

# Matt Van Essen

Department of Economics,  
University of Tennessee

(865) 974-1687  
mvanesse@utk.edu  
www.mattvanessen.com

520 Stokely Management  
Center  
916 Volunteer Blvd.  
Knoxville, TN, 37996

US Citizen  
Updated: January 2022

## Education

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

## Academic Appointments

The University of Tennessee

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

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

## Research Interests

Game Theory, Mechanism Design, Public Economics, and Experimental Economics

## Published Papers

Breaking-Up Should Not be Hard to Do: Designing Contracts to Avoid Wars of Attrition (with Alex Brown), accepted at *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), 186-2016.

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

“A Nearly Optimal Auction for an 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**

Just Lindahl Taxation – A Welfarist Solution (with Ivan Anich)

Dual Auctions for Assigning Winners and Compensating Losers (with John Wooders)

Mimic Martingales in Sequential Auctions (with John Wooders)

Peer Evaluation: Exploiting Truthtelling as a Social Norm (with John Wooders)

Wisdom of the Crowd: Profit and Prediction using a Bookmaker Auction

## **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*

2018 REF Grant, New York University Abu Dhabi, “Designing Mechanisms for the Efficient Allocation of Common Property,” with John Wooders: \$65,000  
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

“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, 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

### *Thesis Committee:*

Bernadette Butcher – Master’s Thesis (Mathematics) 2014  
Boyi Zhuang – PhD Thesis (Economics) 2016  
Michael Solemon – PhD Thesis (Economics) 2019  
Fan Wu– PhD Thesis (Economics) 2020

### *University of Alabama Committee Service*

University of Alabama PhD Comprehensive Exam Committee  
(Writer/Grader Microeconomics Exam): 2014 - 2020  
University of Alabama Master’s Program Coordinator (Economics): 2016- 2020

### *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)  
Microeconomic Theory II (PhD)  
Intermediate Microeconomics (Undergraduate)

### *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

## References

Prof. John Wooders,  
Social Sciences Division,  
New York University, Abu Dhabi

[jwooders@gmail.com](mailto:jwooders@gmail.com)

Prof. Mark Walker,  
Department of Economics  
University of Arizona

[mwalker@arizona.edu](mailto:mwalker@arizona.edu)

Prof. Martin Dufwenberg,  
Department of Economics,  
University of Arizona

[martind@eller.arizona.edu](mailto:martind@eller.arizona.edu)

Prof. Walt Enders, Emeritus  
Department of Economics, Finance, and Legal  
Studies  
University of Alabama

[wenders@cba.ua.edu](mailto:wenders@cba.ua.edu)

Prof. Daniel Henderson  
Department of Economics, Finance, and Legal  
Studies  
University of Alabama

[djhender@cba.ua.edu](mailto:djhender@cba.ua.edu)