

MATTHEW BACKUS

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website

PRIMARY APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Professor, Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley, 2024–
- Associate Professor, Department of Economics, UC Berkeley, 2024–

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

- Editor, Journal of Law and Economics, 2025–
- Board of Editors, AEJ: Micro, 2025–
- Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2024–
- Research Affiliate, Centre for Economic and Policy Research, 2019–

PRIOR APPOINTMENTS

- Assistant Professor, Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley, 2022–2024
- Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, UC Berkeley, 2022–2024
- Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2016–2024
- Philip H. Geier Jr. Associate Professor, Economics, Columbia Business School, 2019–2022
- Assistant Professor, Economics, Columbia Business School, 2015–2019
- Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Cornell University, 2013–2015
- Postdoctoral Scholar, eBay Research Labs, 2012–2013

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Economics, University of Michigan, 2012
- M.A. Economics, University of Toronto, 2006
- B.A. Economics and Philosophy, American University, 2003

PUBLICATIONS

- **Communication, Learning, and Bargaining Breakdown: An Empirical Analysis**
with Thomas Blake, Jett Pettus, and Steven Tadelis
Management Science, Vol. 72 Issue 4, April 2026, pp. 3256–3275
EC'21, extended abstract
- **Real and Assumed Information**
with Ned Augenblick, Andrew T. Little, and Don A. Moore
American Economic Review P&P, Vol. 115 Issue 5, May 2025, pp. 643–647
- **Dynamic Demand Estimation in Auction Markets**
with Greg Lewis
Review of Economic Studies, Vol 92, Issue 2, March 2025, pp. 837–872
- **Expectation, Disappointment, and Exit: Evidence on Reference Point Formation from an Online Marketplace**
with Thomas Blake, Dimitriy Masterov, and Steven Tadelis
Journal of the European Economic Association, Vol. 20, Issue 1, February 2022, pp. 116–149
- **Common Ownership in America: 1980–2017**
with Chris Conlon and Michael Sinkinson
AEJ: Microeconomics, Vol. 13 Issue 3, August 2021, pp. 273–308
AEJ Best Paper Award

- **Why is Productivity Correlated with Competition?**
Econometrica, Vol. 88 Issue 6, November 2020, pp. 2415–2444
EARIE 2014 YEEA, 9th Paul Geroski Prize for Most Significant Policy Contribution
- **I Don't Know**
with Andrew Little
American Political Science Review, Vol. 114 Issue 3, August 2020, pp. 724–743
- **Sequential Bargaining in the Field: Evidence from Millions of Online Bargaining Interactions**
with Thomas Blake, Brad Larsen, and Steven Tadelis
Quarterly Journal of Economics, Vol. 135 Issue 3, August 2020, pp. 1319–1361
- **Theory and Measurement of Common Ownership**
with Chris Conlon and Michael Sinkinson
American Economic Review P&P, Vol. 110 Issue 5, May 2020, pp. 557–560
- **The Empirical Content of Cheap-Talk Signaling: An Application to Bargaining**
with Tom Blake and Steven Tadelis
Journal of Political Economy, Vol. 127 Issue 4, August 2019, pp. 1599–1628
- **Is Sniping a Problem in Online Auction Markets?**
with Tom Blake, Dimitriy Masterov, and Steven Tadelis
Proceedings of the 24th ACM International World Wide Web Conference, 2015
- **Search Costs and Equilibrium Price Dispersion in Auction Markets**
with Joseph Podwol and Henry Schneider
European Economic Review, Vol. 71, November 2014, pp. 173–192

WORKING PAPERS

- **Assumptions, Disagreement, and Overprecision: Theory and Evidence**
with Ned Augenblick, Andrew Little, and Don Moore
Econometrica, revise and resubmit
- **Common Ownership and Competition in the Ready-to-Eat Cereal Industry**
with Chris Conlon and Michael Sinkinson
Econometrica, revise and resubmit

OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND RESTING PAPERS

- **Bargaining in Online Markets**
(with Steve Tadelis)
in *Bargaining: Current Research and Future Directions*, Springer, April 2022, pp. 365–385
- **Empirical Analysis of Bargaining**
(with Steve Tadelis)
NBER Reporter, December 2020, Issue 4, pp. 20–23
- **On Testing Continuity and the Detection of Failures**
(with Sida Peng)
NBER Working Paper 26016, June 2019
- **The Common Ownership Hypothesis: Theory and Evidence**
(with Chris Conlon and Michael Sinkinson)
Brookings Working Paper, February 2019

RECENT AND UPCOMING TALKS

- 2026–2027: CEPR IO, 2026 Hal White Antitrust Conference, University of North Carolina, University of Pennsylvania
- 2025–2026: CEPR Paris Symposium, Compass Lexecon, Stanford-Berkeley IO Fest
- 2024–2025: ASSA Meetings, EARIE, FTC, IESE, NYU Stern

GRANTS

- “Bilateral Bargaining through the Lens of Big Data” (with Brad Larsen, Matt Taddy, and Steven Tadelis)
National Science Foundation Grant, SES – 1629060
Award Amount: \$403,036
Award Duration: September 2016–August 2021
- “Dynamic Auction Markets” (with Greg Lewis)
National Science Foundation Grant, SES – 1463810
Award Amount: \$131,156
Award Duration: September 2014–August 2018
- “Consumer Surplus and Distributional Concerns” (with Jett Pettus)
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Grant, G-2021-16988
Award Amount: \$357,127
Award Duration: January 2022–August 2026
- “The Measurement and Production of Quality in Long-Term Care Facilities in the US” (with Andrew Olenski and Ashley Swanson)
National Science Foundation Grant, SES – 2519966
Award Amount: \$557,504
Award Duration: September 2025–August 2028

CURRENT TEACHING

- Berkeley MBA 200: Data and Decisions
- Berkeley UGBA 117: Antitrust
- Berkeley EWMBA/MBA 217: Antitrust
- Berkeley ECON 220B: Industrial Organization

PAST TEACHING

- Berkeley MBA 201A: Economics for Business Decision Making
- Columbia GR6254: Industrial Organization II (PhD)
- Columbia B6200: Managerial Economics (MBA)
- Columbia B5200: Managerial Economics (EMBA)
- Columbia B8260: Market Design (MBA)
- Wharton MGEC611/612: Microeconomics for Managers (MBA)
- Cornell ECON 7510: Industrial Organization (PhD)
- Cornell ECON 4610: Industrial Organization (undergraduate)

ANTITRUST TESTIMONY

- *Lorient v. NCAA*: Report (September 15, 2026), In-Court Testimony (September 24, 2026)
- *In Re Google Digital Advertising Antitrust Litigation*: Report (September 23, 2026)
- *In Re Broiler Antitrust Litigation*: Report (August 14, 2026), Deposition (September 10, 2026)
- *Evans v. NCAA*: Report (August 27, 2026)
- *California v. Amazon*: Reports (February 13, 2026; April 29, 2026; July 8, 2026), Deposition (July 30, 2026)
- *Wisne v. NCAA*: Report (July 23, 2026)
- *Aguilar v. NCAA*: Report (February 11, 2026)
- *Patterson v. NCAA*: Report (November 24, 2025), Deposition (December 10, 2025), In-Court Testimony (December 15, 2025)
- *Agee v. NCAA*: Report (October 6, 2025), In-Court Testimony (October 13, 2025)
- *Moore v. NCAA*: Report (August 22, 2025), In-Court Testimony (September 24, 2025)
- *Fourquarean v. NCAA*: Reports (February 3, 2025; September 8, 2025; September 19, 2025), Deposition (September 11, 2025)
- *Bellamy v. NCAA*: Report (July 11, 2025)

- *Zeigler v. NCAA*: Report (June 1, 2025)
- *Brantmeier v. NCAA*: Reports (July 30, 2024; March 28, 2025), Deposition (April 24, 2025)
- *Elad v. NCAA*: Report (March 27, 2025)
- *Wade v. NCAA*: Report (January 8, 2025)
- *Pavia v. NCAA*: Report (November 22, 2024)

OTHER ANTITRUST

- The Tech Antitrust Conference: Moderator, “A New Generation of Tech Antitrust Decisions” (2026)
- ABA Panel: “FTC vs. Southern Glazer’s: Robinson Patman Rides Again” (2025)
- ABA Panel: “The Google Search Decision: What Comes Next?” (2024)
- USC Analysis Group Conference Panel: “AI, Privacy, Big Data, and Competition – How to Address the Overlaps” (2024)
- FTC v. Microsoft: Amicus brief in support of defendant (2023)
- ABA Panel: “Auto Repair in the Age of Telematics - Right to Repair, Antitrust, and Consumer Protection” (2023)
- ABA Panel: “Breaking News: Amazon and FTC” (2023)

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

- Senior Consultant, Compass Lexecon, 2025–
- Board of Directors, Feminist Press, 2019– (Treasurer, 2021–)
- Consulting Researcher, eBay 2013–

Last updated September, 2026.