

# Samuel Mitchell Altmann

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## References

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## Education

**University of Oxford (Wadham college) – DPhil in economics** **2018 – present**

- Thesis title: “Essays in Empirical Market Design.”

**University of Oxford (Wadham college) – MPhil in economics: Distinction** **2016 - 2018**

- Thesis entitled: “Allocating Foodbank Resources Using Internal Trading.”

**London School of Economics - BSc Philosophy and Economics: First Class Honours** **2013-2016**

- Dissertation entitled: “Priority Setting in Healthcare: Proportional Shortfall versus Lifetime QALY Prioritarianism”

## Teaching and Research Fields

Empirical Industrial Organisation, Applied Microeconometrics, Microeconomic Theory

## Teaching Experience

**University of Oxford (Wadham college): Stipendiary Lecturer** **2020 - 2021**

- Prelims (1<sup>st</sup> year BSc) Microeconomics, Mathematics for economists, Probability and Statistics
- Core (2<sup>nd</sup> year BSc) Microeconomics (sabbatical cover)

**University of Oxford (Wadham college): Titular Lecturer** **2018 – 2019**

- Prelims Micro, Mathematics for economists, Quantitative Economics (2<sup>nd</sup> year BSc) for exchange students

## Work/Research Experience

<b>Oxford Health Improvement (NHS): Health economist (Affiliation)</b>	<b>2018-2021</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project lead: Evaluating the magnitude of contagion from Self-Harm, a 'peer effects' analysis.</li> <li>- Performed Cost Effectiveness Analyses for several completed improvement projects in Oxford health NHS trust.</li> </ul>	
<b>Research Assistant to Johannes Abeler</b>	<b>2018-2020</b>
<b>Department of Health, Global and Public Health Analysis Branch: Summer Intern</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Health Economics Research Unit: Research Assistant</b>	<b>2015</b>

## Awards and Scholarships

Departmental bursary	<b>2022 – 2023</b>
ESRC Studentship for duration of MPhil/DPhil studies	<b>2016 – 2021</b>
Oxford-Richards scholarship for duration of MPhil/DPhil studies	<b>2016 – 2021</b>
George Webb Medley Prize for best performance in second year MPhil exams	<b>2018</b>
George Webb Medley Prize for best thesis (proxime accessit)	<b>2018</b>
Academic Prize for best performance in first year MPhil exams	<b>2017</b>
Wadham College Senior Scholarship for outstanding performance in first year of MPhil	<b>2017-2018</b>
Andrea Mannu Prize for best performance in the LSE Philosophy department	<b>2016</b>
Bootham School Academic Prize for receiving the best A-level results in year of 80	<b>2013</b>
Academic Scholarship to Bootham School (on the basis of an interview and exam)	<b>2006 – 2013</b>

## Work in Progress

**Job Market Paper:** “Choice, Welfare, and Market Design: An Empirical Investigation of Feeding America’s Choice System”

Abstract: Feeding America, an organisation responsible for feeding 130,000 Americans every day, distributes donated food among a network of participating food banks. Feeding America’s allocation mechanism, the ‘Choice System’, uses first-price auctions to allow food banks to signal which types of food they need from Feeding America. This provides food banks a large degree of choice over the types of food they receive. This paper examines the welfare and distributional consequences of enabling this choice. I apply a dynamic auction model to Choice System bidding data, estimating the distribution of food banks’ heterogeneous and time-varying needs. I then use these estimates to compare the Choice System to the previous allocation mechanism employed by Feeding America which gave food banks very limited choice. I estimate that the Choice System increased welfare by the equivalent of a 17.1% increase in the quantity of food being allocated.

“Identification and Estimation of a Dynamic Multi-Object Auction Model”

Abstract: In this paper I develop an empirical model of bidding in repeated rounds of simultaneous first-price auctions. The model is motivated by the fact that auctions rarely take place in isolation; they are often repeated over time, and multiple heterogeneous lots are regularly auctioned simultaneously. Incorrect modelling of bidders as myopic or as having additive preferences over lots can lead to inaccurate counterfactuals and welfare

conclusions. I prove non-parametric identification of primitives in this model and introduce a computationally feasible procedure to estimate this type of game. I then apply my model to data on Michigan Department of Transportation highway procurement auctions. I investigate the extent of cost-synergies across lots and use counterfactual simulations to compare equilibrium efficiency when contracts are auctioned sequentially rather than simultaneously.

## Publications

Altmann, S., Milsom, L., Zillessen., ... & Abeler, J., 2020. 'Acceptability of App-Based Contact Tracing for COVID-19: Cross-Country Survey Study' *JMIR Mhealth*.

Altmann, S., 2018. 'Against Proportional Shortfall as a Priority-setting Principle.' *Journal of Medical Ethics*.

Altmann, S., 2016. 'Marginal Cases Versus Species Normality.' *Rerum Causae*, p.1.

Referee for *Health Policy*

## Presentations

2023: ASSA (scheduled)

2022: ASSA Poster session; University of Surrey PhD workshop; Conference on Mechanism and Institution Design (Virtual); Twenty-Third ACM Conference on Economics and Computation (Boulder); Annual Conference in Dynamic Structural Econometrics: Market Design (MIT); EEA-ESEM Congress (Bocconi); Rising Stars in Market Design (University of Tokyo Market Design Centre, *scheduled*)

2021: Young Economist Symposium (Virtual); Scottish Economic Society annual conference (Virtual); University of Oxford

2020: Econometric Society European Winter Meeting (Virtual)

2018: Young Economist Symposium (NYU)

## Extra-Curricular Activities

### Karate Instructor

12/2012 - present

- 2nd dan black belt and qualified Senior Instructor, regularly teaching both junior and senior students.
- Captain of LSE Karate Club from 2013 to 2015. This involved organising competitions and finances.

## Languages and IT skills

- English: Native speaker
- French: Advanced
- Spanish: Beginner
- Competent in STATA, R and MATLAB.

## Hobbies and Interests

My main hobby is karate, though I have been forced to take several years out from training due to injury. I enjoy baking and brewing, and am surprisingly good at making pasta. In my spare time I am learning Spanish.