Matthew W. Thomas

Northwestern
Economics

Contact Information	Department of Economics Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208	Mobile: 646–491–0173 matthew.thomas@northwestern.edu mattwthomas.com Citizenship: United States

Fields

Research: Microeconomic Theory

Teaching: Applied Microeconomics, Industrial Organization, Microeconomic Theory

Education

Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University .... (anticipated) 2023
  Committee: Asher Wolinsky (Chair), Wojciech Olszewski, Bruno Strulovici

B.A., Mathematics and Economics, Williams College 2017

Fellowships & Awards

GitHub Travel Grant 2020
Carl Van Duyne Prize 2017
Sentinels Fellowship 2015

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University 2018–Present
  Intro to Microeconomics, Introduction to Applied Econometrics, Natural Resource Economics, Economics of Education, Marketing Analytics (Kellogg)

Teaching Assistant, Williams College 2015–2016
  Intro to Development Economics, Probability

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Ivan A. Canay, Northwestern University 2021

Conferences

Conference on "Contests: Theory and Evidence"

Refereeing

American Economic Review, Journal of Open Source Software, Review of Economic Design

Working papers

"Asymmetric All–Pay Contests with Spillovers" with Maria Betto

Abstract: When opposing parties compete for a prize, the sunk effort players exert during the conflict can affect the value of the winner's reward. These *spillovers* can have substantial influence on the equilibrium behavior of participants in applications such as lobbying, warfare, labor tournaments, marketing, and RD races. To understand this influence, we study a general class of asymmetric, two–player all–pay contests where we allow for spillovers in each player's reward. The link between participants' efforts and rewards yields novel effects – in particular, players with higher costs and lower values than their opponent sometimes extract larger payoffs.

"Covert Discrimination in All-pay Contests" with Maria Betto

Abstract: A contest designer may wish to disadvantage a stronger player to improve competitiveness. We show this can be done in all–pay auctions such that the game is fair (i.e. symmetric) ex-ante. Yet, the stronger player is endogenously offered a lower prize in expectation. Thus, discrimination is *covert*.

"Fuzzy Choice" with Maria Betto

Abstract: Sometimes decision makers are unable to rank their own preferences completely. We generalize choice theory to allow for incomplete preferences where choice sets are fuzzy. That is, membership in the set is non–binary. We apply this framework to impose new structure on random choice and rational inattention.

Languages English (native)

References

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