

Alex Smolin

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August 2026
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Date of Birth: 09/09/1988

Research Areas:

Information Design, Mechanism Design, Game Theory, Artificial Intelligence

Academic Appointments:

Professor, Toulouse School of Economics, 2026 – present
Chair, Artificial and Natural Intelligence Toulouse Institute, 2024 – present
Editorial Board Member, Review of Economic Studies, 2024 – present
Research Affiliate, CEPR, 2019 – present
Assistant Professor, Toulouse School of Economics, 2019 – 2026

Education:

Yale University, PhD in Economics, 2016; dissertation chair: Dirk Bergemann
New Economic School, MA in Economics, 2011, *summa cum laude*
MIT, MS in Applied Mathematics, 2011, *summa cum laude*
MIT, BS in Mathematics and Physics, 2009

Past Appointments:

Visiting Scholar, Columbia University, Spring 2025
Visiting Scholar, Northwestern University, Fall 2024
Research Fellow, University of Bonn, 2016 – 2019

Honors and Awards:

AI Security Institute and AI Safety Fund Grant, with Piotr Dworczak, 2026 – 2028
Excellence in Refereeing Award, American Economic Review, 2025
Artificial and Natural Intelligence Toulouse Institute Chair, 2024 – 2028
University of Pennsylvania Center for Technology, Innovation and Competition Grant, 2022
JIE Travel Fellowship, IO Theory Conference, 2018
Lombard Odier Best Thesis Award, New Economic School, 2011

Working Papers:

1. “Robust Trust,” 2026, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, revision requested, with Piotr Dworczak
2. “Menu Pricing of Large Language Models,” 2026, with Dirk Bergemann and Alessandro Bonatti
3. “Calibrated Mechanism Design,” 2025, with Laura Doval
4. “Buyer-Optimal Algorithmic Recommendations,” 2025, *Review of Economic Studies*, revision requested, with Shota Ichihashi

Publications:

1. “Information Design in Smooth Games,” *Theoretical Economics*, forthcoming, with Takuro Yamashita

2. “Data Provision to an Informed Seller,” *Games and Economic Behavior*, 2025, 153, pp. 131-144, with Shota Ichihashi
3. “Persuasion and Welfare,” *Journal of Political Economy*, 2024, 132(7), pp. 2451-2487, with Laura Doval
4. “Optimal Technology Design,” *Journal of Economic Theory*, 2023, 209, 105621, with George Georgiadis, Dan Garrett, and Balazs Szentes
5. “Disclosure and Pricing of Attributes,” *RAND Journal of Economics*, 2023, 54(4), pp. 570-597
6. “Dynamic Evaluation Design,” *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics*, 2021, 13(4), pp. 300-331
7. “Cream Skimming and Information Design in Matching Markets,” *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics*, 2019, 11(2), pp. 250-276, with Gleb Romanyuk
8. “Dynamic Communication with Biased Senders,” *Games and Economic Behavior*, 2018, 110, pp. 330-339, with Chiara Margaria
9. “The Design and Price of Information,” *American Economic Review*, 2018, 108(1), pp. 1-48, with Dirk Bergemann and Alessandro Bonatti

Conference Proceedings:

1. “Robust Trust (extended abstract),” *27th ACM Conference on Economics and Computation*, 2026, with Piotr Dworczak
2. “Calibrated Mechanism Design (extended abstract),” *27th ACM Conference on Economics and Computation*, 2026, with Laura Doval
3. “The Economics of Large Language Models: Token Allocation, Fine-Tuning, and Optimal Pricing (extended abstract),” *26th ACM Conference on Economics and Computation*, 2025, with Dirk Bergemann and Alessandro Bonatti
4. “Buyer-Optimal Algorithmic Recommendations (extended abstract),” *26th ACM Conference on Economics and Computation*, 2025, with Shota Ichihashi
5. “Information Design in Concave Games (extended abstract),” *23rd ACM Conference on Economics and Computation*, p. 870, 2022, with Takuro Yamashita
6. “The Optimality of Upgrade Pricing,” 2021, *Web and Internet Economics - 17th Conference*, pp. 41-58, with Dirk Bergemann, Alessandro Bonatti, and Andreas Haupt

Invited Articles:

1. “The Welfare Impact of Recommendation Algorithms,” *ACM SIGecom Exchanges* 22 (2), pp. 56-65, 2025, with Laura Doval

Seminar and Conference Presentations:

Scheduled: PSE/Sciences Po, HEC, University of California Berkeley, Stanford University, Northwestern University CSIO/IDEI Workshop, University of Chicago, Bocconi University, CERGE-EI

2026: TSE Digital Economics Conference, IESE Economics of AI Conference, University of Cambridge, Bristol Makris Symposium in Economic Theory, New York University Stern, University of Warwick, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, NYU Shanghai Workshop, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, Tsinghua University, Peking University, EC’26 Rome

2025: Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University, Triangle Microeconomic Conference, University of California Los Angeles, California Institute of Technology, University of Southern California, University of California San Diego, University of Virginia, Theory Summer Workshop Science Po, ACM EC Stanford, University College London, University of Naples Federico II, AI Security Institute Conference, Carlos III University of Madrid, London School of Economics, Collegio Carlo Alberto Workshop

2024: TSE Digital Economics Conference, European University Institute, Pompeu Fabra University, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, VSET, University of Barcelona Workshop, ESSET Gerzensee, Northwestern University, Berkeley-Columbia-Duke-NW-MIT IO Theory Conference, Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association

2023: TSE Digital Economics Conference, University of Surrey, University of Oxford, SAET Paris, University of Pennsylvania EDSR symposium, University of Pittsburgh/Carnegie Mellon University, Pennsylvania State University, MIT/Harvard, Northwestern University CSIO/IDEI Workshop, Venice Workshop on the Design of Strategic Interactions

2022: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Asia Online Theory Seminar, CEPR Applied IO workshop Berlin (discussant), CSIO-TSE workshop (discussant), ESSET Gerzensee, ACM EC Boulder, EEA-ESEM Milan, EARIE Vienna, Western University, Queen's University, University of Toronto, Collegio Carlo Alberto Workshop, Bonn Winter Theory Workshop

2021: Tel Aviv University / Hebrew University, University of California Los Angeles, CEPR Virtual IO Seminar, London School of Economics, Bonn Winter Theory Workshop

2020: Paris School of Economics, Parisian Game Theory Seminar, UBC-HKU Summer Theory Conference, University of St Andrews, University of Glasgow

2019: University of Edinburgh, University of Warwick, University of Amsterdam, Royal Holloway University of London, Toulouse School of Economics, Boston University, Harvard Business School, Rice University, Northwestern University (Kellogg), Michigan State University, Carnegie Mellon University (Tepper), University of Utah (Eccles), Bielefeld University, Warwick-CRETA Conference, University of Valencia, EC Workshop on the Economics of AI and Data, Collegio Carlo Alberto, HSE-Vienna Workshop on Information Economics, INFORMS Annual Meeting, Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance

2018: ESSET Gerzensee, TWS Partners Munich, International Conference on Game Theory Stony Brook, EEA-ESEM Cologne, EARIE Athens, Aalto University, University of Oxford, Boston University, Columbia/Duke/MIT/Northwestern IO Theory Conference, Emory University, University of Nottingham, University of Essex, University of Bologna

2017: Toulouse School of Economics, Max Planck Institute Bonn, University of Mannheim, SAET Faro, NES Workshop on Imperfect Markets, Carlos III University of Madrid, NES 25th Anniversary Conference

2016: Bocconi University, Cornell University (Johnson), Indiana University (Kelley), Higher School of Economics Moscow, University of Bonn, North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society, World Congress of the Game Theory Society, University of Bonn, Humboldt University of Berlin

2015: World Congress of the Econometric Society, International Conference on Game Theory Stony Brook

Refereeing Service:

American Economic Review, Econometrica, Journal of Political Economy, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies; American Economic Review: Insights, American Economic Journal: Microeconomics, Economic Journal, Games and Economic Behavior, Information Systems Research, International Journal of Game Theory, International Journal of Industrial Organization, Journal of Economic Theory, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Law, Economics and Organization, Management Science, RAND Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Theoretical Economics

European Research Council, Israel Science Foundation, National Science Foundation, Schmidt Sciences, U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation

Program Committee Service:

SODA'20; EEA-ESEM'22,'23; EC'23,'24; EETC'25; EWMES'25; Workshop on AI for Mechanism Design and Strategic Decision Making ICLR'26; EETC'26

Workshop and Conference Organization:

Workshop on Incentive-Based Alignment EC'26

Departmental Service:

- TSE Economic Theory Seminar Organizer, 2019 – 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2026, Fall 2026

Teaching Experience:

Toulouse School of Economics:

- Advanced Microeconomics: Bayesian Games (MA), 2022 – 2024
- Theory of Incentives (MA), 2020 – 2024
- Economics of Communication (MA/PhD), 2019 – 2024, 2026
- Bayesian Persuasion and Information Design (PhD), 2019 – 2024, 2026
- Optimization Theory (PhD), 2026
- Game Theory (MA), 2019

University of Bonn:

- Economics of Information (BS), 2018 – 2019
- Strategic Communication and Information Design (MS), 2017
- Strategic Communication and Information Design (BS), 2016 – 2018

Carnegie Mellon University, Tepper School of Business:

- Mini-Course on Information Design (PhD), September 2023

Languages:

English, Russian, French