

Matt Van Essen

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Updated: October 2025

Education

Ph.D., Economics	University of Arizona,	2010
M.A., Economics	University of Arizona,	2007
B.A., Economics (Minor- Mathematics)	University of Colorado,	2005
	Colorado Springs	

Academic Appointments

The University of Tennessee

Lena M. and Clarence A. Garvin, Sr. Professor
August 2023 – Present

Full Professor of Economics
(with Tenure):
August 2024 - Present

Associate Professor of Economics
(with Tenure):
August 2021 – July 2024

Associate Professor of Economics
August 2020 – July 2021

The University of Alabama

Associate Professor of Economics
(with Tenure):
August 2016 – August 2020

Reese Phifer Faculty Fellow in Economics:
August 2019 – August 2020

Assistant Professor of Economics:
August 2010 - July 2016

University of Technology, Sydney

Honorary Appointment:
May 2019- August 2019,
May 2017- August 2017

New York University, Abu Dhabi

Visiting Associate Professor of Economics:
September 2017 - December 2017

Editorial Boards

Co-Editor,
Economic Inquiry

Oct 2025 - Present

Associate Editor,
Journal of Public Economic Theory

May 2024 - Present

Research Interests

Game Theory, Mechanism Design, Fair Division, Microeconomic Theory

Published Papers

“Just Lindahl Taxation – A Welfarist Solution,” with Ivan Anich, forthcoming at *Journal of Public Economic Theory*, (2025)

“Mimic Martingales in Sequential Auctions,” with John Wooders, forthcoming at *Economic Theory*, (2024)

“Dual Auctions for Assigning Winners and Compensating Losers,” with John Wooders, *Economic Theory*, 76, 1069–1114, (2023).

“Breaking-Up Should Not be Hard to Do: Designing Contracts to Avoid Wars of Attrition,” with Alex Brown, *European Economic Review*, (2022)

“Allocating Positions Fairly: Auctions and Shapley Value,” with John Wooders, *Journal of Economic Theory*, 196, (2021).

“Political Business Cycles in a Dynamic Bipartisan Voting Model,” with Paan Jindapon, *Mathematical Social Science*, 102, (2019), 15-23.

“Dissolving a Partnership Securely,” with John Wooders, *Economic Theory*, (2019), 1-20.

“King of the Hill: Giving Backward Induction its Best Shot,” with Martin Dufwenberg, *Games and Economic Behavior*, 112, (2018), 125-138.

“Are we there yet? Mechanism Design beyond Equilibrium,” with Mark Walker, appears in “Social Design: Essays in Memory of Leonid Hurwicz” Edited by W. Trockel. (2018)

“A Simple Market-Like Resource Allocation Mechanism for Public Goods,” with Mark Walker, *Games and Economic Behavior* (2017)

“Dissolving a Partnership Dynamically,” with John Wooders, *Journal of Economic Theory*, 166, (2016), 212-241.

“Blind Stealing, Experience and Expertise in a Mixed Strategy Poker Experiment,” with John Wooders, *Games and Economic Behavior*, (2015), 186-206.

“Bartering Games in the Kölm Triangle,” *Journal of Public Economic Theory*, 17, (2015), 297-310.

“A Nearly Optimal Auction for and Uninformed Seller,” with Natalia Lazzati, *Economics Letters*, (2014), 396-399.

“A Clarke Tax Tatonnement that Converges to the Lindahl Allocation,” *Social Choice and Welfare*, 43, (2014), 309-327.

“Regulating the Anti-Commons: Insights from Public Expenditure Theory” *Southern Economic Journal*, 80, (2013), 523-539.

“Making Efficient Public Good Decisions using an Augmented Ausubel Auction,” *Economic Theory Bulletin*, 1, (2013), 523-539.

“A Simple Supermodular Mechanism that Implements Lindahl Allocations,” *Journal of Public Economic Theory*, 15, (2013), 57-68.

“An Equilibrium Analysis of Knaster’s Fair Division Procedure,” *Games*, 4, (2013), 21-36.

“Tacit Collusion in Price Setting Oligopoly: A Puzzle Redux,” with William B. Hankins, *Southern Economic Journal*, 79, (2013), 703-726.

“Hold-up: With a Vengeance,” with Martin Dufwenberg and Alec Smith, *Economic Inquiry*, 51, (2013), 896-908.

“Informational Complexity, Punishment, and Stability in Two Nash Efficient Lindahl Mechanisms,” *Review of Economic Design*, 16, (2012), 15-40.

“Out-of-Equilibrium Performance of Three Lindahl Mechanisms: Experimental Evidence,” with Mark Walker and Natalia Lazzati, *Games and Economic Behavior*, 74, (2012), 366-381.

“A Note on the Stability of Chen’s Lindahl Mechanism,” *Social Choice and Welfare*, 38, (2012), 365-370.

Working Papers

Fair Division in 1000 CE: Lessons from Welsh Gavelkind (with Thomas Verville)

Peer Evaluation: Exploiting Meritocratic Norms to Overcome Social Dilemmas
(with Alex Brown and John Wooders)

Kuhn’s Divide-and-Choose Scheme and the Shapley Value (with John Wooders)

Wisdom of the Bidding Crowd (with John Wooders)

Symmetric Divide and Choose (with John Wooders)

Equity Equilibrium for Cooperative Games

“Duels Between Duals,” An Experimental Comparison of Compensation Auctions (with Aleksei Chernulich and John Wooders)

Non-Refereed Publications

“Why auctions are a better way to resolve business splits,” with John Wooders, *The Conversation*, October 2016.

Grants and Awards

Grants and Awards Received

Dr. Joe Johnson Faculty Fellow: 2024, 2025

Grant Writing Workshop Grant: University of Alabama: 2016

Summer Excellence in Research Grant: University of Alabama: 2015, 2019

Summer I Research Grant: University of Alabama: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant #0850788: 2010

Ed Zajac Prize for Best Doctoral Student Research Paper in Economics: University of Arizona

University of Arizona Dean’s Teaching Award: 2008, 2009

Outstanding Economics Graduate (2005) : University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Some Recent Presentations

“Equity Equilibrium for Cooperative Games,” Lancaster University, October 2024.
“Equity Equilibrium for Cooperative Games,” Durham University, October 2024.
“Equity Equilibrium for Cooperative Games,” New York University Abu Dhabi, September 2024.
“Fair and Efficient Allocation of Commonly Owned Goods,” with John Wooders (Semi-Plenary), Public Economic Theory Conference 2024, Lyon, France
“Kuhn’s Divide-and-Choose Scheme and the Shapley Value,” Tulane, November 2023
“Mimic Martingales in Sequential Auctions” Midwestern ET Conference, Knoxville, April 2023
“Mimic Martingales in Sequential Auctions” SAET Meetings, Canberra, July 2022
“Peer Evaluation” UTK Brownbag, March 2021
“Allocating Positions Fairly: An Auction and its Relationship to the Shapley Value,” Seminar Series, University of Tennessee, January 2020
“Peer Evaluation” PET Meeting Strasburg, July 2019
“Allocating Positions Fairly: An Auction and its Relationship to the Shapley Value,” UTS Market Design Conference Sydney, May 2018
“Allocating Positions Fairly: An Auction and its Relationship to the Shapley Value,” Walker Conference, Tucson, May 2018
“Allocating Positions Fairly: An Auction and its Relationship to the Shapley Value,” APET Frontiers of Public Economics, Abu Dhabi, December 2017
“Mimic Martingales in Sequential Auctions,” Seminar Series, New York University Abu Dhabi, October 2017.
“Mimic Martingales in Sequential Auctions,” Seminar Series, University of Technology Sydney, August 2017.
“A Simple Market-Like Mechanism for Public Goods,” Seminar Series, University of Technology Sydney, August 2016.
“Dissolving a Partnership Dynamically,” Seminar Series, Texas A&M University, January 2016
“Breaking-Up Should not be Hard to Do: Designing Contracts to Avoid Wars of Attrition.” 2015 SEA Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
“Dissolving a Partnerships Dynamically,” Seminar Series, University of Texas, Dallas, November 2015
“King of the Hill,” World ESA Meetings, July 2015, Sydney AU
“Dissolving a Partnerships Dynamically,” Seminar Series, Vanderbilt, October 2014
“Blind Stealing, Experience and Expertise in a Mixed Strategy Poker Experiment, Seminar Series, University of Virginia, January 2014.
“Bartering Games in the Kolm Triangle,” Seminar Series, University of Mississippi, February 2013.

Professional Service and Activities

Referee for:

Economic Journal; Games and Economic Behavior; Economic Theory; Theory and Decision; Experimental Economics; European Economic Review; Journal of Economics, Behavior, and Organization; Journal of Public Economic Theory; Social Choice and Welfare; Economic Inquiry; Management Science; Theoretical Economics; Southern Economic Journal; Economic Journal; EC17 Conference Proceedings; University of Missouri Research Board; Resource and Energy Economics; Regional Science and Urban Economics; International Economics Review; Oxford Economics Papers

Conference Organization:

Program Committee for the 2026 Asia Meeting (CSW) of the Econometric Society, NYU Abu Dhabi

Midwestern Theory Conference, Knoxville 2023

Thesis Committee:

Bernadette Butcher – Master's Thesis (Mathematics) 2014
Boyi Zhuang – PhD Thesis (Economics) 2016
Michael Solomon – PhD Thesis (Economics) 2019
Fan Wu – PhD Thesis (Economics) 2020
Ivan Anich – PhD Thesis (Economics) 2023

Other Activities:

Lindau Nobel Conference in Economic Sciences, NSF Fellow, 2008
IFREE Graduate Workshop in Experimental Economics, George Mason University, 2007

Teaching Experience

University of Tennessee, Knoxville:

Classic Games of Strategy (Undergraduate First Year Seminar)
Games and Decisions (Undergraduate)
Microeconomic Theory II (PhD)
Intermediate Microeconomics (Undergraduate)
Mathematics for Economists (Undergraduate/ Graduate)

Advanced Microeconomic Theory (Graduate)

New York University, Abu Dhabi:

Introduction to Game Theory (Undergraduate)
Intermediate Microeconomics (Undergraduate)

University of Alabama

Introduction to Game Theory (Undergraduate)
Intermediate Microeconomics (Undergraduate)
Games and Decisions (Undergraduate/ Masters)
Social Choice (Undergraduate/Masters)
Economics of Fairness (Undergraduate/Masters)
Advanced Microeconomic Theory (Masters)
Advanced Microeconomic Theory (PhD: Economics/Finance)
General Equilibrium (PhD: Economics/ Finance)
Game Theory (PhD: Economics)
Public Expenditure Theory and Policy Analysis (PhD: Economics)

University of Arizona

Introduction to Economics (Undergraduate)
Intermediate Microeconomics for Business Majors (Undergraduate)
Information Economics (Undergraduate)
Public Economics (Undergraduate)
Mathematics for Economists (PhD: Economics, Finance, Accounting)

Teaching Interests

Microeconomic Theory
Game Theory/ Mechanism Design
Economics of Fairness/ Social Choice
Public Economics
Mathematics for Economists