

PhD scholarships 2024/25

Centre name: Centre for Experimental Methods and Behavioural Research (EMBR)

Title of proposed research topic:

Potential supervisors: [Diego Marino Fages](#)

Description of possible research topic with some key references:

I'm interested in supervising PhD students in the fields of culture, social preferences, religion, political economy, etc. In terms of methodology, I use applied econometrics and experimental methods (field, online and lab).

For example:

[Migration and Trust: Evidence on Assimilation from Internal Migrants](#)

[Migration and Social Preferences](#)

[Using the Strategy Method and Elicited Beliefs to Explain Group Size and MPCR Effects in Public Good Experiments](#)

Potential supervisors: [Cemal Eren Arbatli](#)

Description of possible research topic with some key references:

I'm interested in supervising PhD students in the fields of long-run economic development, cultural economics, and political economy. I'd be happy to talk to candidates willing to study historical roots of economic prosperity or investigate historical factors that shaped the evolution of political preferences and cultural traits. In my political economy research, I study various aspects of electoral politics, media bias, social movements, and political violence. I am happy to supervise students who want to work on any related political economy topic as well.

Some of my published work:

- [Arbatli, C. E., & Gokmen, G. \(2023\). Human capital transfers and sub-national development: Armenian and Greek legacy in post-expulsion Turkey. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 28\(1\), 1-43. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10887-022-09210-8>](#)
- [Shchukin, V., & Arbatli, C. E. \(2022\). Clientelism and development: Vote-buying meets patronage. *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 34\(1\), 3-34. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09516298211061515>](#)
- [Arbatli, C. E., & Gomtsyan, D. \(2021\). Sectarian aid, sanctions and subnational development. *European Economic Review*, 139, Article 103891. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.euroecorev.2021.103891>](#)
- [Arbatli, C. E., Ashraf, Q. H., Galor, O., & Klemp, M. \(2020\). Diversity and Conflict. *Econometrica*, 88\(2\), 727-797. <https://doi.org/10.3982/ecta13734>](#)
- [Arbatli, C. E., & Gomtsyan, D. \(2019\). Voting retrospectively: Critical junctures and party identification. *European Economic Review*, 119, 356-390. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.euroecorev.2019.08.005>](#)

Current research:

Recently I have been studying geographic origins of diversity in cultural values, historical factors that left a legacy on attitudes towards homosexuals, how womens' norms about (tolerance towards) intimate partner violence are shaped by husband characteristics.

Potential supervisors: Demid Getik

Description of possible research topics:

I'd be happy to supervise PhD students interested broadly in the following topics in applied economics: education, mental health, substance policy, the economics of religion, gender and segregation in the labour market, marriage/mate selection economics.

Some [examples](#) of what I have worked on.

Title of proposed research topic:

Experimental tests of economic mechanisms

Potential supervisors (please include web link to those named):

Aleksei Chernulich (link: <https://alekseichernulich.com/>)

Andis Sofianos (link: <https://sites.google.com/site/andissofianos/home>)

Description of possible research topic with some key references:

The market design allows developing institutions that theoretically achieve desirable properties (such as, for example, efficiency or fairness), yet the actual performance of these institutions is the ultimate test of designed institutions. Research topics are centered around laboratory tests of various institutions, such as, for example, auctions. Relevant references include:

Bedard, N.C., Goeree, J.K., Louis, P. et al. Sealed-bid versus ascending spectrum auctions. *Exp Econ* (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10683-023-09805-x>

Klemperer, P. (2002). How (not) to run auctions: The European 3g telecom auctions. *European Economic Review*, 46, 829–845.

Roth, A. E. (2002). The economist as engineer: Game theory, experimentation, and computation as tools for design economics. *Econometrica*, 70(4), 1341–1378.

Title of proposed research topic:

I am open to supervising highly motivated and quantitatively well trained PGR students interested in applying experimental methods to asset pricing, behavioural operations management and broader investigations of strategic behaviour.

Potential supervisors (please include web link to those named):

Professor Jason Shachat (<https://www.durham.ac.uk/business/our-people/jason-shachat/>)

Description of possible research topic with some key references:

Potential topics include;

1. Experimental study of how index tracking impacts market efficiency,
2. The voice of AI: A taxonomy of digitalized voices and their effectiveness at eliciting truthful responses, and
3. An experimental assessment of how diversity training impacts group behaviour.

Please see some of my recent publications that are joint with former students that were developed under my supervision;

1. Peng, Y., Shachat, J., Wei, L., & Sarah Zhang, S. (2023). Speed traps: Algorithmic trader performance under alternative market balances and structures. *Experimental Economics*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10683-023-09816-8>
2. Guo, Y., Shachat, J., Walker, M. J., & Wei, L. (2023). On the generalizability of using mobile devices to conduct economic experiments. *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics*, 106, Article 102057. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socec.2023.102057>
3. Walker, M. J., Katok, E., & Shachat, J. (2023). Trust and Trustworthiness in Procurement Contracts with Retainage. *Management Science*, 69(6), 3492–3515. <https://doi.org/10.1287/mnsc.2022.4516>
4. Pan, J., Shachat, J., & Wei, S. (2022). Cognitive stress and learning economic order quantity inventory management: An experimental investigation. *Decision Analysis*, 19(3), 229-254. <https://doi.org/10.1287/deca.2022.0450>
5. Kuroda, M., Li, J., Shachat, J., Wei, L., & Zhu, B. (2022). An experimental study of intra- and international cooperation: Chinese and American play in the Prisoner's Dilemma Game. *China Economic Review*, 74, Article 101807. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chieco.2022.101807>
6. Shachat, J., & Tan, L. (2022). How auctioneers set reserve prices in procurement auctions. *European Journal of Operational Research*, 304(2), 709-728. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejor.2022.04.025>
7. Guo, Y., Shachat, J., Walker, M., & Wei, L. (2021). Viral social media videos can raise pro-social behaviours when an epidemic arises. *Journal of the Economic Science Association*, 7(2), 120-138. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40881-021-00104-w>

8. Shachat, J., Walker, M., & Wei, L. (2021). How the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic impacted pro-social behaviour and individual preferences: Experimental evidence from China. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 190, 480-494.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jebo.2021.08.001>
9. Pan, J., Shachat, J., & Wei, S. (2020). Cognitive reflection and economic order quantity inventory management: An experimental investigation. *Managerial and Decision Economics*, 41(6), 998-1009. <https://doi.org/10.1002/mde.3154>
10. Shachat, J., & Zhang, Z. (2017). The Hayek hypothesis and long run competitive equilibrium: an experimental investigation. *The Economic Journal*, 127(599), 199-228.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/ecoj.12249>