

James A Best

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Current Position

Nuffield Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellow in Economics, University of Oxford 2015-18

Education

University of Edinburgh, Ph.D in Economics 2009-15

Advisers: Ed Hopkins and József Sákovics

University of Chicago, Visiting Student 2012-13

University of Edinburgh, M.Sc. in Economics 2008-09

University of York, BA Hons. in Philosophy, Politics and Economics 2005-08

Research Fields

Primary Field: Microeconomic Theory, Economics of Information

Secondary Fields: Macroeconomic Theory, Finance.

Job Market Paper

"[Persuasion for the Long-Run](#)," with Daniel Quigley 2017. (R&R, Journal of Political Economy)

Abstract: We examine a persuasion game where concerns about future credibility are the sole source of current credibility. A long-run sender plays a cheap talk game with a sequence of short-run receivers. Even with perfect monitoring, long-run incentives do not perfectly substitute for ex-ante commitment to reporting strategies at the stage game. We then show that different methods of augmenting or garbling history can better harness long-run incentives and expand the Pareto frontier. In particular, a 'review aggregator' can implement average payoffs and information structures arbitrarily close to those available under ex-ante commitment. Finally, we examine applications to e-commerce and finance.

Working Papers

"[Capital Management and Inequality](#)," with Keshav Dogra, 2017.

"[Anti-Social Learning](#)" 2016. (R&R, Journal of Economic Theory)

"[Self-Fulfilling Price Cycles](#)," with John Hardman Moore, 2014.

"[Identifying the Determinants of Intergenerational Mobility](#)," 2014.

Work in Progress

"Social Learning and Norms of Cooperation," (experiment) with Peiran Jiao.

"History Design," with Daniel Quigley

"Fast and Slow Learning in Stochastic Games."

"Credibility and Persuasion in the Long Run," (experiment) with Peiran Jiao and Daniel Quigley.

"Contagious Persuasion," with Daniel Quigley.

"The Determinants of Intergenerational Mobility in the UK," with Carl Singleton and Rachel Stuchbury.

Teaching Experience

2017-2018	Lecturer, Financial Decision Theory, MSc Financial Economics, Saïd Business School
2015-2017	Class teacher, Graduate Microeconomics, University of Oxford
2014-2015	Principal Instructor, Applications of Econometrics, University of Edinburgh
2013-2014	Principal Instructor, Essentials of Econometrics, University of Edinburgh
2010-2011	Instructor, Economics of Strategic Behaviour, University of Edinburgh
2009-2011	TA, Graduate Microeconomics (John Moore), University of Edinburgh
2009-2011	TA, Undergraduate Microeconomics and Macroeconomics, University of Edinburgh

Invited Seminars

05/12/2017	Toulouse School of Economics: Theory Seminar
29/11/2017	University of Edinburgh: Economics Department Seminar
03/01/2017	University of York, Economics Department Seminar
07/09/2017	Transatlantic Theory Workshop: Ecole Polytechnique, ENSAE, HEC, Paris
21/04/2017	UC San Diego: Department Lunch Seminar
18/04/2017	UC Los Angeles: Proseminar in Economic Theory
17/04/2017	UC Irvine: Theory, History and Development Seminar
04/04/2017	Washington University in St Louis: Economic Theory Seminar
26/11/2014	University of Cologne, CMR Research Seminar.

Conference Presentations

2017	European Summer Symposium in Economic Theory, Gerzensee; EEA-ESEM, Lisbon; Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society, Hong Kong.
2016	GSE, Barcelona; The Intergenerational Transmission of Economic Status Workshop, Madrid.
2015	ECINEQ, Luxembourg; Royal Economic Society, Manchester
2014	The European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society, Madrid; EEA-ESEM, Toulouse.
2013	SIRE Workshop on Economic Theory, Glasgow.
2012	University of Chicago, Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality.
2011	International Conference on Game Theory, Stony Brook; IMEBE, Barcelona;

Honors, Awards, & Fellowships

2017	John Fell Fund, grant for experimental work on "Social Learning and Norms of Cooperation"
2014-2015	Career Development Fellowship.
2012-2014	Research and Teaching Scholarship, Edinburgh School of Economics.
2009-2013	PhD Scholarship, Economic Social Research Council.

Referee Service

Journal of Economic Theory; Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organisation; Review of Labour Economics and Industrial Relations.

References

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Professor William Zame
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