you do for fun?

A: I'm on a mission. Fun is on the backburner. I'll think about fun when I have the bandwidth.

**Q: You just publicly self-immolated your career. How are you paying your bills?
And you're building a team and hiring people?**

A: Savings and retirement accounts.

Q: What was your favorite post-2008 crisis poverty meal?

A: White rice with ketchup.

Q: Did you actually work as a clown?

A:



About Beating the Path LLC, est. 2026

“Beating the Path” was the name I chose a long time ago for the blog or Substack I would start one day. It is a double entendre. The first meaning is a play on the English expression “the unbeaten path,” a la Robert Frost — we are “beating the unbeaten path” and blazing a trail for others to follow.

The second meaning is that we outperform the output of organizations with billion-dollar valuations, endowments, and research budgets. We are “beating the path” taken by America’s best and brightest — and the “best and brightest” — that is characterized by hierarchy, seniority, gatekeeping, permission-seeking, sycophancy, expensive credentials, misaligned incentives, elaborate titles, prestigious affiliations, nepotism, firm handshakes, and status games rather than agency, audacity, competence, and output.

The third meaning — that materialized for this project in particular — is that we are “beating the path” of American civilizational decline. We built a comprehensive map of the terrain that empowers others to reason critically and prepare effectively at the individual level. If anyone thinks they have a better map of reality to reason from, they are invited to falsify ours.

We beat establishment players at their own establishment games, by their own establishment standards, and punch far above our weight in terms of output and impact. Our highest values are curiosity, integrity, and truth.

We use satire and issue public spankings when the moment requires it.

I am putting together a small team. Our focus is currently 110% on “A Losing Bet Regardless of Outcome,” but there will be future projects and consulting opportunities.

If you are interested in getting involved with the project, please reach out to inbound@beatingthepath.com.

A huge thank you to everyone who has already reached out to get involved. I can’t afford to pay everyone out of my retirement accounts, but there is more than enough work to go around. “I challenged frontier AI to a logic puzzle” looks good on a resume. It might look good on a sticker or a t-shirt too, but I have a lot of work to do before I get around to that.

I’m funding the work out of savings and retirement accounts. If you’re interested in supporting the work financially, please visit <https://buymeacoffee.com/beatingthepath>. Every bit helps.

Please contact inbound@beatingthepath.com for all other inquiries. My team will be in touch.