

# Abhishek Ananth

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## Research Interest

Econometrics, Networks, Industrial Organization

## Job Market Paper

**“Optimal Treatment Assignment Rules on Networked Populations”.** [[Link](#)]

## Education

2021	Ph.D., Economics, Cornell University, ( <i>expected</i> ) <i>Committee:</i> Francesca Molinari (Chair), Larry Blume, David Easley, Jörg Stoye
2018	M.A., Economics, Cornell University
2015	M.Sc., Econometrics and Mathematical Economics, London School of Economics
2014	B.Sc., Economics, University of Warwick

## References

Francesca Molinari  
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## Research

### *Working Papers*

#### **“Optimal Treatment Assignment Rules on Networked Populations” (Job Market Paper) [\[Link\]](#)**

My job market paper explores the optimal distribution of a limited number of preventative treatments (e.g., vaccines) for a deadly communicable disease such as malaria or Ebola among individuals on a network. While the literature has considered the optimal distribution of treatments in the presence of heterogeneous treatment effects, the main contribution of this paper lies in accommodating for spillovers in treatments. This paper explicitly models disease propagation on the contact network separately for Ebola and malaria. I extend the empirical welfare maximization (EWM) procedure considered in Kitagawa, Tetenov (2019). EWM estimates an optimal treatment assignment rule using data from a randomized control trial (RCT). I provide a finite sample bound for the effectiveness (measured in terms of uniform regret) of the proposed procedure. I demonstrate that the welfare attained by EWM converges to the maximum attainable welfare as the size of the RCT grows. I also show that there can exist no statistical procedure with a faster rate of convergence.

#### **“Who pays? Inefficiencies Arising from Pressure in Joint Liability Lending Microfinance Programs” [\[Link\]](#)**

This paper presents a game theoretic model of Joint Liability Lending (JLL) microfinance programs with endogenous peer pressure to repay. In addition, this paper describes a role for institutional pressure applied by microfinance institutions (MFI). This model helps better explain two important empirical findings in the literature. Firstly, observed repayment rates in not for profit microfinance programs are very high. Secondly, the productive capacity of participants does not significantly increase. The most striking intuition generated by the model is that when (risk-averse) participants can choose between low risk-low reward and high risk-high reward investments, and the MFI prefers to set low interest rates, the resulting equilibrium boasts inefficiently high repayment rates. This inefficiently transfers the burden of risk onto the participants who respond by inefficiently choosing low risk-low reward investments. Thus, counter to the main purpose of these programs of poverty alleviation, this model suggest that growth generating investments (high risk-high reward) are left under funded in equilibrium.

### *Work-in-Progress*

“Sharp Identification Region from Pairwise Stable Networks” with Francesca Molinari.

“Optimal Seeding of Office Lite on Collaborator Network” with Francesca Molinari and Sida Peng.

“The Effect of Evictions in the Azure Spot Market” with Francesca Molinari, Sida Peng and Will Wang.

## Relevant Work Experience

2020	Research Intern, Microsoft Research, Seattle, Washington, USA - Reduced form analysis of the response of consumers to eviction events - Structural model for bidding behavior on platform
2013	Intern, Energy Aspects, London, UK - Time series analysis of long run oil demand in China and India - Non-parametric regressions for regional oil demand forecasting

## Research Assistance Experience

Spring 2019	Research Assistant for Jörg Stoye, Cornell University
Summer 2014	Research Assistant for Greg Fischer, LSE

## Teaching Assistance Experience

Fall 2020	Networks for David Easley (undergraduate), Cornell University
Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018	Applied Econometrics for Doug McKee (undergraduate), Cornell University, (Evaluations 4.5, 4.64, 4.97/5)
Spring 2017	Econometrics for Francesca Molinari (undergraduate), Cornell University, (Evaluation 5/5)
Fall 2016	Mathematical Economics for Bruno Salcedo (graduate), Cornell University, (Evaluation 4.4/5)
2014 - 2015	Economics B (Undergraduate), London School of Economics, (Evaluation: NA)

All teaching evaluations are available here. [\[Link\]](#)

## Fellowships, Honors, and Awards

2020	Howard and Abby Milstein Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Cornell University
2020	Michael Brunn Family Goldman Sachs Scholarship, Cornell University
2018	L.R. "Red" Wilson MA '67 Excellence in Economics Medal, Cornell University
2018	Tapan Mitra Economics Prize, Cornell University
2017	Howard and Abby Milstein Graduate Teaching Award, Cornell University
2015 - 2020	Sage Fellowship, Cornell University
2015	IATL Fellowship for the International Conference of Undergraduate Research, University of Warwick
2015	Best Spoken Presentation at the British Conference of Undergraduate Research, University of Warwick

## Conference and Seminar Presentations

2019	<i>Presentation</i> , North East Universities Development Consortium, Evanston.
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*Who Pays? Inefficiencies Arising from Pressure in Joint Liability Lending Microfinance Programs*

2019 *Presentation, Western Economic Association International Conference, San Francisco.  
Effect of Pressure and Monitoring on Repayment and Welfare in Micro-Finance Programs*

## Professional Services

2020 *Referee, Review of Economic Studies*

2019 *Discussant, North East Universities Development Consortium, Evanston.  
Increasing Financial Inclusion in the Muslim World: Evidence from a Islamic Finance Marketing Experiment*

2019 *Discussant, Western Economic Association International Conference, San Francisco.  
Trading at the beginning of the trading day is hazardous to individual traders' wealth*

2017-2019 *Mentor, Economics Graduate Student Mentoring Program, Cornell University.*

## Professional Associations

American Economic Association

## Skills

<i>Programming</i>	Python, MATLAB, Stata, R, SQL, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X
<i>Languages</i>	English, Kannada, Hindi, Arabic (basic), French (basic)