

# Matthew Brown

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EDUCATION      **Ph.D. in Economics**, Stanford University      2019-2025  
Fields: Public Economics and Behavioral Economics

**B.A. in Mathematics and Economics**, University of Notre Dame      2015-2019

REFERENCES      **Matthew Gentzkow**  
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WORKING PAPERS      **Do Sports Bettors Need Consumer Protection? Evidence From A Field Experiment** (with Nick Grasley and Mariana Guido)

*Abstract:* Corrective policy in sports betting markets is motivated by concerns that demand is driven by behavioral bias rather than a normative preference to gamble. We conduct a field experiment with frequent sports bettors to measure the impact of two biases, overoptimism about financial returns and self-control problems, on the demand for sports betting. We find widespread over-optimism about financial returns. The average participant predicts that they will break even, but in fact loses about 8 cents for every dollar wagered. Self-control problems are smaller and less common. We estimate a model of biased betting and use it to evaluate several corrective policies. Our estimates imply that the surplus-maximizing corrective excise tax on sports betting is twice as large as prevailing tax rates. We estimate substantial heterogeneity in bias across bettors, which implies that targeted interventions that directly eliminate bias could improve on a tax. However, implementation is challenging: we show that two bias-correction interventions favored by the gambling industry do not deliver the targeting improvements.

**The Role of Ideology in Media Coverage of Science** (with Harsh Gupta)

*Abstract:* We study the role of political ideology in the diffusion of scientific knowledge by media outlets. We document, using a novel measure of scientist ideology that spans more than 600,000 papers, that outlets are statistically significantly more likely to cover scientists with similar ideology. However, the role of scientist ideology is small in magnitude when compared to the role of scientific quality, as measured by academic citations, journal quality, and research funding, in media coverage of science. On average, outlets are more likely to cover high-quality research written by misaligned scientists than low-quality research written by ideologically aligned scientists.

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS **Do People Undervalue Mental Health Treatment? Evidence From Gambling Addiction Therapy**  
(with Sarah Bogl, Nick Grasley, and Mariana Guido)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE **Stanford University**

TA for Undergraduate Behavioral Economics (x3)	2022-2024
TA for Undergraduate Empirical Environmental Economics (x2)	2023
TA for Bing Honors College Undergraduate Thesis Boot Camp	2023
TA for Undergraduate Principles of Economics	2021
Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (x4)	2022 - 2024

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Responsible Gaming Grant, Colorado Division of Gaming	2024
Ethics in Society Graduate Research Grant, Stanford University	2024
Bill Lane Center for the American West Grant, Stanford University	2024
George P. Shultz Dissertation Support Fund Fellowship, Stanford University	2023
Roger Noll Dissertation Fellowship, Stanford University	2023
Stanford Center for American Democracy (SCAD) Experiment Grant, Stanford University	2021
Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society (PACS) Small Grant, Stanford University	2021
Institute for Research in the Social Sciences (IRiSS) Research Data Grant, Stanford University	2021
Bernoulli Senior Thesis Award (Honorable Mention), Notre Dame	2019
Open Source Macroeconomics Boot Camp (Student Fellow), University of Chicago	2018