

JOSHUA TASOFF

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EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor (with tenure), Claremont Graduate University, July 2016 – Present
Assistant Professor, Claremont Graduate University, July 2010 – July 2016
Visiting Professor, University of Southern California, Fall 2013

EDUCATION

Ph.D. *University of California, Berkeley*, Economics, June 2010
Dissertation: “Essays in psychological and political economics”
Advisors: Botond Köszegi and Matthew Rabin
B.S. *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*, Economics, June 2003

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Behavioral Economics, Experimental Economics, Economics of Microbial Communities, Food Choice

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

- “Fantasy and Dread: The Demand for Information and the Consumption Utility of the Future”, Forthcoming at *Management Science*.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1287/mnsc.2016.2550>
with Ananda Ganguly
- “When Higher Productivity Hurts: The Interaction Between Overconfidence and Capital” *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics*, Vol. 67, April 2017, pp 131-142
with Andrew Royal
- “Exponential-Growth Bias and Overconfidence”, *Journal of Economic Psychology*, (Lead Article) Vol. 58, Feb (2017), pp 1-14
with Matthew Levy
- “Misunderestimation: Exponential-Growth Bias and Time-Varying Returns”
Economics Bulletin, Vol. 36 (1) pp. 29-34

with Matthew Levy

“Exponential-Growth Bias and Lifecycle Consumption”, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, (Lead Article), Vol 14(3), (2016) with Matthew Levy

“An Economic Framework of Microbial Trade”, *PLOS ONE*, July 29, 2015, 0(7): e0132907. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0132907
with Harris Wang and Michael Mee

“Everyone Believes in Redemption: Overoptimism and Nudges”, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, Volume 107A, (2014): 107–122
with Robert Letzler

“Placation and Provocation”, *Rationality and Society*, 26(1), (2014): 73-104.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“The Role of Exponential-Growth Bias and Present Bias in Retirement Savings” with Gopi Shah Goda, Matthew Levy, Colleen Manchester, and Aaron Sojourner, *Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research: Policy Brief*, May 2015.

WORKING PAPERS

“Exponential-Growth Bias in Experimental Consumption Decisions” with Matthew Levy *R&R at Economica*

“The Role of Time Preferences and Exponential-Growth Bias in Retirement Savings” with Gopi Shah Goda, Matthew Levy, Colleen Manchester, and Aaron Sojourner

“A Model of Attention and Anticipation” with Kristóf Madarász

IN PROGRESS

“Exponential-Growth Bias and Uncertainty” with Matthew Levy

“Preferences for Suspense and Surprise in a Massive Online Computer Game” with Ashvin Ghandi, Paola Giuliano, Eric Guan, Quinn Keefer and Michaela Pagel

“Information-Consumption Complements and Substitutes” with Monica Capra and Garrett Thoelen

“Price Discrimination with Tells” with John Clithero and Jae Joon Lee

“Motivated Reasoning for Meat” with Emiliano Huet-Vaughn and Eva Vivalt

“The Validity of Time Preferences and Risk Preferences” with Wenjie Zhang

“Overcoming Present Bias and Exponential-Growth Bias: Evidence From a

Retirement Savings Field Experiment” with Gopi Shah Goda, Matthew Levy,
Colleen Manchester
“Microbial Capital” with Harris Wang

MEDIA COVERAGE

- [“Study Finds Two Biases That Hurt Americans' Savings”](#) – *WBUR 90.9* (July 18, 2016)
- [“The Two Biases That Keep People From Saving Money”](#) – *The Atlantic* (July 17, 2016)
- [“These 2 Behavioral Biases Could Mean Up to 70% Less in Retirement”](#) – *Think Advisor* (April 7, 2016)
- [“Our Blind Spots Cut Retirement Savings”](#) – *Squared Away Blog* (April 7, 2016)
- [“This Week in Microbiology #123: A Microbial MAGE”](#) – *Microbe World* (March 11, 2016) Podcast, discusses our research at 1hr 3min
- [“Economics of Ail: How Bacteria Flourish”](#) – *Wall Street Journal, The Numbers Column* (December 12, 2015)
- “Economic Modelers Liken Microbial Communities to Countries Trading Goods” – *Microbe (Current Topics Column)* (Volume 10, Number 12, 2015)
- [“How does your 401\(k\) contribution translate into retirement income?”](#) – *MarketWatch* (September 18, 2015)
- [“2 Mental Roadblocks That Keep Us From Saving”](#) – *Next Avenue, PBS* (September 8, 2015)
– *Forbes* (September 9, 2015), reprinted
- [“The Real Reasons Americans Aren’t Saving Enough for Retirement”](#) – *Money* (August 20, 2015)
- [“The economics of microbial trade”](#) – *Marginal Revolution (Blog)* (August 3, 2015)
- [“Your gut is a complex marketplace where microbes trade, study shows”](#) – *Techie News* (August 3, 2015)
- [“Can economics help explain microbial life?”](#) – *Red Orbit* (August 2, 2015)

[“There may be a complex market living in your gut”](#) – *Science Daily* (August 1, 2015)

[“The \\$24 Billion Workers Are Leaving on the Table: Why are employees passing up so much free 401\(k\) money”](#) – *PBS Next Avenue* (May 11, 2015)

[“When Health Ignorance is Bliss”](#) – *The Atlantic* (October 21, 2014)

[“Why We Think Ignorance Is Bliss, Even When It Hurts Our Health”](#) – *NPR Morning Edition* (July 28, 2014)

[“The Power of Pension Fees”](#) – *BBC Radio 4* (January 3, 2014)

[“The Trick to Keeping New Year’s Resolutions”](#) – *Bloomberg* (December 31, 2013) by Cass Sunstein!

[“How Huge Returns Mess With Your Mind”](#) – *The Wall Street Journal* (January 4, 2013)

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, GRANTS

Total: \$375,728 External: \$342,778

2017 Animal Charity Evaluators Research Grant (with Emiliano Huet-Vaughn and Eva Vivalt, \$21,000)

2016 TIAA-CREF Institute/Pension Research Council (with Gopi Shah Goda Matthew Levy, Colleen Manchester, and Aaron Sojourner, \$72,848)

2015 Fletcher Jones Fellowship (with Monica Capra \$7,250)
National Institute on Aging and the Social Security Administration under grant mechanism 3R01AG020717-11S1 (with Gopi Shah Goda Matthew Levy, Colleen Manchester, and Aaron Sojourner, \$40,000)
Social Security Administration through the NBER Retirement Research Center (with Gopi Shah Goda Matthew Levy, Colleen Manchester, and Aaron Sojourner, \$76,930)

2014 TIAA-CREF Institute/Pension Research Council (with Gopi Shah Goda Matthew Levy, Colleen Manchester, and Aaron Sojourner, \$125,000)

2013 Fletcher Jones Fellowship (\$3,000)
Rosen Junior Faculty Awards (\$1,250)

2012 Blais Challenge Award (with Ananda Ganguly, \$15,450)

2011 Time-sharing for the Social Sciences (TESS) Accepted Proposal, (NSF Grant 0818839)

Fletcher Jones Fellowship (with Matthew Levy, \$6,000)

2010 Russel Sage Foundation, Small Grant in Behavioral Economics (with Robert Letzler, \$7,000)

2008 Graduate Division Travel Grant

2006 Dean’s Normative Time Fellowship

- 2005 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention
 - 2003 Sigma Xi (Science Honor Society)
 - 2002 MIT Class of 1938 Scholar
 - 2000 MIT Samuel Lunden Leadership Award
 - 1999 Sherman Oaks C.E.S. Valedictorian (1st in the graduating high school class)
 - 1997 National Merit Scholar
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INVITED SEMINARS AND INVITED/SELECTIVE CONFERENCES

- 2017 Beliefs-Based Utility Conference – Carnegie Mellon University
(*Scheduled*)
- 2016 Effective Animal Altruism Conference – Princeton University
(*Participant*)
Behavioural Decision Research in Management Conference – Rotman School of Management
Southern California Conference in Applied Microeconomics – Claremont McKenna College
Experimental Methods in Policy – Ixtapa, Mexico
American Economics Association Annual Meeting (ASSA) – “New Evidence on Lifecycle Models of Retirement Saving” (*Session Organizer*) – San Francisco
- 2015 RAND Behavioral Finance Forum – Washington D.C.
UCSD – Rady School of Management
Caltech – Camerer Lab
Russel Sage Foundation Early-Career Behavioral Economics Conference – University of Chicago
USC (Center for Economic and Social Research Seminar)
RAND (Labor and Population Seminar)
Claremont Behavioral and Experimental Economics Workshop – CGU (*co-organizer*)
- 2014 Understanding Microbial Communities Workshop: Function, Structure and Dynamics – Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences – Cambridge, UK
University of California, Los Angeles (Behavior, Evolution, and Culture Seminar)
- 2013 Caltech (Camerer Lab Talk)
Claremont Graduate University (Cognitive Psychology Brown Bag)
University of Southern California (Economic Theory Seminar)
University of Southern California (Wood Lab)
University of Southern California (Ehrenreich Lab)
University of Southern California (LABEL Lab)
Loyola Marymount University (Economics Seminar)
University of Minnesota (Law and Economics Seminar)
University of California, Irvine (Economics Seminar)
Santa Clara University (Economics Seminar)

- 2012 Claremont Graduate University (Behavioral Economics and Institutions Seminar)
Chapman University (IFREE/ESI Lecture)
University of Southern California (Social Psychology Seminar)
Cal State Poly Pomona (Economics Seminar)
University of California, Riverside (Economic Theory Seminar)
Gruter Institute for Law and Behavioral Research – Squaw Valley
LABEL (Experimental Economics) Conference – USC
Southern California Conference in Applied Microeconomics – Claremont McKenna
Modeling Human Decision Making in the Law Symposium – USC
- 2011 Claremont Graduate University (Behavioral Economics and Institutions Seminar)
- 2010 Claremont Graduate University (Economics Seminar)
New York University (Neuroeconomics, Glimcher Lab)
Occidental College (Economics Seminar)
Claremont Graduate University (Politics & Economics Lunch Seminar)
- 2009 University of California, Berkeley (Psychology and Economics Seminar)
- 2008 NBER Political Economics Student Conference
- 2007 University of California, Berkeley (Comparative Economics Seminar)

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- 2017 Western Economics Association International–San Diego (*scheduled*)
Economic Science Association World – San Diego (*scheduled*)
- 2016 Bay Area Behavioral Economics Conference – UC Berkeley
- 2015 Economic Science Association North American Conference – Dallas
Bay Area Behavioral Economics Conference – UC Santa Cruz
- 2014 Southern Economic Association Conference – Atlanta
Academy of Behavioral Finance and Economics Conference – Los Angeles
Bay Area Behavioral Economics and Experiments Workshop – Stanford University
Economic Science Association International Conference – Honolulu
- 2013 Bay Area Behavioral Economics Conference – University of San Francisco
- 2012 Economic Science Association North American Conference – Tucson
Western Economics Association International – San Francisco
Bay Area Behavioral Economics Conference – Santa Clara University
- 2011 Economic Science Association North American Conference–Tucson
Economic Science Association International Conference–Chicago
Western Economics Association International–San Diego

TEACHING

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Claremont Graduate University

Consumer Theory and General Equilibrium (graduate), Fall 2010, 2011, 2012
Game Theory and Asymmetric Information (graduate), Spring 2011, 2012, 2013
Foundations of Psychology and Economics (graduate), Spring 2011, 2012, 2013
Topics in Psychology and Economics (graduate), Fall 2011, 2012

Graduate Student Instructor, Department of Economics, U.C. Berkeley

Psychology and Economics (undergraduate), Spring 2010
Game Theory in the Social Sciences (undergraduate), Fall 2007
Principles of Economics (undergraduate), Spring 2007

DISSERTATION ADVISEES

Andrew Royal (**Dissertation Chair**, Ph.D. May 2016)

Placement: Post-doc

Resources for the Future

Galib Rustamov (Committee Member, Ph.D. October 2015)

Placement: Currently on the job market.

Benjamin Curry (Committee Member, Ph.D. Aug 2014)

Placement: Data Scientist

E la Carte

Peiran Jiao (Committee Member, Ph.D. May 2014)

“Essays on Behavioral Finance and Neurofinance”

Placement: Post-doc

Oxford University

Quinn Keefer (**Dissertation Chair**, Ph.D. May 2013)

“Essays on the National Football League Rookie Labor Market: Evaluating Behavioral Phenomena Using Quasi-Experimental Techniques”

Placement: Assistant Professor (tenure track)

California State University, San Marcos

Amos Nadler (Committee Member, Ph.D. May 2013)

“Testosterone and Asset Price Bubbles: Experimental Evidence”

Placement: Assistant Professor (tenure track)

Ivey Business School

In Progress: Wendy Keyes-Kimbirk, Ji Yong Park, Wenjie Zhang, Hisam Sabouni, Garrett Thoelen, Jae Joon Park

BACHELORS AND MASTERS STUDENT PLACEMENT (LETTER WRITE'EES)

Alex Kellogg	2015	University of California, San Diego	Economics, PhD Program
Brett Close	2013	University of Wisconsin	Agriculture and Applied Economics, PhD Program
Chris Fowler	2013	Michigan State University	Economics, PhD Program
Ashvin Gandhi	2013	Harvard University	Economics, PhD Program
Jennifer Good	2013	Fullbright Research Fellow	
Ajay Sridhar	2012	Duke Fuqua School of Business	PhD Program
Corrine Fusso	2012	Inside Track	Product Analyst

DEPARTMENT SERVICE

Microtheory Qualifying Exam (2010-present)
Admissions Committee (2011-present)
Faculty Search Committee (2012-2013, 2016-2017)
Behavioral Economics and Institutions Seminar Organizer (2011-present)
Starting the PhD Workshop (2014-Present)
The Dissertation Workshop (2014-Present)
Academic Job-Placement Workshop (2010-Present)
Mock Interviews for Job-Market Students (2011-Present)
Guest Lecturer for PP 484 Experimental and Qualitative Methods (2013-2014)
Guest Lecturer for SPE 410 Political Economy (2015)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Institutional Review Board (2012-2016)

SESSIONS AND CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

Session Organizer: "New Evidence on Lifecycle Models of Retirement Saving"–
American Economics Association Annual Meeting (ASSA) (2016)
Conference Organizer: Claremont Behavioral and Experimental Economics
Workshop Co-organizer (2015)

REFEREE SERVICE

National Science Foundation, American Economic Review, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Public Economics, Management Science, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Economics and Management Strategy, Journal of Economic Psychology, Journal of Health Economics, Economica, Southern Economic Journal, The B.E. Journal of Economic Theory, Advances in Decision Sciences, International Journal of Psychophysiology

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Economic Association, European Economic Association, Economic Science Association, Royal Economic Society