

# Matthew L. Kovach

## CONTACT

---

Department of Economics, Purdue University  
403 Mitch Daniels Blvd  
West Lafayette, IN 47907

Ph: +1 949-929-8435;  
Email: [matthewkovach1@gmail.com](mailto:matthewkovach1@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.matthewkovach.com](http://www.matthewkovach.com)

## EMPLOYMENT

---

Assistant Professor – Department of Economics, Purdue University	2023 –
Assistant Professor – Department of Economics, Virginia Tech	2017 – 2023
H.H.H Faculty Fellowship in Economics,	2022 – 2023
Affiliated Faculty, PPE Program,	2017 – 2023
Visiting Assistant Professor – Department of Economics, ITAM and CIE	2015 – 2017

## EDUCATION

---

<b>Ph.D.</b> , Social Science, California Institute of Technology	June, 2015
<b>M.S.</b> , Social Science, California Institute of Technology	June, 2012
<b>B.A.</b> , Business Economics (Mathematics minor), University of California, Santa Barbara <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	June, 2010

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

Microeconomic Theory, Decision Theory, Behavioral Economics, Experimental Economics, Game Theory, Political Economy

## PUBLICATIONS AND ACCEPTED PAPERS

---

1. Behavioral Foundations of Nested Stochastic Choice and Nested Logit. **Journal of Political Economy**, Vol. 130(9): 2411-2461, September 2022. (with G. Tserenjigmid) **Finalist, 2023 Exeter Prize**
2. The Focal Luce Model. **American Economic Journal: Microeconomics**, Vol. 14(3): 378-413, August 2022. (with G. Tserenjigmid)
3. A Model of Stochastic Choice from Lists. **Journal of Mathematical Economics**, Vol. 96: October 2021. (with Y. Ishii and L. Ülkü)
4. Twisting the Truth: Foundations of Wishful Thinking. **Theoretical Economics**, Vol. 15(3): 989 - 1022, July 2020.
5. Satisficing with a Variable Threshold. **Journal of Mathematical Economics**, Vol. 87: 67-76, March 2020. (with L. Ülkü)
6. Ambiguity and Partial Bayesian Updating – *accepted at Economic Theory*
7. Reference Dependence and Random Attention. **Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization**, Vol. 215: 421-441, November 2023. (with E. Suleymanov)

## WORKING PAPERS

---

1. Inertial Updating with General Information
2. Inertial Updating (with A. Dominiak and G. Tserenjigmid)
3. Conservative Updating (with C. Chan) – under review
4. Learning Source Bias: Multi-sourced Misspecifications and Consequences
5. Selling to Wishful Thinkers (with C. Chan) – preliminary draft available upon request
6. The Focal Quantal Response Equilibrium (with G. Tserenjigmid) – under review
7. Learning to be Homo Economicus: Can an LLM Learn Preferences from Choice Data? (with J. Kim, K. Lee, E. Shin, and H. Tzavellas)

## WORK IN PROGRESS

---

1. ChatGPT Plays the 10 Little Treasures of Game Theory (with S. Sarangi, H. Tzavellas, and M. Wagnon)
2. Sincerity and the Doctrinal Paradox (with A. Miller)
3. Impressionistic Luce Rules (with R. Sonal and C. Chan)

## PRESENTATIONS

---

**2023:** Korea Advance Institute of Technology (KAIST); Seoul National University; University of Michigan, Economics; University of Michigan, School of Information; Emory University; Purdue; BESC e-seminar (The University of Queensland); Risk, Uncertainty, and Decision (Kyoto University); Science of Decision Making Conference (HKU); +Midwest Economic Theory Conference (University of Tennessee, Knoxville); +D-TEA (Institute Henri Poincaré); +SAET (Paris)

**2022:** The Ohio State University; University of Kansas; Purdue; 25+ years of QRE Conference (Caltech); BRIC (CERGE-EI); 12th Conference on Economic Design (University of Padova); ISI Delhi; IIT Bombay; IIT Jodhpur; 17th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development (ISI Delhi); +Midwest Economic Theory Conference (Notre Dame).

**2021:** University of Toronto; UC Santa Cruz; UC Riverside; Royal Holloway, University of London; CUHK-HKU-HKUST Joint Theory Seminar; Western University; 20th SAET Conference (Seoul); D-TEA (PSE); International Conference on Social Choice and Voting Theory; +University of Michigan; +Risk, Uncertainty, and Decision (University of Minnesota)

**2020:** KAIST; Risk, Uncertainty, and Decision (Queen Mary University); Chapman University; +Workshop in Experiments, Revealed Preferences, and Decisions.

**2019:** University of Pennsylvania; ITAM; Barcelona GSE Summer Forum; 19th SAET Conference (Ischia); American Law and Economics Association Annual Meeting (NYU School of Law), +Midwest Economic Theory (WUSTL)

**2018:** Barcelona GSE Summer Forum; Midwest Economic Theory Conference (Vanderbilt University); +CIREQ Montreal Microeconomic Theory Conference; +Risk, Uncertainty, and Decision (Heidelberg University); +SEA Annual Meeting, DC; +NYU Shanghai; +Shanghai University of Finance and Economics; +Johns Hopkins University

**2017:** UC Santa Barbara; Cal Poly SLO; BRIC (Queen Mary University); D-TEA (HEC Paris); 17th SAET Conference (Faro); Midwest Economic Theory (Southern Methodist University); +Time, Uncertainties & Strategies IV;

**2016:** Chapman University; Midwest Economic Theory (University of Rochester); Econometric Society Summer Meeting, North America (University of Pennsylvania); Risk, Uncertainty, and Decision (Université Paris-Dauphine)

**2015:** Risk, Uncertainty, and Decision (Bocconi); University of Haifa; XVII Southwest Economic Theory Conference (University of Arizona)

**2014:** Midwest Economic Theory (University of Kansas)

+: presentation by coauthor

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

---

Co-Organizer, Workshop in Experiments, Revealed Preferences, and Decisions (WiERD) – 2020

Co-Organizer, Virginia Tech Workshop on Advances in Decision Theory – 2018

## REFeree SERVICE

---

American Economic Review, Econometrica, Review of Economic Studies, Theoretical Economics, Journal of Economic Theory, American Economic Journal: Microeconomics, Economic Journal, Journal of the European Economic Association, Management Science, International Economic Review, Experimental Economics, Journal of Risk and Uncertainty, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Economic Theory, Journal of Mathematical Economics, Mathematical Social Sciences, Social Choice and Welfare, Theory and Decision, Economic Modelling, Group Decision and Negotiation, Journal of Mathematical Psychology, Computational Brain and Behavior, Information Systems Research

## UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENT SERVICE

---

### **Purdue:**

**Virginia Tech:** Office of Undergraduate Research Advisory Board – College of Science representative; Seminar Coordinator, Department of Economics, Virginia Tech, Fall 2020 – Spring 2023; Developed new minor – *Behavioral Decision Science*; Behavioral Decision Science Hiring Committee 2018/2019 and 2019/2020, Collegiate Faculty Hiring Committee 2018 (Psychology); Department Of Economics: Undergraduate Committee, Enrollment Committee, Graduate Committee (Admissions), Qualifying Exam Committee; Hiring Committee 2022/2023.

## TEACHING

---

**Purdue:** Microeconomics III (PhD) and Information Economics (PhD)

**Virginia Tech:** Mathematical Methods for Economics (PhD), Principles of Economics (Micro), Choice and Behavior, Microeconomic Theory, Foundations of Behavioral Decision Science I & II

**ITAM:** Intermediate Microeconomics IV: Production, General Equilibrium, and Game Theory

## AWARDS & GRANTS

---

PPE Research Fellow	2021
Favorite Faculty Award	2019
Department of Economics Outstanding Faculty in Principles Courses	2018-2019
Request for Concepts Grant (\$15000), Virginia Tech	2018
Request for Concepts Grant (\$10000), Virginia Tech	2017
Junior Faculty Mentoring Grant (\$1500), Virginia Tech	2017
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (\$3,500)	2014

## REFERENCES

---

Pietro Ortoleva

Professor of Economics and Public  
Affairs

Princeton University

*email:* [pietro.ortoleva@princeton.edu](mailto:pietro.ortoleva@princeton.edu)

Leeat Yariv

Uwe E. Reinhardt Professor of Eco-  
nomics

Princeton University

*email:* [lyariv@princeton.edu](mailto:lyariv@princeton.edu)

Federico Echenique

Professor of Economics  
UC Berkeley

*email:* [fede@econ.berkeley.edu](mailto:fede@econ.berkeley.edu)