

Matthew Brown

CONTACT INFORMATION	Saieh Hall for Economics 5757 S University Ave Chicago, IL 60637	mattbrownecon@uchicago.edu mattbrownecon.github.io +1 (847)-848-8015
APPOINTMENTS	Assistant Instructional Professor , University of Chicago, Department of Economics	2025-
EDUCATION	Ph.D. in Economics , Stanford University Advisors: Matthew Gentzkow, Hunt Allcott, Doug Bernheim	2019-2025
	B.A. in Mathematics and Economics , University of Notre Dame	2015-2019
WORKING PAPERS	Do Sports Bettors Need Consumer Protection? Evidence From A Field Experiment (with Nick Grasley and Mariana Guido) <i>Abstract:</i> Corrective policy in sports betting markets is motivated by concerns that demand is driven by behavioral bias rather than a normative preference to gamble. We conduct a field experiment with frequent sports bettors to measure the impact of two biases, overoptimism about financial returns and self-control problems, on the demand for sports betting. We find widespread over-optimism about financial returns. The average participant predicts that they will break even, but in fact loses about 8 cents for every dollar wagered. Self-control problems are smaller and less common. We estimate a model of biased betting and use it to evaluate several corrective policies. Our estimates imply that the surplus-maximizing corrective excise tax on sports betting is twice as large as prevailing tax rates. We estimate substantial heterogeneity in bias across bettors, which implies that targeted interventions that directly eliminate bias could improve on a tax. However, implementation is challenging: we show that two bias-correction interventions favored by the gambling industry do not deliver the targeting improvements. The Role of Ideology in Media Coverage of Science (with Harsh Gupta) <i>Abstract:</i> We study the role of political ideology in the diffusion of scientific knowledge by media outlets. We document, using a novel measure of scientist ideology that spans more than 600,000 papers, that outlets are statistically significantly more likely to cover scientists with similar ideology. However, the role of scientist ideology is small in magnitude when compared to the role of scientific quality, as measured by academic citations, journal quality, and research funding, in media coverage of science. On average, outlets are more likely to cover high-quality research written by misaligned scientists than low-quality research written by ideologically aligned scientists.	
SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS	Misperceptions, Willpower, and the Demand for Talk Therapy (with Sarah Bogl, Nick Grasley, and Mariana Guido) Misperceptions and the Normative Interpretation of Hedonic Valuations: Theory and Application to the Value of Statistical Life Recruitment Procedures, Attention Checks, and Selection in Online Experiments The Causes and Consequences of Internet Pornography Consumption (with Joshua Grubbs)	
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	University of Chicago Behavioral Economics and Welfare Analysis	2025

Stanford University

TA for Junior Honors Seminar	2025
TA for Undergraduate Behavioral Economics (x3)	2022-2024
TA for Undergraduate Empirical Environmental Economics (x2)	2023
TA for Bing Honors College Undergraduate Thesis Boot Camp	2023
TA for Undergraduate Principles of Economics	2021
Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (x4)	2022 - 2024

**AWARDS &
FELLOWSHIPS**

Internet Pornography and Well-Being Pilot Grant, American Institute for Boys and Men	2025
Woods Institute Emerging Environmental Scholar Research Award, Stanford University	2025
Responsible Gaming Grant, Colorado Division of Gaming	2024
Ethics in Society Graduate Research Grant, Stanford University	2024
Bill Lane Center for the American West Grant, Stanford University	2024
George P. Shultz Dissertation Support Fund Fellowship, Stanford University	2023
Roger Noll Dissertation Fellowship, Stanford University	2023
Stanford Center for American Democracy (SCAD) Experiment Grant, Stanford University	2021
Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society (PACS) Small Grant, Stanford University	2021
Institute for Research in the Social Sciences (IRiSS) Research Data Grant, Stanford University	2021
Bernoulli Senior Thesis Award (Honorable Mention), Notre Dame	2019
Open Source Macroeconomics Boot Camp (Student Fellow), University of Chicago	2018

**INVITED
PRESENTATIONS**

2025:	
Analysis Group, Edgeworth Economics, University of Wisconsin, University of Notre Dame, Bates White, National Conference on Gambling Addiction & Responsible Gambling	
2023:	
University of Notre Dame	