

2021

## Matthew W. Thomas

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**Economics** 

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> 2211 Campus Drive mattwthomas.com Evanston, IL 60208 Citizenship: United States

**Fields** Research: Microeconomic Theory

Teaching: Applied Microeconomics, Industrial Organization, Microeconomic Theory

Education Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University (anticipated) 2023

> Committee: Asher Wolinsky (Chair), Wojciech Olszewski, Bruno Strulovici B.A., Mathematics and Economics, Williams College 2017

Fellowships &

Experience

Dissertation University Fellowship, Northwestern University 2022-2023 **Awards** GitHub Travel Grant 2020

Carl Van Duyne Prize 2017 2015 Sentinels Fellowship

Teaching Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University

2018-Present Intro to Microeconomics, Introduction to Applied Econometrics, Natural Resource

Economics, Economics of Education, Marketing Analytics (Kellogg)

Teaching Assistant, Williams College 2015-2016

Intro to Development Economics, Probability

Research Research Assistant, Ivan A. Canay, Northwestern University Experience

Conferences Conference on "Contests: Theory and Evidence"

American Economic Review, Economics Letters, Journal of Open Source Software, Review of Refereeing

Economic Design

Working papers "Asymmetric All-Pay Contests with Spillovers" with Maria Betto

> Abstract: When opposing parties compete for a prize, the sunk effort players exert during the conflict can affect the value of the winner's reward. These spillovers can have substantial influence on the equilibrium behavior of participants in applications such as lobbying, warfare, labor tournaments, marketing, and R&D races. To understand this influence, we study a general class of asymmetric, two-player all-pay contests where we allow for spillovers in each player's reward. The link between participants' efforts and rewards yields novel effects - in particular, players with higher costs and lower values than their opponent

sometimes extract larger payoffs.

"Covert Discrimination in All-pay Contests" with Maria Betto

Abstract: A contest designer may wish to disadvantage a stronger player to improve competitiveness. We show this can be done in all-pay auctions such that the game is fair (i.e. symmetric) ex-ante. Yet, the stronger player is endogenously offered a lower prize in expectation. Thus, discrimination is covert.

Languages English (native)

## References

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