

# KEVIN ZOU

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## EDUCATION

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### Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

Ph.D. in Economics

*Expected May. 2022*

Master of Arts in Economics

*Dec. 2018*

### University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA

Master of Arts in Statistics

*Jun. 2017*

### Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

Bachelor of Arts in Economics (Magna Cum Laude)

*May. 2015*

Statistics Minor

*Dec. 2014*

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Experimental Economics, Behavioral Economics, Econometrics, Game Theory

## WORKING PAPERS

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1. Group Size Effect in Sequential Multi-Battle Contests: An Experiment Study, with Yichuan Cai
2. A General Beta-Delta Discounting Model

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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1. New Hampshire or Super Tuesday, Does the Weight Matter?, with Yichuan Cai with Dr. Dongwoo Lee
2. A Machine Learning Approach on the Profit of Insider Trading, with Zhenyu Zhang

## ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH RELATED WORKING EXPERIENCE

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### Department of Economics, Virginia Tech

- **Instructor**

Principles of Microeconomics (Econ 2005)

*Spring 2022, Spring 2020*

- **Teaching Assistant**

Behavioral Economic Theory (Econ 6014)

*Fall 2021*

The Theory of Games and Economic Behavior (Econ 4424)

*Fall 2021*

Analysis of Economic Data (Econ 3254)

*Spring 2021*

Economic History of Diversity and Inclusion (Econ 1214)

*Spring 2021*

Experimental Economics (Econ 4434)

*Fall 2020*

Neuroeconomics (Econ/Neur/Psyc 4454)

*Fall 2019*

Economics of Regulation (Econ 3004)

*Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018*

Principles of Macroeconomics (Econ 2006)

*Spring 2018, Fall 2017*

Principles of Microeconomics (Econ 2005)

*Spring 2018, Fall 2017*

- **Research Assistant**

The Policy Destination Area (COVID-19 databases project)

*Summer 2020*

Focal Stimulation of the rTPJ Improves Rationality in Prosocial Decision-making

*Summer 2019*

## Department of Statistics and Applied Probability, University of California, Santa Barbara

- **Head Teaching Assistant**

Regression Analysis (Pstat 126)

*Fall 2016*

Probability and Statistics III (Pstat 120C)

*Summer 2016*

- **Teaching Assistant**

Statistical Machine Learning (Pstat 131/231)

*Spring 2017, Winter 2017*

Statistics for Economics (Pstat 109)

*Spring 2016*

Intro to Statistics (Pstat 5A)

*Winter 2016, Fall 2015*

- **Statistical Consultant at StatLab**

Statistical Consulting for verity of research from the Department of Molecular, Cellular, Developmental Biology.

*Winter 2017, Fall 2016, Spring 2016*

## Department of Economics, Kansas State University

- **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**

Intermediate Microeconomics (Econ 520)

*Spring 2015*

Sports Economics (ECON 524)

*Fall 2014*

Principles of Macroeconomics (Econ 120)

*Spring 2014*

Principles of Microeconomics (Econ 110)

*Fall 2013*

## RESEARCH RELATED SKILLS

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### Computer Skills

R, Python, Stata, MATLAB, SAS, Minitab, SPSS, LaTeX, JavaScript, CSS, and HTML.

### Statistics Skills

Econometrics, Data visualization, Experimental design, Sampling technique, Linear model, Generalized linear model, Nonlinear model, Multivariate analysis, Machine learning, Model validation, Non-parametric statistics, Bayesian inference, Time series analysis, Stochastic process, Artificial neural network, Generalized method of moments

### Certifications

Specific Human Subjects Protection Training Certificate (VT)

Certificate of Teaching Effectiveness (VT)

Certificate of Social and Behavioral Research (CITI Program)

### Languages

Mandarin Chinese (Native speaker)

English (Full professional proficiency)

## HONORS, AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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Behavioral Economics and Finance Research Cultivation Grant (SWUFE, China)

*Spring 2022*

Graduate Teaching Assistantship (VT)

*2017 - 2021*

Graduate Research Assistantship (VT)

*Summer 2020, Summer 2019*

Graduate Teaching Assistantship (UCSB)

*2015 - 2017*

Outstanding Graduating Senior of Department of Economics (K-State)

*Spring 2015*

LeVelle Wood Scholarship Fund (K-State)

*2013-2015*

Ross Alan Haymaker Family Economics Scholarship (K-State)

*2014-2015*

K-state Semester Honor (K-State)

*2011-2015*

Outstanding Junior Honors Award from the Honor Society of Agriculture (K-State)

*Spring 2014*

Anna Maude Smith Fund for Student in Home Economics (K-State)

*Spring 2014*

Margaret Haupt Swift Memorial Scholarship (K-State)

*Fall 2013*

## **JOB MARKET PAPER**

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### **"Group Size Effect in Sequential Multi-Battle Contests: An Experiment Study", with Yichuan Cai**

This paper presents the result of a laboratory experiment that investigates the group size effect in the sequential multi-battle contest. We first generalized Konrad and Kovenock's (2009) result to multi-player ( $n \geq 2$ ). Then we conducted an n-player ( $n = 3$  or  $6$ ) multi-battle experiment to compare the all-pay auction and the Tullock lottery side by side. When the number of contestants is increased in a sequential multi-battle contest, we get the following result: First, in battle 1, the boundary distribution is distorted in the all-pay auction, but only the no entry rate is increased in the Tullock lottery. Second, when the players are not in the lead, the dropout rate is higher with more players in the game. Third, even though the total number of battles has not increased significantly due to the increased number of players, more players are adopting the dormant-reenter strategy. Finally, increasing the number of contestants results in a higher total contest effort and a higher winner individual effort. In general, the theory in the Tullock lottery provides a more accurate prediction than in the all-pay auction.

## **DISSERTATION COMMITTEE**

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### **Dr. Sheryl Ball**

Professor (Advisor)  
Department of Economics  
Virginia Tech  
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### **Dr. Alec Smith**

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Virginia Tech  
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### **Dr. Walid Saad**

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Bradley Department of Electrical  
and Computer Engineering  
Virginia Tech  
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### **Dr. Klaus Moeltner**

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and Applied Economics  
Virginia Tech  
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### **Dr. Matthew Kovach**

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Virginia Tech  
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