Martin Vaeth

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Placement Director	Gianluca Violante	violante@princeton.edu	609-258-4003
Graduate Administrator	Laura Hedden	lhedden@princeton.edu	609-258-4006

Graduate Studies

Princeton University *2019-present*

PhD Candidate in Economics

Expected Completion Date: May 2025

REFERENCES

Roland Bénabou	Alessandro Lizzeri	Fedor Sandomirskiy
Department of Economics	Department of Economics	Department of Economics
Princeton University	Princeton University	Princeton University
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Prior Education

London School of Economics and Political Science *2018*

M.Sc. in Economics and Philosophy

Heidelberg University *2017*

B.Sc. in Mathematics

Fields

PRIMARY   Microeconomic Theory

SECONDARY   Behavioral Economics, Political Economy

Job Market Paper

"Rational Voter Learning, Issue Alignment, and Polarization", 2024
Best Job Market Paper Award (European Economic Association and UniCredit Foundation)

We model electoral competition between two parties when voters can learn about their political positions through flexible information acquisition. Rational voter learning generates polarized and aligned political preferences, even when voters' true positions are unimodally distributed and independent across policy issues. When parties strategically select their positions, voter and party polarization mutually reinforce each other, and both rise as information costs decline. Because voters learn exclusively about the axis of disagreement between parties, party positions respond to only one dimension of aggregate shocks to voter preferences. We adapt our model to a market setting with horizontally differentiated goods when consumers learn about their product preferences. A reduction in information cost not only increases product differentiation but also leads to higher markups, reducing consumer welfare. These results show how lower information costs can reduce welfare in both political and economic contexts.

Working Papers

1. "Attention and Regret", 2024, Revise and Resubmit at *Journal of Political Economy*

2. "Imprecision Attenuates Updating", 2024

3. "The Optimal Design of Public Recognition Schemes", 2024

Work in Progress

1. "Self-Control through Emotions: Guilt and Pride", 2024

Teaching

Princeton	ECO 500: Mathematics for Economists (TA, 2024)
	ECO 100: Introduction to Microeconomics (TA and Course Organizer, 2022–2024)
Heidelberg	Linear Algebra (TA, 2016)

Professional Activities

External Presentations

2024	35th Stony Brook International Conference on Game Theory
2023	European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society, Bonn Microeconomic Theory Seminar
2022	Calgary/SFU/UBC Theory Workshop

Service

Co-organizer of the Princeton Political Economy Research Seminar (2023–2024)

Refereeing

American Economic Review, Journal of Mathematical Economics

Fellowships, Awards, and Grants

Stephen Goldfeld Summer Fellowship	*2024*
William S. Dietrich II Economic Theory Center Summer Grants	*2021-2024*
Global Priorities Fellowship, Forethought Foundation	*2020*
Hayek Prize for best performance in the MSc Economics and Philosophy at LSE	*2018*
Scholarship by the German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung)	*2014-2018*
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Scholarship for Study in China	*2014-2015*
Third place on the German national level of the Mathematical Olympiad	*2012*

Languages

FLUENT	German (native), English
BASIC	French, Spanish, Chinese