



THIS ISSUE

*Important Dates**Faculty Spotlight**EC Alumni Spotlight**EC Tutor Request Due Jan. 25th**Campus & CSN Events*

IMPORTANT DATES

- OPEN ENROLLMENT ENDS JANUARY 14TH
- JANUARY 17TH CLASSES ARE CANCELED AND THE UNIVERSITY IS OPEN
- THE GRADUATION APPLICATION FOR SPRING AND SUMMER 2022 IS DUE JANUARY 28TH
- THE TUITION REFUND PERIOD ENDS FOR SPRING FEBRUARY 4TH

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: ARIJIT MUKHERJEE

I joined MSU in 2008 and I'm currently an associate professor in the Department. I have taught a variety of courses on Microeconomics theory and its applications. EC 251H and EC 401 are two of my favorite courses to teach.

Microeconomics & Public Policy (EC 251H) offers a broad overview of the theoretical frameworks and analytical tools that help us explore some of the key questions in Microeconomics. Students are introduced to the model of demand and supply for understanding how markets guide producers and consumers in making their economic decisions. We study how firms and households, in their respective roles as producers and consumers, respond to changes in market environments; when markets can efficiently allocate scarce resources among their various alternative uses, and when they might fail. We also discuss how public policies on taxation and regulation affect market outcomes and may improve the functioning of the market when it fails to ensure socially desired outcomes on its own.

In Advanced Microeconomics (EC 401) we cover Game theory—a framework for analyzing such “strategic interactions” among economic agents. Many economic interactions take place in relatively small groups of economic agents rather than in large markets. In such settings, the consequences of one’s action need not only depend on her own choice but also on how others—with whom she may be interacting—respond to her decision. For example, a CEO of a company must anticipate his rival company’s move before he decides on what price to charge, how much to spend on advertising, how much product variety to offer, and so on. Thus, good decision-making requires “strategic thinking”—trying to figure out what response one’s action would elicit from the others and taking decision accordingly. Game theory helps us in understanding the behavior of economic agents in such strategic situations. We explore the core concepts of this theory and its various applications in different fields of Economics.

Currently, my main area of research is Organizational Economics. It is an area of study that attempts to understand the nature, design and performance of organizations, e.g., firms and government agencies, by applying the tools of microeconomic analysis. I am interested in exploring how an organization can structure work incentives for its employees as to align their interests with the organization’s goals. I study how different types of incentives may be used by a firm to motivate its workers, and how such incentive strategies may shape its organizational structure, e.g., allocation of tasks and decision rights among its workers.

What did I learn in COVID? I realized that it is quite difficult to replicate the level of student engagement that takes place in a classroom environment when we teach online. But I am extremely impressed by the tenacity and resilience of our students as they did their best to get the most out of the online instruction.

ADVISING

APPOINTMENTS

If you have questions about enrollment, please schedule an Advising Appointment student.msu.edu

EC ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: KATERINA POWERS

I am an assistant district attorney at the Bronx District Attorney's Office. I am a line prosecutor meaning that I spend most of my day either in court before a judge or assessing cases in the intake bureau speaking with police and victims to determine whether the alleged conduct constitutes a chargeable offense. When I am not in court, I am usually drafting motions advocating for the admissibility of our evidence, drafting search warrants, preparing for hearings to litigate discrete pre-trial evidentiary issues, or reviewing law enforcement and civilian witness testimony ahead of grand jury presentations and trials. No day is the same, no case is the same, and that is the best part of my job.

How does your Economics Education help you succeed in your job?

- My degree in economics has arguably been my resume's greatest asset. More than anything, an economics degree is a signal: it shows employers you are a critical, methodical thinker. And for this reason, while in law school, I underscored my background in economics in almost every interview. In fact, when I interviewed for a legal internship with the United States Attorney's Office, after highlighting my degree in economics and experience at the Federal Reserve, I remember the interviewer fervently circling the line denoting my economics degree on my resume. Not even three days later I received an offer to work in United States Attorney's Office for the summer – specifically in their Economics Crimes Unit.
- My degree allowed me to pivot seamlessly from economic and financial research at the Federal Reserve, to antitrust law at the Federal Trade Commission, and now to criminal law at the District Attorney's Office.

What recommendations do you have for current EC students on the internship search, job, or graduate school search?

- Keep an open mind. I had to try on a few different hats before I found one that fit. I only discovered my interest in litigation and criminal law after interning at the United States Attorney's Office in a criminal division – and criminal law was vast departure from my position in economic research at Federal Reserve and my position evaluating the effects of proposed mergers at the Federal Trade Commission. Be mindful that internships are not a permanent commitment; internships are just enough time to figure out if a niche field is for you, so capitalize on a good opportunity even if you think it might not be your end game. And should you decide that the internship's field is not exactly where you want to end up, hone desirable skills and seek out experiences within the internship position that will translate to the next position you are eyeing.

What would you encourage all EC students to do before finishing their program?

- I would encourage all economics students to take EC499 before finishing their degree. The course lifts theory off the page and into practice. The course shows students how practicing economists employ the study to explore questions and explain social phenomena. This course offers a framework for students to systematically approach a question and to then find answers in any number of fields of research. The course's research methodologies can explain outcomes in education, sports, government, or health care – the scope of what economics can explain is not just limited to the “economy.”

EC TUTOR REQUEST SPRING 2022

Please email Nicole Gekeler at (nicoleac@msu.edu) with the information listed below if you would like to be considered as an EC Tutor before 5:00 PM January 25th.

- Name
- EC Course(s) for which you would consider being a tutor
- Instructor you had for the course(s) identified above
- Grade received (must be an EC 3.5+ Cumulative 3.0+)
- MSU e-mail
- Hourly rate-of-pay you are requesting or indicate your willingness to negotiate rate.

CAREER SERVICES NETWORK

OPPORTUNITIES

- [Career Advising](#)
- Resume/Cover Letters can be emailed to sscareer@msu.edu for electronic review.
- [Career Events](#)
 - Grad School: Preparing, Exploring and Applying Jan. 25th Noon-12:30 PM
 - Supply Chain Career Fair Jan. 27th 2:00-6:00 PM
 - Identity in the Workplace Mixer Jan 27th 5:30-7:00 PM
 - MSU Diversity Career Fair Feb. 2nd 3:00-6:00 PM
 - Software, IT, and Consulting Career Fair Feb. 15th 3:00-7:00 PM
 - Criminal Justice Fair Feb. 16th 3:00-6:00 PM

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING CENTER

- [Workshop Schedule](#)

COUNSELING & PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES

(CAPS) [HTTPS://CAPS.MSU.EDU/](https://caps.msu.edu/)

- [CAPS Connect \(brief consultation\)](#)
- [Crisis Services](#)

OFFICE OF CULTURAL & ACADEMIC

TRANSITIONS (OCAT)

- [Spring 2022 Events](#)