

Samuel Mitchell Altmann

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References

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Education

University of Oxford (Wadham college) - DPhil in economics 2018 - present

- Thesis title: "Essays in Empirical Market Design."

University of Oxford (Wadham college) - MPhil in economics: Distinction 2016 - 2018

- Thesis entitled: "Allocating Foodbank Resources Using Internal Trading."

London School of Economics - BSc Philosophy and Economics: First Class Honours 2013-2016

- Dissertation entitled: "Priority Setting in Healthcare: Proportional Shortfall versus Lifetime QALY Prioritarianism"

Teaching and Research Fields

Empirical Industrial Organisation, Applied Microeconometrics, Microeconomic Theory

Teaching Experience

University of Oxford (Wadham college): Stipendiary Lecturer 2020 - 2021

- Prelims (1st year BSc) Microeconomics, Mathematics for economists, Probability and Statistics
- Core (2nd year BSc) Microeconomics (sabbatical cover)

University of Oxford (Wadham college): Titular Lecturer 2018 - 2019

- Prelims Micro, Mathematics for economists, Quantitative Economics (2nd year BSc) for exchange students

Work/Research Experience

Oxford Health Improvement (NHS): Health economist (Affiliation)	2018-2021
- Project lead: Evaluating the magnitude of contagion from Self-Harm, a 'peer effects' analysis.	
- Performed Cost Effectiveness Analyses for several completed improvement projects in Oxford health NHS trust.	
Research Assistant to Johannes Abeler	2018-2020
Department of Health, Global and Public Health Analysis Branch: Summer Intern	2017
Health Economics Research Unit: Research Assistant	2015

Awards and Scholarships

Departmental bursary	2022 – 2023
ESRC Studentship for duration of MPhil/DPhil studies	2016 – 2021
Oxford-Richards scholarship for duration of MPhil/DPhil studies	2016 – 2021
George Webb Medley Prize for best performance in second year MPhil exams	2018
George Webb Medley Prize for best thesis (proxime accessit)	2018
Academic Prize for best performance in first year MPhil exams	2017
Wadham College Senior Scholarship for outstanding performance in first year of MPhil	2017-2018
Andrea Mannu Prize for best performance in the LSE Philosophy department	2016
Bootham School Academic Prize for receiving the best A-level results in year of 80	2013
Academic Scholarship to Bootham School (on the basis of an interview and exam)	2006 – 2013

Work in Progress

Job Market Paper: "Choice, Welfare, and Market Design: An Empirical Investigation of Feeding America's Choice System"

Abstract: Feeding America, an organisation responsible for feeding 130,000 Americans every day, distributes donated food among a network of participating food banks. Feeding America's allocation mechanism, the 'Choice System', uses first-price auctions to allow food banks to signal which types of food they need from Feeding America. This provides food banks a large degree of choice over the types of food they receive. This paper examines the welfare and distributional consequences of enabling this choice. I apply a dynamic auction model to Choice System bidding data, estimating the distribution of food banks' heterogeneous and time-varying needs. I then use these estimates to compare the Choice System to the previous allocation mechanism employed by Feeding America which gave food banks very limited choice. I estimate that the Choice System increased welfare by the equivalent of a 17.1% increase in the quantity of food being allocated.

"Identification and Estimation of a Dynamic Multi-Object Auction Model"

Abstract: In this paper I develop an empirical model of bidding in repeated rounds of simultaneous first-price auctions. The model is motivated by the fact that auctions rarely take place in isolation; they are often repeated over time, and multiple heterogeneous lots are regularly auctioned simultaneously. Incorrect modelling of bidders as myopic or as having additive preferences over lots can lead to inaccurate counterfactuals and welfare conclusions. I prove non-parametric identification of primitives in this model and introduce a computationally feasible procedure to estimate this type of game. I then apply my model to data on Michigan Department of Transportation highway procurement auctions. I investigate the extent of cost-synergies across lots and use counterfactual simulations to compare equilibrium efficiency when contracts are auctioned sequentially rather than simultaneously.

Publications

Altmann, S., Milsom, L., Zillessen, ... & Abeler, J., 2020. 'Acceptability of App-Based Contact Tracing for COVID-19: Cross-Country Survey Study' *JMIR Mhealth*.

Altmann, S., 2018. 'Against Proportional Shortfall as a Priority-setting Principle.' *Journal of Medical Ethics*.

Altmann, S., 2016. 'Marginal Cases Versus Species Normality.' *Rerum Causae*, p.1.

Referee for *Health Policy*

Presentations

2022: ASSA Poster session; University of Surrey PhD workshop; Conference on Mechanism and Institution Design (Virtual); Twenty-Third ACM Conference on Economics and Computation (Boulder); Annual Conference in Dynamic Structural Econometrics: Market Design (MIT); EEA-ESEM Congress (Bocconi);

2021: Young Economist Symposium (Virtual); Scottish Economic Society annual conference (Virtual); University of Oxford

2020: Econometric Society European Winter Meeting (Virtual)

2018: Young Economist Symposium (NYU)

Extra-Curricular Activities

Karate Instructor

12/2012 - present

- 2nd dan black belt and qualified Senior Instructor, regularly teaching both junior and senior students.
- Captain of LSE Karate Club from 2013 to 2015. This involved organising competitions and finances.

Languages and IT skills

- English: Native speaker
- French: Advanced
- Spanish: Beginner
- Competent in STATA, R and MATLAB.

Hobbies and Interests

My main hobby is karate, though I have been forced to take several years out from training due to injury. I enjoy baking and brewing, and am surprisingly good at making pasta. In my spare time I am learning Spanish.