

KEVIN ZOU

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EDUCATION

Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

Ph.D. in Economics

Expected May. 2022

Master of Arts in Economics

Dec. 2018

University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA

Master of Arts in Statistics

Jun. 2017

Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

Bachelor of Arts in Economics (Magna Cum Laude)

May. 2015

Statistics Minor

Dec. 2014

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Experimental Economics, Behavioral Economics, Econometrics, Game Theory

WORKING PAPERS

1. Group Size Effect in Sequential Multi-Battle Contests: An Experiment Study, with Yichuan Cai
2. A General Beta-Delta Discounting Model

WORK IN PROGRESS

1. New Hampshire or Super Tuesday, Does the Weight Matter?, with Yichuan Cai with Dr. Dongwoo Lee
2. A Machine Learning Approach on the Profit of Insider Trading, with Zhenyu Zhang

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH RELATED WORKING EXPERIENCE

Department of Economics, Virginia Tech

- **Instructor**

Principles of Microeconomics (Econ 2005)

Spring 2022, Spring 2020

- **Teaching Assistant**

Behavioral Economic Theory (Econ 6014)

Fall 2021

The Theory of Games and Economic Behavior (Econ 4424)

Fall 2021

Analysis of Economic Data (Econ 3254)

Spring 2021

Economic History of Diversity and Inclusion (Econ 1214)

Spring 2021

Experimental Economics (Econ 4434)

Fall 2020

Neuroeconomics (Econ/Neur/Psyc 4454)

Fall 2019

Economics of Regulation (Econ 3004)

Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018

Principles of Macroeconomics (Econ 2006)

Spring 2018, Fall 2017

Principles of Microeconomics (Econ 2005)

Spring 2018, Fall 2017

- **Research Assistant**

The Policy Destination Area (COVID-19 databases project)

Summer 2020

Focal Stimulation of the rTPJ Improves Rationality in Prosocial Decision-making

Summer 2019

Department of Statistics and Applied Probability, University of California, Santa Barbara

- **Head Teaching Assistant**

Regression Analysis (Pstat 126)

Fall 2016

Probability and Statistics III (Pstat 120C)

Summer 2016

- **Teaching Assistant**

Statistical Machine Learning (Pstat 131/231)

Spring 2017, Winter 2017

Statistics for Economics (Pstat 109)

Spring 2016

Intro to Statistics (Pstat 5A)

Winter 2016, Fall 2015

- **Statistical Consultant at StatLab**

Statistical Consulting for verity of research from the Department of Molecular, Cellular, Developmental Biology.

Winter 2017, Fall 2016, Spring 2016

Department of Economics, Kansas State University

- **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**

Intermediate Microeconomics (Econ 520)

Spring 2015

Sports Economics (ECON 524)

Fall 2014

Principles of Macroeconomics (Econ 120)

Spring 2014

Principles of Microeconomics (Econ 110)

Fall 2013

RESEARCH RELATED SKILLS

Computer Skills

R, Python, Stata, MATLAB, SAS, Minitab, SPSS, LaTeX, JavaScript, CSS, and HTML.

Statistics Skills

Econometrics, Data visualization, Experimental design, Sampling technique, Linear model, Generalized linear model, Nonlinear model, Multivariate analysis, Machine learning, Model validation, Non-parametric statistics, Bayesian inference, Time series analysis, Stochastic process, Artificial neural network, Generalized method of moments

Certifications

Specific Human Subjects Protection Training Certificate (VT)

Certificate of Teaching Effectiveness (VT)

Certificate of Social and Behavioral Research (CITI Program)

Languages

Mandarin Chinese (Native speaker)

English (Full professional proficiency)

HONORS, AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Behavioral Economics and Finance Research Cultivation Grant (SWUFE, China)

Spring 2022

Graduate Teaching Assistantship (VT)

2017 - 2021

Graduate Research Assistantship (VT)

Summer 2020, Summer 2019

Graduate Teaching Assistantship (UCSB)

2015 - 2017

Outstanding Graduating Senior of Department of Economics (K-State)

Spring 2015

LeVelle Wood Scholarship Fund (K-State)

2013-2015

Ross Alan Haymaker Family Economics Scholarship (K-State)

2014-2015

K-state Semester Honor (K-State)

2011-2015

Outstanding Junior Honors Award from the Honor Society of Agriculture (K-State)

Spring 2014

Anna Maude Smith Fund for Student in Home Economics (K-State)

Spring 2014

Margaret Haupt Swift Memorial Scholarship (K-State)

Fall 2013

JOB MARKET PAPER

"Group Size Effect in Sequential Multi-Battle Contests: An Experiment Study", with Yichuan Cai

This paper presents the result of a laboratory experiment that investigates the group size effect in the sequential multi-battle contest. We first generalized Konrad and Kovenock's (2009) result to multi-player ($n \geq 2$). Then we conducted an n-player ($n = 3$ or 6) multi-battle experiment to compare the all-pay auction and the Tullock lottery side by side. When the number of contestants is increased in a sequential multi-battle contest, we get the following result: First, in battle 1, the boundary distribution is distorted in the all-pay auction, but only the no entry rate is increased in the Tullock lottery. Second, when the players are not in the lead, the dropout rate is higher with more players in the game. Third, even though the total number of battles has not increased significantly due to the increased number of players, more players adopt the dormant-reenter strategy. Finally, when the number of contestants increases, so does the winner effort, the maximum battle effort, and the total contest effort. In general, the theory in the Tullock lottery provides a more accurate prediction than in the all-pay auction.

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Sheryl Ball

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