

Contact Information	bvatter@mit.edu benjaminvatter.com +1-224-817-2226	
Employment	Assistant Professor, Applied Economics, MIT Sloan Class of 1943 Career Development Assistant Professor, MIT Sloan Senior Lecturer in Economics Group, MIT Sloan Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research	March 2024– present July 2024 – present July 2023– March 2024 July 2022– July 2023
Education	Ph.D. in Economics, Northwestern University <i>Advisors:</i> David Dranove, Igal Hendel, Gaston Illanes, Amanda Starc M.A., Economics, Northwestern University M.A., Economics, University of Chile B.Sc.Eng. Industrial Engineering, University of Chile	2016–2022 2016–2020 2014–2016 2009–2015
Research Areas	Industrial Organization, Health Economics, Econometrics	
Working papers	<p>“Quality Disclosure and Regulation: Scoring Design in Medicare Advantage” (Revision requested at Econometrica)</p> <p><i>Abstract:</i> Policymakers and market intermediaries often use quality scores to alleviate asymmetric information about product quality. Scores affect the demand for quality and, in equilibrium, its supply. Equilibrium effects break the rule whereby more information is always better, and the optimal design of scores must account for them. In the context of Medicare Advantage, I find that consumers’ information is limited, and quality is inefficiently low. A simple design alleviates these issues and increases total welfare by 3.7 monthly premiums. More than half of the gains stem from scores’ effect on quality rather than information. Scores can outperform full-information outcomes by regulating inefficient oligopolistic quality provision, and a binary certification of quality attains 98% of this welfare. Scores are informative even when coarse; firms’ incentives are to produce quality at the scoring threshold, which consumers know. The primary design challenge of scores is to dictate thresholds and thus regulate quality.</p> <p>“Vertical Integration and Plan Design in Healthcare Markets” with Jose Ignacio Cuesta and Carlos Noton</p> <p><i>Abstract:</i> We measure the impacts of vertical integration between insurers and hospitals. In the Chilean market, where half of private hospital capacity is vertically integrated, integration increases inpatient care spending by 6 percent and decreases consumer surplus and total welfare. Integrated insurers offer generous coverage at integrated hospitals, limited access to rival hospitals, and lower premiums. Competition for enrollees forces non-integrated insurers to provide additional coverage to high-quality non-integrated hospitals, resulting in plan networks that limit hospital competition. Whereas vertical integration reduces double marginalization, skewed cost-sharing structures—and their effect on hospital competition—more than compensate, leading to an overall negative welfare impact.</p>	
Other ongoing work	<p>“Mergers With Intermediation: The Price Effect of Distant Hospital Mergers” with David Dranove</p>	

“Who takes up incentives to delay retirement? Evidence from Chile” with Gaston Illanes and Manisha Padi

“Competition and regulation in the non-profit sector” with Samuel Goldberg

Fellowships & Awards

HSI grant, MIT Sloan School of Management	2024
Dissertation University Fellowship, Northwestern University	2021–2022
Robert Eisner Graduate Fellowship, Northwestern University	2019
Short research internships grant, University of Chile	2015
Research internships grant, Millennium Center for the study of market imperfections	2015
Masters students thesis grant, Millennium Center for the study of market imperfections	2015

Presentations

Rice University	2024
University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy	
UBC Sauder School of Business	
Washington University in St. Louis, Olin Business School	
Pennsylvania State University	
Econometric Society Winter Meetings	2023
Carnegie Mellon University Tepper School of Business	
NBER Health care winter meetings	
University of Wisconsin Madison	
ASHEcon	
New York University Stern School of Business,	2022
University of Navarra IESE Business School	
MIT Sloan School of Management	
New York University	
Duke University	
University of Pennsylvania,	
Washington University in St. Louis Olin Business School,	
Stanford University Graduate School of Business,	
University of Chicago Booth School of Business,	
University of Minnesota	
Harvard Kennedy School,	
University of Chile Centro de Economia Aplicada,	
Universidad Catolica	
20th Annual International Industrial Organization Conference (IIOC)	
Health Economics Initiative Annual Conference at BFI University of Chicago	
5th Rome Junior Conference of Applied Microeconomics	
Barcelona School of Economics Summer Forum	
University of California Berkeley	
Yale University	
Annual Health Econometrics Workshop	
University of California Los Angeles	
Columbia University	
University of Leuven	
Tilburg University	
Federal Trade Commission	
Israeli IO conference	
European Economic Association-ESEM conference	2021
Bar-Ilan University	
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Reichman University,	
Tel-Aviv University	
46th Conference of the European Association for Research in Industrial Economics	2019
16th Annual International Industrial Organization Conference (IIOC)	2018
4th Empirics and Methods in Economics Conference (EMCON)	

Teaching Experience

Lecturer - 15.010 Economic Analysis For Business Decisions Microeconomics for MBAs at MIT Sloan	2023
Lecturer - 15.S06 IO of Health and Energy Markets Ph.D.-Level topics course in industrial Organization at MIT Sloan	2024
Guest Lecturer - CEA Summer School Master's level two-part course on health economics and market design at the University of Chile	2022
Guest Lecturer - Health Economics Guest lecture in Ph.D. class at Northwestern University	2022, 2023

Refereeing

The American Economic Review, Econometrica, The Review of Economic Studies, American Economic Journal - Microeconomics, American Economics Journal - Applied, American Economics Journal - Public Policy, RAND Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, The Economic Journal, Economic Inquiry, International Journal of Health Economics and Management

Other Scholarly Activities

Co-organizer of the BU-Harvard-MIT Health Economics Seminar	2023-2024
---	-----------

* - Forthcoming activities