



# David C. Smerdon

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School of Economics  
The University of Queensland

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## CURRENT POSITION

2017 - present **Lecturer** (equiv. Assistant Prof.), [University of Queensland](#).

## RESEARCH

Primary Fields: Behavioural Economics, Development Economics  
Secondary Fields: Experimental Economics, Applied Microeconometrics.

## EDUCATION

2016 - 2017 **Marie Curie PODER research fellow**, [Bocconi University](#), Center for Economic Policy Research.  
2013 - 2017 **PhD in Economics**, [University of Amsterdam](#) and [Tinbergen Institute](#).  
– Thesis: “*Everybody’s doing it: Essays on trust, social norms and integration.*”  
– Supervisors: [Prof. Theo Offerman \(UvA\)](#), [Prof. Uri Gneezy \(UC San Diego\)](#)  
2011 - 2013 **MPhil in Economics (*cum laude*)**, [Tinbergen Institute](#).  
2002 - 2006 **Bachelor of Science / Bachelor of Commerce**, [University of Melbourne](#).  
Majors: Mathematics; Statistics; Psychology.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2008 - 2011 **Policy analyst**, [Australian Department of Treasury](#), Canberra.  
Groups: Macroeconomics, Financial Markets.

## TEACHING

2020 **Economics for Business (ECON1011)**, UQ Undergraduate (*lecturer rating: 4.5/5*)  
2020 **Economic Analysis of Strategy (ECON7070)**, UQ Postgraduate (*lecturer rating: 4.6/5*)  
2019 **Economics for Business (ECON1011)**, UQ Undergraduate (*lecturer rating: 4.3/5*)  
2018 **Economic Analysis of Strategy (ECON7070)**, UQ Postgraduate (*lecturer rating: 4.3/5*)  
2018 **Business Economics (ECON7012)**, UQ MBA Program (*lecturer rating: 4.6/5*)  
2013 - 2016 **Microeconomics 1**, University of Amsterdam Undergraduate (Tutor)  
2013 **Mathematics 1**, Tinbergen Institute PhD Program (Tutor)

## SELECTED GRANTS AND AWARDS

2020 - 2022 **Universities Australia - Germany Joint Research Co-operation Scheme** (AU \$21,500). Project: “Behavioural Macroeconomics and the Australian Housing Market”.  
2018 - 2019 **UQ BEL grant** (AU \$5,000), NSRSF. Project: “Decision-Making and Behaviour”.  
2016 - 2017 **Marie Curie Fellowship: Early Stage Researcher**, PODER, Centre for Economic Policy Research. Node leader: Prof. Eliana La Ferrara (Bocconi University). Project: “Informal institutions and networks in development”.

- 2014 - 2016 **Behavioral economics priority area** (€35,000), University of Amsterdam. Grants for experiments.
- 2011 - 2013 **General Sir John Monash Scholarship** (AUD \$150,000), John Monash Foundation. Australia's top postgraduate award.
- 2011 - 2012 **Tinbergen Institute Scholarship** (Full tuition plus €25,000).

## **PUBLISHED PAPERS**

- Jachimowicz, J., B. Szaszi, M. Lukas, D. Smerdon, J. Prabhu and E. Weber (2020) “[Higher Economic Inequality Intensifies the Poor’s Financial Hardship by Fraying the Community Buffer.](#)” *Nature Human Behaviour*
- Smerdon, D., H. Hu, A. McLennan, W. von Hippel and S. Albrecht (2020) “[Female Chess Players Show Typical Stereotype Threat Effects: Comment on Stafford \(2018\).](#)” *Psychological Science*
- Smerdon, D., T. Offerman and U. Gneezy (2019) “[Everybody’s doing it: On the persistence of bad social norms.](#)” *Experimental Economics*
- Tran-Duy, A., D. Smerdon and P. M. Clarke (2018) “[Longevity of outstanding sporting achievers: Mind versus muscle](#)” *PLoS ONE*

## **WORKING PAPERS**

- Albrecht, S. and D. Smerdon “When refugees work: The social capital effects of resettlement on host communities.” (Submitted)
- Gulesci, S., S. Jindani, E. La Ferrara, D. Smerdon, M. Sulaiman and P. Young “A stepping stone approach to understanding harmful norms: Theory and evidence from Somalia.”
- Pin, P., F. Vega-Redondo and D. Smerdon, “The long shadow of authority.”
- Smerdon, D. and S. Blauw (2019) “Trust and Inequality: Just bad luck?”
- Tan, J., O. Hauser, J. Jachimowicz and D. Smerdon (2020) “Opposing Effects of Economic Inequality Concentrated at the Top or Bottom of the Income Distribution on Subjective Well-Being.” (Submitted)

## **SELECTED CURRENT PROJECTS**

- Albrecht, S., A. Karakostas, D. Smerdon and W. von Hippel, “U.S. Hiring Discrimination Based on LGBT Status and Political Affiliation.”
- Gulesci, S., E. La Ferrara, D. Smerdon and M. Sulaiman, “Changing Harmful Norms through Information and Coordination: Experimental Evidence from Somalia.”
- von Hippel, J. and D. Smerdon, “Overcoming probability biases.”
- van Pelt, M. and D. Smerdon, “It matters if you’re black or white: Identifying stereotype threat effects in a competitive environment.”
- Singh, S., S. Albrecht and D. Smerdon, “Technology shocks, dowries and sex selection: Evidence from the Green Revolution in India.”

## **REFEREEING**

*Games and Economic Behavior; Experimental Economics; Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization; Journal of Economic Psychology*

## **NON-REFEREED ARTICLES**

Smerdon, D. (2019) “The economics of ‘Cash for Cane Toads’: A textbook example of perverse incentives”, *The Conversation*

Tran-Duy, A., D. Smerdon and P. M. Clarke (2018) “Checkmate: Top chess players live longer”, *The Conversation*

Smerdon, D. (2017) “Smart Resettlement: A Refugee Success Story From Rural Australia”, *Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings*

## **CONFERENCES AND INVITED SEMINARS**

(most recent first)

*Monash University, Deakin University, Queensland University of Technology, London Chess Conference (keynote), University of Sydney, Australian National University, Australian Department of Treasury, Victoria University of Wellington, Monash University, Deakin University, University of Queensland, Tilburg University, University of Vienna, BREAD/CEPR/PODER Development Economics Conference (LSE), Spanish Economic Association Symposium (SAEe), University of Antwerp, BREAD/CEPR/PODER Development Economics Conference (Bocconi University), University of Nottingham, University of Amsterdam, University of Oxford, Vrije Universiteit, University of Norwich, Rady School of Management (UCSD), University of Amsterdam, NYU, University of Nottingham, Tinbergen Institute.*

## **OTHER SKILLS**

*Programming* Stata, Python, Matlab, R, SQL

*Books* *The Complete Chess Swindler* (2020). Published by: New in Chess, Alkmaar  
*Smerdon’s Scandinavian* (2015). Published by: Everyman Chess, London

*Speaking* English (native); German, Dutch (intermediate)

*Chess* International Chess Grandmaster, seven-time Australian Olympiad representative