

JEREMY PETRANKA

- CURRICULUM VITAE -

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FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Game Theory, Conflict Theory, Political Economics, Industrial Organization

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics December 2009
Thesis Title: "*Essays on the Theory of Conflict*"
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
Advisor: Gary Biglaiser

B.S. Mechanical Engineering May 1999
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, Blacksburg, VA
Summa Cum Laude, Economics minor

RESEARCH PAPERS

A Conflict Theory of Voting

Variants of Downs's spatial model of voting have proven problematic in explaining trends in American presidential politics over the past five decades. Empirical studies have revealed increased voter independence, candidate ambiguity, and party partisanship, which are generally left unexplained using proximity models. In addition, voters have been found to be poorly informed, highly responsive to candidate personality, and to tend to follow a "fast and frugal" heuristic. I propose a new model reflecting these voter characteristics which argues the primary system, campaign finance reform, and changing media climate have altered candidates' optimal strategies, leading to the current political environment.

A Threshold Interpretation of the Ratio-Form Contest Success Function

Ratio-form contest success functions have been widely used due to their appealing axiomatic properties. Existing microfoundational models offer additional justifications for their use in specific economic applications. I propose a new structure under which a ratio-form contest success function can be derived as a limit result using an underlying contest with multiple rounds and threshold success levels. This model generalizes the stochastic equivalence of ratio-form contest success functions and patent race games, allowing greater flexibility in the underlying structural interpretation. I additionally formulate a spatial interpretation of the model and apply the general structure to existing models of conflict.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Principles of Economics, Elon University	Fall 2009
Instructor, Intermediate Microeconomic Theory, UNC-CH	Spring 2009
Instructor, Introduction to Economics, UNC-CH	Summer 2008, Summer 2007
TA, Basic Quantitative Techniques (Graduate), UNC-CH	Fall 2008
TA, Advanced Microeconomic Theory 1 (Graduate), UNC-CH	Fall 2007, Fall 2006, Fall 2005
TA, Advanced Microeconomic Theory 2 (Graduate), UNC-CH	Spring 2007, Spring 2006
Grader, Managerial Economics (MBA), Duke University	Fall 2007, Spring 2007
Participant, Teacher Training Program, UNC-CH	Spring 2006, Fall 2005

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TEACHING PAPERS

The Science of Choice – A Calculus-Based Intermediate Microeconomics Textbook, In Progress

An introduction to microeconomics designed to emphasize how a few key mathematical concepts repeatedly underlie economic themes. Mathematical techniques are integrated into the exposition, emphasizing their role in modern economics. Neither the "economics" nor the "math" is viewed as paramount, but instead the two are shown to fundamentally contribute to each other.

A Technical Primer on First Price Auctions

Supplements the single-object symmetric independent private values first price auction material presented in the standard graduate level first year Economics sequence.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Eric Renault, UNC-CH	Fall 2004
Research Assistant to Eric Ghysels, UNC-CH	Spring 2005
Research Assistant to Sandy Darity, UNC-CH	Fall 2004-Spring 2005

CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

IBM (as Independent Contractor)	Spring 2003-Fall 2004
USi (now part of AT&T)	Spring 2002-Spring 2003
PricewaterhouseCoopers Consulting	Fall 1999-Spring 2002

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Future Faculty Fellowship, UNC-CH	Summer 2009
<i>University-wide fellowship and instructional seminar awarded to graduate students with a demonstrated teaching ability and a strong commitment to faculty careers in higher education</i>	
Lurcy Fellowship, UNC-CH	Spring 2008
<i>Awarded to the most promising Econ Graduate student</i>	
Tuition Scholarship, UNC-CH	Fall 2004-Spring 2009

REFEREEING SERVICE

Journal of Economics and Management Strategy, Journal of Public Economic Theory

REFERENCES

Gary Biglaiser (advisor) Professor of Economics University of North Carolina 107 Gardner Hall, CB #3305 Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3305 gbiglais@email.unc.edu (919) 619-5650	Helen Tauchen Professor of Economics University of North Carolina 107 Gardner Hall, CB #3305 Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3305 helen.tauchen@unc.edu (919) 966-2383	Peter Norman Associate Professor of Economics University of North Carolina 107 Gardner Hall, CB #3305 Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3305 normanp@email.unc.edu (919) 966-3250
Matthew Baker Associate Professor of Economics Hunter College 695 Park Avenue New York, NY 10069 matthew.baker@hunter.cuny.edu (212) 772-4217	Ralph Byrns Adjunct Professor of Economics University of North Carolina 107 Gardner Hall, CB #3305 Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3305 rbyrns@unc.edu (919) 843-6268	