

January 25, 2026

Alexander Matros

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Professional Experience

January 2017	to Present	Professor, University of South Carolina
2012 – 2025		Professor, Lancaster University Management School
August 2013 – 2016		Associate Professor (with tenure), University of SC
2010 – July 2013		Associate Professor (without tenure), University of SC
2003 – 2010		Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh
2001 – 2003		Research Fellow, University College London

Short Visits

06/2008, 08/2007, 08/2005	Economics Discipline, School of Economics and Political Science, University of Sydney
06/2008	School of Economics, University of Adelaide
10/2007	Math & Statistics Department, University of Nevada, Reno
10/2008, 01/2007, 10/2004	Department of Economic Theory, University of Bonn
04-05/2001	ESRC Center for Economic Learning and Social Evolution
	Department of Economics, University College London

Education

2001	Ph.D. Economics, Stockholm School of Economics (Sweden)
1998	Ph.D. Mathematics, Moscow State University (Russia)
1997	M.A. Economics, New Economic School, Moscow (Russia)
1992	M.Sc. Mathematics, Moscow State University (Russia)

Research Interests

(Behavioral, Experimental) Game Theory, Contests, Industrial Organization

Publications

Economics:

“Sequential Contests with Incomplete Information: Theory and Experimental Evidence.”
(Joint with Philip Brookins and Foteini Tzachrista)
Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization 229, January 2025, Article 106808.

“Contests on Networks.”
(Joint with David Rietzke)
Economic Theory, Volume 78, Issue 3, November 2024, Pages 815 - 841.

“Sunk costs, entry and clustering.”
(Joint with Vladimir Smirnov and Andrew Wait)
Economic Theory, Volume 77, Issue 3, May 2024, Pages 747 - 782.

“The Queen’s Gambit: Explaining the superstar effect using evidence from chess”
(Joint with Eren Bilen)
Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization 215, November 2023, Pages 307 - 324.

“Contests with Entry Fees: Theory and Evidence.”
(Joint with John Duffy and Zehra Valencia)
Review of Economic Design, Volume 27, Issue 4, December 2023, Pages 725–761.

“Search without looking.”
(Joint with Natalia Ponomareva, Vladimir Smirnov, and Andrew Wait)
Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, Volume 139, 2022, 104441.

“All-Pay Auctions versus Lotteries as Provisional Fixed-Prize Fundraising Mechanisms: Theory and Evidence.” (Joint with John Duffy).
Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization 192, December 2021, Pages 434 - 464.

“Online cheating amid COVID - 19.”
(Joint with Eren Bilen)
Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization 182, February 2021, Pages 196 - 211.

“Shipwrecks and treasure hunters.”
(Joint with Nicolas de Roos, Vladimir Smirnov, and Andrew Wait)
Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, Volume 90, May 2018, Pages 259-283.

“Lloyd Shapley and Chess with Imperfect Information.”
Games and Economic Behavior, Volume 108, March 2018, Pages 600-613.

“Stochastic Asymmetric Blotto Games: An Experimental Study.”
(Joint with John Duffy)
Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization 139, July 2017, Pages 88-105.

“Duplicative search.” [Lead Article]
(Joint with Vladimir Smirnov).
Games and Economic Behavior, Volume 99, September 2016, Pages 1-22.

“Tullock Contests May Be Revenue Superior to Auctions in a Symmetric Setting.”
(Joint with Alex Possajennikov)
Economics Letters, Volume 142, May 2016, Pages 74-77.

“Coordination in a Changing Environment.”
(Joint with Scott Moser)
Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization 112, April 2015, Pages 64-84.

“Stochastic Asymmetric Blotto Games: Some New Results.”

(Joint with John Duffy).

Economics Letters, Volume 134, Issue 3, June 2015, Pages 4-8.

“Bounded rationality and group size in Tullock contests: Experimental evidence.”

(Joint with Wooyoung Lim and Ted Turocy)

Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization 99, March 2014, Pages 155-167.

“On the Use of Fines and Lottery Prizes to Increase Voter Turnout.”

(Joint with John Duffy).

Economics Bulletin 34, 2014, Pages 966-975.

“Sad-Loser Contests.”

Journal of Mathematical Economics, Volume 48, Issue 3, May 2012, Pages 155-162.

“Altruistic Versus Egoistic Behavior in a Public Good Game.”

Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, Volume 36, Issue 4, April 2012, Pages 642-656.

“Matching Auction with Winner’s Curse and Imperfect Financial Markets.”

Economics Letters, Volume 115, Issue 3, June 2012, Pages 500-503.

“Competitive Behavior in Market Games: Evidence and Theory.”

(Joint with John Duffy and Ted Temzelides).

Journal of Economic Theory, Volume 146, Issue 4, July 2011, Pages 1437-1463.

“Optimal Mechanisms for an Auction Mediator.”

(Joint with Andriy Zapechelnyuk)

International Journal of Industrial Organization, Volume 29, Issue 4, July 2011, Pages 426-431.

“Contests with a Stochastic Number of Players.”

(Joint with Wooyoung Lim)

Games and Economic Behavior, Volume 67, Issue 2, November 2009, Pages 584-597.

“A Blotto Game with Incomplete Information.”

(Joint with Tim Adamo)

Economics Letters, Volume 105, Issue 1, October 2009, Pages 100-102.

“Tullock’s Contest with Reimbursements.” (Joint with Daniel Armanios)

Public Choice, Volume 141, Issue 1-2, October 2009, 49-63.

“Optimal Fees in Internet Auctions.” (Joint with Andriy Zapechelnyuk)

Review of Economic Design, Volume 12, Number 3, September 2008, Pages 155–163.

“Long-Run Price Competition.” [Lead Article]

(Joint with Prajit Dutta and Jörgen Weibull)

RAND Journal of Economics, Volume 38, Issue 2, Summer 2007, Pages 291-313.

“Rent-seeking with asymmetric valuations: Addition or deletion of a player.”
Public Choice, Volume 129, Issue 3-4, December 2006, 369-380.

“A Note on CEO Compensation, Elimination Tournaments and Bankruptcy Risk.”
(Joint with Guido Friebel)
Economics of Governance, Volume 6, Issue 2, July 2005, 105-111.

“(All) Equilibria in a Class of Bidding Games.”
(Joint with Gian Luigi Albano)
Economics Letters, Volume 87, Issue 1, April 2005, Pages 61-66.

“Stochastic Imitation in Finite Games.”
(Joint with Jens Josephson)
Games and Economic Behavior, Volume 49, Issue 2, November 2004, Pages 244-259.

“Clever Agents in Adaptive Learning.”
Journal of Economic Theory, Volume 111, Issue 1, July 2003, Pages 110-124.

“Stochastic Stability and Equilibrium Selection in Games,” Published Doctoral Dissertation,
Stockholm School of Economics, 2001.

Mathematics:

“The asymptotical solution of a boundary problem for a singular perturbed equation of mixed type,” *Vestnik Moscow State University. Mathematics and Mechanics*, 4, (1997), 3-7.

“The asymptotical solution of a singular perturbed equation of mixed type with variable coefficients,” *Vestnik Chelyabinsk State University*, 1, (1996), 224-226.

“The asymptotical solution of a singular perturbed equation of mixed type,” *Differential Equations*, V. 31(11), (1995), 1933.

Book Chapters:

“The Superstar Effect.”
(Joint with Eren Bilen)
Encyclopedia of Heroism Studies, Springer 2023.

Revised/Resubmitted Papers

“General timing games with multiple players.”
(Joint with Vladimir Smirnov and Andrew Wait)
2-nd Revision requested by *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*.

“Public Good Provision with a Governor.”
(Joint with Sakib Anwar and Sonali SenGupta)
2-nd Revision requested by *Mathematical Social Sciences*.

“Equal Chances or Fewer Victims? Moral Judgments in Autonomous Vehicle Dilemmas.”
(Joint with Eren Bilen)
Revised and Resubmitted to *Games*.

“OK Computer: Technology, work intensification and burnout.”
(Joint with Vladimir Smirnov, Andrew Wait, Helen Zhang)
Revision requested by *Economic Record*.

Submitted Papers

“Choosing the Prize in Contests.”
(Joint with Nicolas de Roos, Vladimir Smirnov, and Zehra Valencia)

“Elimination tournaments with resource constraints.”
(Joint with Nicolas de Roos and Vladimir Smirnov)

Work in Progress

“Competing Local Public Goods Provision Mechanisms: an Experimental Study.”
(Joint with Liwen Chen)

“Lotteries with Financially Constrained Buyers.”

Research Grants and Awards

2025-2026	\$2,420.00 – Moore School Research Grant Program “Cheating at the highest level: Evidence from Chess,” University of SC
2022-2023	\$2,300.00 – Moore School Research Grant Program “Cheat or not to Cheat: A Controlled Experiment on Amazon Mechanical Turk,” University of SC
2021-2022	\$3,800.00 – Moore School Research Grant Program “Cheating and Moral Issues: An Experiment,” University of South Carolina
2021-2021	\$1,200.00 – Moore School Research Grant Program “Superstar effect in time pressure: Evidence from chess,” University of South Carolina
2020-2021	\$4,860.00 – Moore School Research Grant Program “Online cheating: An experimental investigation,” University of South Carolina
2019-2020	\$4,600.00 – Moore School Research Grant Program “Decisions in Society,” University of South Carolina
2019-2020	\$2,918.00 – Moore School Research Grant Program “Superstar Effect: Evidence from Chess,” University of South Carolina

2018-2019	\$5,000.00 – Moore School Research Grant Program “New contests: Experimental and field study,” University of South Carolina
2017-2018	\$5,000.00 – Moore School Research Grant Program “How do People make Risky Decisions: Experimental Study,” University of South Carolina
2013-2014	\$3,200.00 – Moore School Research Grant Program ‘How to Design Small Lotteries: Experimental Study,’ University of South Carolina
2011-2012	\$6,400.00 – Moore School Research Grant Program “Better than Average Effect,” University of South Carolina
2010-2011	\$5,320.00 – Moore School Research Grant Program “Matching Auction,” University of South Carolina
2006-2009	\$5,335.00 - Central Research Development Fund award “Lotteries or Auctions?” University of Pittsburgh
2004-2007	\$8,835.00 - Central Research Development Fund award “Lotteries and Their Applications” University of Pittsburgh
2001-2003	600,000.00 SEK (\$75,000) Research Grant J 01-54 “Auctions, Internet and Game Theory,” Jan Wallanders and Tom Hedelius Foundation, Stockholm.
1998-2001	Research Grant from Jan Wallanders and Tom Hedelius Foundation, Stockholm

Seminars

<u>2023:</u>	University of Alabama; University of Glasgow (UK).
<u>2022:</u>	Lancaster University (UK).
<u>2019:</u>	University of Central Florida (USA); University of Manchester (UK).
<u>2018:</u>	Nazarbayev University (Kazakhstan).
<u>2017:</u>	Virginia Tech University (USA).
<u>2016:</u>	University of Oregon (USA), Durham University (UK), University of Manchester (UK).
<u>2015:</u>	Queen’s University, Belfast (Northern Ireland).
<u>2014:</u>	University of North Carolina, Charlotte (USA).
<u>2013:</u>	Drexel University (USA); University of South Carolina (USA).
<u>2012:</u>	Higher School of Economics, Moscow (Russia); University of East Anglia (UK); University of Nottingham (UK); University of Iowa (USA); University of South Carolina (USA); Lancaster University (UK); University of Exeter (UK); University of Glasgow (twice) (UK).
<u>2011:</u>	Lancaster University (UK).
<u>2010:</u>	University of Missouri-Columbia (USA); Yeshiva University (USA); University of South Carolina (twice) (USA); Villanova School of Business (USA).
<u>2009:</u>	Florida State University (USA); Higher School of Economics, Moscow (Russia); New Economic School, Moscow (Russia); University of Nevada, Reno (USA).
<u>2008:</u>	Higher School of Economics, Moscow (Russia); University of Sydney (Australia); University of Auckland (New Zealand); University of Adelaide (Australia); University of California, Davis (USA); University of Nevada, Reno (USA).

2007: Higher School of Economics, Moscow (Russia); CEFIR/NES, Moscow (Russia); Math & Statistics Dept. Colloquium, University of Nevada, Reno (USA); University of New South Wales (Australia); University of Adelaide (Australia); University of Bonn (Germany).

2006: Industrial Engineering Department, University of Pittsburgh (USA); Math & Statistics Dept. Colloquium, University of Nevada, Reno (USA); CEFIR/NES, Moscow (Russia).

2005: Australian National University (Australia); University of New South Wales (Australia); University of Melbourne (Australia); University of Sydney (Australia).

2004: Pennsylvania State University (USA); Indiana University (USA); University of Bonn (Germany); Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (USA).

2003: University of Pittsburgh (USA); University College London (UK); University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (USA); McGill University (Canada); Texas A&M University (USA).

2002: University of Exeter (UK); University College London (UK).

2001: New Economic School, Moscow (Russia); University College London (UK); University of Essex (UK); Royal Holloway, University of London (UK); University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (USA).

2000: New Economic School, Moscow (Russia).

Conference and Workshop Presentations

2025: BSE Summer Forum Workshop “Tournaments: Theory, Experiments and Applications,” Barcelona (Spain).

2023: Andrew & Brunner Public Lecture & Workshop, Lancaster (UK).

2022: The 8th Annual Conference on “Contests: Theory and Evidence”, Reading (UK).

2020: ChessTech 2020

2019: 89-th Southern Economic Association Meeting, Fort Lauderdale (USA), 30-th International Conference on Game Theory, Stony Brook, NY (USA); Fair Play in Economics and Politics Workshop in Honour of Steven Brams, King’s College (UK); Centralised vs Decentralised forms of social organization and public good provision, University of Bath (UK).

2018: 88-th Southern Economic Association Meeting, Washington, DC (USA), 29-th International Conference on Game Theory, Stony Brook, NY (USA).

2017: 28-th International Conference on Game Theory, Stony Brook, NY (USA).

2016: Contests: Theory and Evidence, Norwich (UK); York Annual Symposium on Game Theory (UK); 2-nd Lancaster Game Theory Conference (UK).

2015: 26-th International Conference on Game Theory, Stony Brook, NY (USA); York Annual Symposium on Game Theory (UK).

2014: 84-th Southern Economic Association Meeting, Atlanta (USA), Midwest Economics Association Conference, Evanston (USA); York Annual Symposium on Game Theory (UK).

2013: 24-th International Conference on Game Theory, Stony Brook, NY (USA); Tournaments, Contests and Relative Performance Evaluation, Fresno Center of the University of California, Merced, (USA).

2012: New Economic School 20th Anniversary Conference, Moscow (Russia);
23-th International Conference on Game Theory, Stony Brook, NY (USA);
International Economic Science Association Conference, New York University, NY (USA);
Contests, Mechanisms & Experiments Conference, Exeter (UK),
Royal Economic Society Annual Conference, Cambridge (UK).

2011: 81-th Southern Economic Association Meeting, Washington, DC (USA),
22-th International Conference on Game Theory, Stony Brook, NY (USA);
9th Annual International Industrial Organization Conference, Boston (USA);
Tournaments, Contests and Relative Performance Evaluation, North Carolina State University Poole College of Management, (USA).

2009: 20-th International Conference on Game Theory, Stony Brook, NY (USA);
Workshop on Behavioral Game Theory, Stony Brook, NY (USA).

2008: Tournaments, Contests and Relative Performance Evaluation, North Carolina State University College of Management, (USA); Third World Congress of the Game Theory Society, Chicago (USA).

2007: Workshop on “Contests and Tournaments,” hosted and organized by the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB, Germany);
18-th International Conference on Game Theory, Stony Brook, NY (USA).

2006: 17-th International Conference on Game Theory, Stony Brook, NY (USA);
2006 Canadian Economic Theory Conference, Toronto, (Canada).

2005: 16-th International Conference on Game Theory, Stony Brook, NY (USA).

2004: 15-th International Conference on Game Theory, Stony Brook, NY (USA);
Workshop on Mechanism Design with Budget Constraints, Stony Brook, NY (USA);
Second World Congress of the Game Theory Society, Marseille (France);
Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Dynamics, Villa La Pietra, Florence (Italy);
North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society, Brown University (USA).

2003: VIII-th Spring Meeting of Young Economists, Leuven (Belgium).

2002: The State of Economics and of Transition: Honoring 10 years of the New Economic School, Moscow (Russia); 17-th Annual Congress of the European Economic Association, Venice (Italy).

2001: The First Annual International Conference, Russia 2015: A Long Term Strategy, Moscow (Russia).

2000: Evolutionary Game Theory Conference, Odense (Denmark);
11-th International Conference on Game Theory, Stony Brook, NY (USA).

1999: 10-th International Conference on Game Theory, Stony Brook, NY (USA).

Services

University of South Carolina

Department of Economics: T & P committee, 2013 – 2018; Chair, 2018 –
Moore School of Business: Research Grant Committee, 2017 –
Moore School of Business: Teaching effectiveness committee, 2013 – 2017
Strategic Planning, 2013 – 2017
Graduate committee, 2014 - 2015
SACS Assessment, 2010 – 2011

Lancaster University Management School

A member of Junior and Senior Recruiting Committee, 2012

University of Pittsburgh

A member of Micro Junior Recruiting Committee, 2004, 2007
Chair of Micro Junior Recruiting Committee, 2005, 2006
A member of the Undergraduate Committee, 2007, 2008

Professional Activities

Conference Organizer/Co-organizer

Lancaster Game Theory Conference: 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

Editorial Board of *Journal of Chess Research*, 2014.

Referee: *American Economic Review; American Economic Journal: Microeconomics; B.E. Journal of Theoretical Economics; Bulletin of Economic Research; Econometrica; Economica; Economics Bulletin; Economic Journal; Economics Letters; Economic Theory; Economic Theory Bulletin; European Economic Review; Experimental Economics; Games and Economic Behavior;*

International Economic Review; International Game Theory Review; International Journal of Economic Theory; International Game Theory Review; International Journal of Game Theory; International Journal of Industrial Organization, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization; Journal of Economic Surveys; Journal of Economic Theory; Journal of Economics and Management Strategy; Journal of Evolutionary Economics; Journal of Labor Economics; Journal of Law, Economics, & Organization; Journal of Mathematical Economics; Journal of Political Economy; Journal of Public Economics; Public Choice; RAND Journal of Economics; Social Choice and Welfare.

Teaching Experience

University of South Carolina

Graduate: Introduction to Mathematical Methods (Summer 2011, Summer 2014, Summer 2015, Summer 2016, Summer 2017, Summer 2018, Summer 2019, Summer 2020, Summer 2021, Summer 2022, Summer 2023, Summer 2024, Summer 2025)
Mathematical Methods (Summer 2013)
Advanced Microeconomics (Fall 2010, Fall 2018)
Special Topics in Microeconomics (Spring 2011, Fall 2011, Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2016)
Game Theory (Spring 2015, Spring 2017)
Negotiations (Spring 2020)
Microeconomic Theory II (Spring 2025)

Undergraduate: Intermediate Microeconomics (Fall 2010, Fall 2011, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2018, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025)
Game Theory in Economics (Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Spring 2018, Spring 2021, Fall 2024)
Negotiations (Spring 2024)

Lancaster University Management School

Graduate: Mathematics for Economists (Fall 2012)
Undergraduate: Econ 228: Game Theory (Fall 2012)

University of Pittsburgh

Graduate: Mathematical Methods of Economic Analysis (Fall 2008, Fall 2009)
Introduction to Mathematical Methods (Summer 2008, Summer 2009)
Lotteries and Their Applications (Fall 2007)
Contests, Tournaments, and Their Applications (Spring 2007)
Intro to Game Theory 2 (Spring 2007)
Topics in Microeconomics (Spring 2004, Fall 2005)
Research Seminar (Fall 2004, Fall 2008)

Undergraduate: Intro Game Theory (Spring 2005, Spring 2006, Fall 2006, Spring 2008, Fall 2009)
Intermediate Microeconomics (Fall 2003)

2001-2002	TA: Game Theory, University College London (UK)
1999-2001	TA: Mathematics, Stockholm School of Economics (Sweden)
1993-1995	TA: Mathematics, Department of Mathematics, Moscow State University (Russia)

Independent Studies with Graduate Students

University of Pittsburgh

Yong Sui (Summer 2004), Helen Lafferty (Summer 2004), Virginie Masson (Fall 2004, Spring 2005, Summer 2005, Fall 2005, Spring 2006), Ernest Kong-Wah Lai (Spring 2006).

Thesis Supervision

University of Pittsburgh

Year	Student	Role	1-st Position
2005	Zhiyong Tu	Reader	Private Sector, China
2006	Xin He	Reader	Central University, Beijing, China
2006	Virginie Masson	Supervisor	University of Adelaide, Australia
2007	Yong Sui	Reader	Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China
2009	Tim Hister	Reader	United Nations

University of South Carolina

Year	Student	Role	1-st Position
2018	Liwen Chen	Reader	East China Normal University
2019	Pulkit Nigam	Supervisor	Whitman College
2021	Eren Bilen	Supervisor	Dickinson College

Lancaster University Management School

Year	Student	Role	1-st Position
2020	Sakib Anwar	Co-Supervisor	University of Winchester
2020	Konstantinos Protopappas	Co-Supervisor	University of Innsbruck
2023	Harry Rolls	Co-Supervisor	Lancaster University

Chess

International Master, ELO 2305

Citizenship: USA