

# MITCHELL WATT

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## Executive Summary

I am a doctoral candidate in the Department of Economics at Stanford University, with interests in microeconomic theory, market design, industrial organization, and economics and computer science. I have a Master in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, where I was a John F. Kennedy Fellow. Prior to this, I was the adviser to Dr Jim Chalmers MP, then Shadow Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation in the Australian Parliament and worked in the Australian Labor Party campaign headquarters during the 2016 Federal Election campaign.

## Education

**STANFORD UNIVERSITY, Department of Economics** Stanford, CA  
**Doctor of Philosophy (in progress) 2018-**

Advisor: Professor Paul Milgrom

Admitted to Candidacy by the Faculty of the Department of Economics, 23 December 2020

2019-20, Spring 2021: Research assistant to Professor Paul Milgrom

Fall 2020: Teaching assistant to Professors Doug Bernheim and Paul Milgrom, Graduate Microeconomics I

Winter 2021: Teaching assistant to Professor Paul Milgrom, Undergraduate Market Design

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY, John F. Kennedy School of Government**

Cambridge, MA

**Master in Public Policy, May 2018**

Concentration: Business and Government Policy.

Study areas include: market design, microeconomic theory, behavioral economics, trade, financial crises, ethics, negotiation, economics of networks, organizational change, adaptive leadership.

Thesis (PAE): [“Trust mechanisms and online platforms: a regulatory response”](#). Advised by Prof. Jason Furman.

**UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND**

Brisbane, Australia

**Bachelor of Science (Honours), November 2011, Graduate of the Year (Valedictorian)**

**Graduate Diploma of Economics, November 2012**

Study areas in mathematics: algebraic topology, partial differential equations and analysis.

Study areas in economics: microeconomics, macroeconomics, public economics, competition policy.

Thesis: [“Morse Theory: Smooth and Discrete”](#). Advised by Prof. Stephan Tillmann.

## Experience

Jan17 – May18

**HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL**

Cambridge, MA

**Teaching Fellow**

- Teaching fellow for Professor Pinar Dogan in API-303 Game Theory and Strategic Decision and API-101 Markets and Market Failure (Fall 2017). Course Assistant for API-303 Game Theory (Spring 2017) and research assistant for course redesign during Summer 2017.
- Teaching fellow for Professors Jason Furman and Robert Lawrence for API-102I Economic Analysis of Public Policy for Spring 2018.

May17 - Aug17

**ALPHABETA ADVISORS**

Sydney, Australia

**Associate Intern**

- Developed and presented economic data-driven insights to state government agencies.
- Evaluated a key taxation policy program for a state government agency in Australia.
- Collaborated with a team from McKinsey to provided strategic advice on industrial and competition policy for a major Australian industrial research body.

Oct13 - Aug16

**PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA, OFFICE OF JIM CHALMERS MP**

Brisbane & Canberra, Australia

**Speech-writer and adviser**

- Strategic and legislative advice on policy issues, especially financial services, superannuation, sport, trade, investment and productivity for the Australian Federal Opposition.
- Liaison with print, radio and television media, including digital content management and social media.
- Support for parliamentary duties, caucus liaison and electorate obligations.
- Speech and opinion piece writing and editing.

Apr14 - Sep15

**AUSTRALIAN YOUNG LABOR**

Australia

May13 - May14

**Secretary of Australian Young Labor**

**President of Australian Young Labor (Queensland Branch)**

- Grassroots organization of the youth contribution to various election campaigns, including the 2013 Australian Federal Election. I oversaw a doubling of Queensland Young Labor membership and sat on the administrative committee of the Queensland Branch of the party.

## UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Brisbane, Australia

Mar09 – Nov13

### Casual Academic

- Teaching fellow and course assistant for a variety of undergraduate mathematics and postgraduate economic courses including teaching, practical supervision, and assessment marking.
- Courses taught included: Calculus I, II and III, Functional Analysis, Ordinary Differential Equations, Problems and Applications of Modern Mathematics, Consumers and the Firm, and Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis.

## MACQUARIE GROUP

Sydney, Australia

Nov10 – Mar11

### Summer Intern

- Member of the Risk Management Group in the Credit Risk Team, reviewing the overall credit performance of several consumer lending portfolios and helping review the Bank's internal credit rating system for certain classes of counterparty.

## Publications

### Survey Articles

Shoshana Vasserman and Mitchell Watt (2021) Risk aversion and auction design: Theoretical and empirical evidence. *International Journal of Industrial Organization*. Forthcoming.

### Public Policy Working Papers

Mitchell Watt and Hubert Wu (2018) Trust mechanisms and online platforms: A regulatory response. *Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Governance Associate Working Paper No. 97*. Available at <https://www.hks.harvard.edu/centers/mrcbg/publications/awp/awp97>.

### Commentary

Paul Milgrom and Mitchell Watt (2020) Commentary on 'Effective Allocation of Affordable Housing' by Nick Arnosti and Peng Shi. *Management Science (Blog)*. Available at <https://www.informs.org/Blogs/ManSci-Blogs/Management-Science-Review/Effective-Allocation-of-Affordable-Housing>

Jim Chalmers and Mitchell Watt (2013) Labor should fight for economic mobility. *Chifley Research Centre Blog*. Available at <https://www.chifley.org.au/labor-should-fight-for-economic-mobility/>.

## Ongoing projects

**Linear Pricing Mechanisms in Non-Convex Markets** (with Paul Milgrom)

**A Bandit Model of Trade with Two-Sided Learning** (with Yunus Aybas)

## Key Honors & Awards

- **Stanford Graduate Fellow, 2021-2023**  
supports exceptional incoming and continuing doctoral students in the natural and social sciences, education, engineering, and the basic sciences
- **Centennial Teaching Award, 2021**  
recognizes outstanding teaching assistants for their tremendous service and dedication in providing excellent classroom instruction for Stanford students.
- **Dean's Award for Excellence in Student Teaching, 2018**  
awarded to the most outstanding student teachers at the Harvard Kennedy School in 2018
- **John F. Kennedy Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School 2016 – 2018**  
awarded for academic ability and professional distinction
- **Graduate of the Year of the University of Queensland 2012**  
awarded to the graduate with the highest GPA across the University in a given year
- **University Medal of the University of Queensland 2011**  
awarded to the top 5% of first class honours graduates at the University
- **University of Queensland Excellence and Equity Scholarship 2008-2010**  
awarded for academic excellence to students from low socioeconomic status families and underrepresented academic backgrounds