
SAMSON JULIUS ALVA

October 2024

Associate Professor and Department Chair
Department of Economics, Alvarez College of Business
University of Texas at San Antonio
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POSITIONS

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

Department of Economics

Associate Professor

September 2020 – present

Assistant Professor

August 2013 – August 2020

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, BOSTON COLLEGE, 2013

M.A., Economics, BOSTON COLLEGE, 2008

B.S., Physics, Mathematics, *magna cum laude*, MERCER UNIVERSITY, 2006

B.A., Economics (minor in German), *magna cum laude*, MERCER UNIVERSITY, 2006

RESEARCH

INTERESTS

Matching, Market and Platform Design, Choice Theory, Belief Formation, (Machine) Learning Theory, Model Theory

PUBLICATIONS

- “Choice and Market Design,” (with Battal Doğan)
Online and Matching-Based Market Design, Eds. Federico Echenique, Nicole Immorlica, and Vijay Vazirani. Cambridge University Press, May 2023.
- “The impossibility of strategy-proof, Pareto-efficient, and individually rational rules for fractional matching markets,” (with Vikram Manjunath)
Games and Economic Behavior, 2020, 119, 15-29
- “Strategy-proof Pareto-improvement,” (with Vikram Manjunath)
Journal of Economic Theory, 2019, 181, 121-142
- “WARP and combinatorial choice”
Journal of Economic Theory, 2018, 173, 320-333

WORKING PAPERS

- “Deep Equilibria: Existence and Computation,” (with Eduardo Dueñez, José Iovino, Claire Walton)
(Revise and Resubmit at *Mathematical Structures in Computer Science*)
- “When is manipulation all about the ones and twos?”
(Revise and Resubmit at *Games and Economic Behavior*)
- “Efficiency in random allocation with ordinal rules”, (with Eun Jeong Heo and Vikram Manjunath)

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- “Stable-dominating rules,” (with Vikram Manjunath)
 - “Stability and matching with aggregate actors”
 - “The Impact of a DROP Program on the Age of Retirement and Employer Pension Costs,” (with Norma Coe and Anthony Webb)

IN PROGRESS

- “Pairwise stability and complementarity in matching”
- “Consistent rules for school choice”

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

AT UTSA

UTSA INTRA Seed Grant, AY 2022-23, \$5,000

Alvarez College of Business Dean’s Distinguished Research Award, Summers 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

Alvarez College of Business Teaching Honor Roll, Fall 2014

AT BOSTON COLLEGE

Donald J. White Teaching Fellow Excellence Award, 2010

Boston College Summer Research Award, 2007, 2008

Boston College Graduate Fellowship and Assistantship, 2006 – 2011

AT MERCER UNIVERSITY

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Award of Excellence, 2006

Wallace Odell DuVall Excellence in Leadership Award, 2006

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

Omicron Delta Epsilon International Economics Honor Society

Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society

Riley Plymale Award for Excellence in Mathematics, 2006

Outstanding Bachelor of Arts Graduate in Economics Award, 2006

Presidential Scholar, Mercer University, 2001 – 2006

Mercer University Student Government Association Senator of the Year, 2005 – 2006

SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DEPARTMENT:

Department Chair, AY 2022-23 – present

Graduate Advisor of Record, AY 2021-22 – AY 2022-23

Program Assessment Coordinator for B.A. in Economics, Fall 2019 – Spring 2023

Faculty Search Committee: Chair, AY 2020-21; Member, AY 2019-20

Graduate Admissions Committee for M.A. in Economics, AY 2014-2015, AY 2019-20 – present

Faculty Peer Mentor, Fall 2020 – Spring 2022

Academic Policy and Curriculum Committee, 2014 – 2016, 2020 – 2022

Department Faculty Advisory Committee (DFAC), 2013 – 2015, 2015 – 2017

Department Appraisal Review Committee, Springs 2015, 2018, Fall 2021

COLLEGE:

Promotion, Tenure, and Annual Review Guidelines Committee, AY 2022-2023

Technology Committee, AY 2021-2022

Research Award Redesign Team, Spring 2020

Pre-Ph.D. Economics Research Advisor, Spring 2020 – Spring 2023

Undergraduate Programs Committee, Fall 2019 – present

COB Downtown Expansion Committee, Fall 2019

COB China Immersion Program (Applicant Review), Fall 2016

Website Redesign Committee, Spring 2015

UNIVERSITY:

GREAT Grant Review Committee, AY 2022-2023

Piper Award Committee, Fall 2020

Faculty Senate (and Budget Committee), AY 2019-2020

SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2024: Midwest Economic Theory Conference (U Rochester)

2023: 4th Ottawa Theory Workshop (U Ottawa)

2022: 9th Texas Economic Theory Camp (Rice U)

2021: NC State (online), 2021 SAET Conference on Current Trends in Economics (Seoul, online)

2020: Osaka-Rochester Workshop on Alternatives-to-Market Design (*scheduled, cancelled due to COVID-19*), 20th SAET Conference on Current Trends in Economics (Seoul) (*scheduled, cancelled due to COVID-19*)

2019: Rice U, 19th SAET Conference on Current Trends in Economics (Ischia), 3rd Ottawa Theory Workshop (U Ottawa), 8th Texas Economic Theory Camp (U Texas at Austin), Southern Economic Assoc. Meetings (Ft. Lauderdale), 15th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development (ISI New Delhi)

2018: U Rochester, Eighth Annual Law and Economic Theory Conference (GMU) (Discussant), 14th Meeting of the Society of Social Choice and Welfare (Seoul National U)

2017: U Montreal, 13th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development (ISI New Delhi), 1st Ottawa Theory Workshop (U Ottawa), Midwest Theory Conference (SMU), MATCH-UP 2017 (Microsoft Research New England)

2016: 5th Texas Economic Theory Camp (Rice U), 13th Meeting of the Society of Social Choice and Welfare (Lund U), Econometric Society North American Summer Meeting (U Penn), Workshop on Matching (ITAM)

2015: U Laval, 4th Texas Economic Theory Camp (U Texas at Austin), 15th SAET Conference on Current Trends in Economics (Cambridge U), 9th Conference on Economic Design (Bilgi U)

2014: 3rd Texas Economic Theory Camp (SMU), Public Economic Theory Conference (U Wash), 12th Meeting of the Society of Social Choice and Welfare (Boston College)

2013: Texas A&M, U Texas at San Antonio, Amherst College, U Vienna

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

REVIEWER

American Economic Review, Econometrica, Journal of Economic Theory, Theoretical Economics, American Economic Journal: Microeconomics, Games and Economic Behavior, EC 2024, EC 2023, EC 2022, Journal of Public Economics, PNAS, Economic Theory, Information Systems Research, Social Choice and Welfare, Journal of Mathematical Economics, Economics Letters, Mathematical Social Sciences, International Journal of Game Theory, Review of Economic Design, Journal of Public Economic Theory, International Review of Law and Economics, Southern Economic Journal, Journal of Combinatorial Optimization, IEEE Transactions on Computational Social Systems, NSF (SBE/SES), Oxford University Press, MIT Press

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Organizer

Session on “Choice and Matching”, 2021 SAET Conference on Current Trends in Economic Theory (Seoul, online), Jun 2021

Boston College Theory Workshop, 2010 – 2011, 2012 – 2013

Session Chair

19th SAET Conference on Current Trends in Economic Theory (Ischia), Jul 2019

13th Meeting of the Society of Social Choice and Welfare (Lund U), Jun 2016

Econometric Society’s North American Summer Meeting (U Penn), Jun 2016

2nd Texas Economic Theory Camp (Texas A&M), Oct 2013

Other

Local Coordinator at UTSA for the annual Texas Economic Theory Camp, 2013 – 2022

MEMBERSHIPS

American Economic Association, The Econometric Society, Society for Social Choice and Welfare, Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory

TEACHING

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

Ph.D.: Quantitative Methods for Business and Economics

Masters: Game Theory and Business Strategy, Microeconomic Theory, Mathematical Methods for Economic Analysis

Undergraduate: Introductory and Intermediate Microeconomics, Environmental Economics

BOSTON COLLEGE

Ph.D.: Math for Economists, Math Review for incoming students

Undergraduate: Game Theory in Economics, Microeconomic Theory, Principles of Microeconomics

Other: Stata Tutorials @ Research Services