

# Samuel Mitchell Altmann

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## Employment

**Queen Mary University of London, School of Economics and Finance** 2024 –

Lecturer (Assistant Professor)

**Paris School of Economics** 2023 - 2024

Postdoctoral Fellow

**University of Oxford, Wadham College** 2018-2021

Stipendiary Lecturer

## Education

**University of Oxford (Wadham college) – DPhil in economics** 2018 – 2023

- Thesis title: “Choice and Auction Design in the Allocation of Food to Food Banks”

**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

**Queen Mary University of London (SEF):** 2024 –

- **Module Organiser:** ECN385 Industrial Economics (UG)

**University of Oxford (Wadham college): Stipendiary/Titular Lecturer** 2018 - 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)

## Other Experience

<b>Oxford Health Improvement (NHS): Health economist (Affiliation)</b>	<b>2018-2021</b>
- Project lead: Evaluating the magnitude of contagion from Self-Harm, a 'peer effects' analysis.	
<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

Finalist, Young Economist Essay Award, EARIE annual conference	2024
Cairncross Prize, Royal Economic Society / Scottish Economic Society annual conference	2023
Departmental bursary	2022 – 2023
ESRC Studentship for duration of MPhil/DPhil studies	2016 – 2021
Oxford-Richards scholarship for duration of MPhil/DPhil studies	2016 – 2021
George Webb Medley Prize for best performance in second year MPhil exams	2018
George Webb Medley Prize for best thesis (proxime accessit)	2018
Academic Prize for best performance in first year MPhil exams	2017
Wadham College Senior Scholarship for outstanding performance in first year of MPhil	2017-2018
Andrea Mannu Prize for best performance in the LSE Philosophy department	2016
Bootham School Academic Prize for receiving the best A-level results in year of 80	2013
Academic Scholarship to Bootham School	2006 – 2013

## Work in Progress

“Choice By Design: Evidence From Feeding America's Food Allocation Problem”

**Abstract:** Feeding America, an organisation responsible for feeding 130,000 Americans every day, distributes food among a nationwide network of food banks. Their allocation mechanism, known as the 'Choice System', uses auctions and a virtual currency to give food banks choice over the food they receive. This paper examines the consequences of enabling this choice. I apply a dynamic auction model to food bank bidding data, estimating the distribution of food banks' heterogeneous and time-varying needs. The central challenge is that I do not observe food banks' inventories --- a key determinant of bidding behaviour. I overcome this difficulty using variation in food banks' winnings (observed shifters of these unobserved states) to identify the model, which I then estimate using a Gibbs Sampler. I then compare welfare under the Choice System to Feeding America's previous allocation mechanism which gave food banks very limited choice. I estimate that the Choice System increased welfare by the equivalent of a 32.7% increase in the quantity of food allocated. Most of this gain arises because food is allocated in batches, rather than sequentially.

“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

2024: Berkeley; EARIE;

2023: ASSA; Institute Polytechnique de Paris / CREST; Queen Mary's University of London; University of Manchester; Toulouse School of Economics; Paris School of Economics; Carnegie Mellon: Tepper School of Business; University of Minnesota; University of Oslo; Monash Business School; Royal Economic Society / Scottish Economic Society annual conference (Glasgow); International Industrial Organisation Conference; Applied Industrial Organisation Summer School; University of Maryland; Science Po; EC<sup>2</sup>; Econometric Society Winter Meetings;

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)

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.

## Skills

- Computer: STATA, R, MATLAB
- Languages: English (Native), French (Advanced), Spanish (Beginner)

## 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.