

# DJ THORNTON

School of Economics ◇ UNSW Sydney ◇ Current as of January 2026

Email ◇ [d.thornton@unsw.edu.au](mailto:d.thornton@unsw.edu.au)

Website ◇ <https://www.djthornton.org>

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

---

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Manos Institute for Cognitive Economics, UNSW Sydney 2025–present

## EDUCATION

---

### University of New South Wales, Sydney

PhD Economics, *Advisors: Richard Holden, Gabriele Gratton* 2022–2025

Master of Pre-Doctoral Business Studies: Economics (with Excellence) 2021

BCom/BSc: Economics & Advanced Mathematics, Honours (Class I) 2015–2019

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

**Fields:** Networks, Cognitive Economics, Microeconomic Theory

## PRIZES, HONORS AND AWARDS

---

RTP Scholarship, Australian Government 2022–2025

UNSW Development and Research Training Grant 2024

The UNSW Business School Dean’s Award for top performance in a Masters Coursework Program 2021

Finalist: Westpac Future Leaders Scholarship 2021

MPDBS Scholarship, UNSW Sydney 2021

UNSW Summer Research Scholarship 2018–2019

The Faculty of Science Dean’s List for academic excellence 2018

Academic Achievers Award (AAA) 2015

## RESEARCH

---

### Working Papers

1. Bad Networks (with R. Akerlof and R. Holden)  
*Revise and Resubmit at Journal of Public Economics*
2. Strategic Influence: The Diffusion of Prosocial and Antisocial Behaviors (with A. Campbell and Y. Zenou)  
*Revise and Resubmit at Econometrica*
3. Targeted Persuasion (with G. Gratton and C. Teh)  
*Revise and Resubmit at American Economic Journal: Microeconomics*
4. Controlling Complex Contagions (with A. Langtry)

### Other Research

1. The Giant Component: Random Graphs and Information Cascades, *Honours Thesis* (Supervised by C. Greenhill and R. Holden)

2. The Stochastic Reproduction Number of a Virus (with R. Holden). Preprint: Covid Economics — Centre for Economic Policy Research, Issue 41

## RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

---

Research Assistant for Professor Richard Holden, UNSW	2020–2025
Research Assistant for Professors Yves Zenou and Arthur Campbell, Monash University	2024–2025
Research Assistant for A. Professor Juan Carlos Carbajal, UNSW	2023
Research Assistant for Dr. Scott French, UNSW	2020–2021
Research Assistant for Professor Gigi Foster, UNSW	2018–2021

## PRESENTATIONS

---

Australasian Economic Theory Workshop (AETW; scheduled)	2026
Australasian Economic Theory Workshop (AETW; poster session), Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics (SIOE), Network Economics Conference and Summer School (NECSS)	2025
Australasian Economic Theory Workshop (AETW), Network Science and Economics Conference (NSE), Econometric Society Australasian Meeting (ESAM)	2024
Australasian Economic Theory Workshop (AETW)	2023

## JOURNAL REFEREE

---

Mathematical Social Sciences (MSS), Journal of Law, Economics and Organization (JLEO), Games and Economic Behavior (GEB).

## TEACHING

---

<b>Lecturer, UNSW</b>	2020–2025
• <b>ECON2112:</b> Game Theory and Business Strategy ( <i>Lecturer in Charge: 2023–2025</i> )	2020, 2023–2025
• <b>ECON1401:</b> Economic Perspectives ( <i>Lecturer in Charge: 2022, 2024</i> )	2021–2022, 2024
• <b>ECON3202:</b> Mathematical Economics	2022–2023
• <b>ECON3125:</b> Economics of Health and Human Capital, <i>Lecturer in Charge</i>	2022
• <b>ECON3208:</b> Applied Econometric Methods, <i>Lecturer in Charge</i>	2022
• <b>ECON2101:</b> Intermediate Microeconomics	2022
• <b>ECON5323:</b> Organisational Economics	2021
• <b>ECON1202:</b> Quantitative Analysis	2020
<b>Tutor, UNSW</b>	2017–2025
• <b>ECON2112:</b> Game Theory and Business Strategy	2018–2021, 2023–2025
• <b>ECON3123:</b> Organisational Economics	2020–2021
• <b>ECON3101:</b> Markets and Frictions	2019–2021
• <b>ECON2101:</b> Intermediate Microeconomics	2019–2021
• <b>ECON1401:</b> Economic Perspectives	2019–2020
• <b>ECON3121:</b> Managerial Economics	2018
• <b>ECON5103:</b> Business Economics	2018
• <b>ECON3124:</b> Behavioural Economics	2018

## MEDIA

---

“2023 Retrospective—A Listener Interviews Me”, **The Joe Walker Podcast**, December 30, 2023.