
SAMSON JULIUS ALVA

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Associate Professor
Department of Economics, Alvarez College of Business
University of Texas at San Antonio
One UTSA Circle, San Antonio, TX 78249

Cell: (478) 390-0964
Office: (210) 458-5312
Email: samson.alva@utsa.edu
URL: samsonalva.com

POSITIONS

Regular

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

Associate Professor, Department of Economics

September 2020 – present

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics

August 2013 – August 2020

Visiting

RICE UNIVERSITY

Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Economics

July 2025 – June 2026

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

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

- “Unambiguous efficiency of random allocations”, (with Eun Jeong Heo and Vikram Manjunath)
(Revise and Resubmit at *Theoretical Economics*)

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- “Approximability of Deep Equilibria,” (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?”
 - “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)

SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024: Midwest Economic Theory Conference (Rochester), 4th European Workshop on Market Design (Paris)
- 2023: 4th Ottawa Theory Workshop (U Ottawa)
- 2022: 9th Texas Economic Theory Camp (Rice U)
- 2021: NC State (online), 20th Annual SAET Conference (Seoul, online)
- 2020: Osaka-Rochester Workshop on Alternatives-to-Market Design (*scheduled, cancelled due to COVID-19*), 20th Annual SAET Conference (Seoul) (*scheduled, cancelled due to COVID-19*)
- 2019: Rice U, 19th Annual SAET Conference (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 Annual SAET Conference (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, Journal of Public Economics, EC 2025, EC 2024, EC 2023, EC 2022, PNAS, Information Systems Research, Economic Theory, Journal of Mathematical Economics, Social Choice and Welfare, 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, Oxford University Press, MIT Press

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Organizer

Co-organizer (with Rodrigo Velez), 2024 Texas Economic Theory Camp (UTSA), Oct 2024

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

Discussant

TAMU Law and Economics Conference (TAMU Law, Forth Worth), Oct 2024

Eighth Annual Law and Economic Theory Conference (GMU), Nov 2018

Other

Local Coordinator at UTSA for the annual Texas Economic Theory Camp, 2013 – 2023

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

TEACHING

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

Ph.D.: Quantitative Methods for Business and Economics
Masters: Game Theory and Business Strategy, Micro Theory, Math Methods for Economic Analysis
Undergraduate: Introductory and Intermediate Microeconomics, Environmental Economics
Honors Thesis: Cambrey Sullivan (Advisor), Megan Malisani (Reader)

RICE UNIVERSITY

Undergraduate: Mathematical Economics, Research in Economic Theory

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

SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DEPARTMENT:

Department Chair, AY 2022-25
Graduate Advisor of Record, AY 2021-23
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:

Common Body of Knowledge Review Committee (ad hoc), AY 2023-24
Annual Appraisal Rubric Review Committee (ad hoc), AY 2023-24
Promotion, Tenure, and Annual Review Guidelines Committee (ad hoc), AY 2022-2023
Technology Committee (ad hoc), 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