

John T. Gasper

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OBJECTIVES

Use advanced mathematical and statistical methods to make and inform business decisions in a collegial setting. Skills include: hypothesis testing, exploratory data analysis, regression analysis, causal inference, applications of behavioral economics/nudging, and game theoretic analysis

WORK HISTORY

Carnegie Mellon University

Associate Teaching Professor of Economics, Tepper School of Business. 9/17 - present

- Teach [courses on quantitative methods](#) for business. Data science topics: market basket analysis, decision trees, logistic regression, kNN, support vector machines, bagging, boosting, random forests. Traditional economics topics: game theory, behavioral economics, microeconomic theory.

Assistant Dean of Strategic Initiatives, Tepper School of Business. 6/19 - 5/21

- Oversee, guide, and implement various the research and educational initiatives from the Strategic Plan for the broader Tepper School of Business.

Visiting/Assistant/Associate Teaching Professor. Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar. 9/10 - 9/17

- Taught variety of applied methods courses: stochastic modeling and Monte Carlo simulation, regression analysis, decision analysis and spreadsheet modeling, optimization modeling, survey and research design, agent based modeling, policy analysis, game theory, behavioral economics, real business cycles in macroeconomics.

University of Pennsylvania

Postdoctoral Fellow, Philosophy, Politics & Economics. 7/08 - 7/10

- Taught courses on agent based modeling, political economy of mass media, and public policy.

Harvard University

Visiting Graduate Fellow, Institute for Quantitative Social Science. 1/06 - 7/08

- Teaching Fellow for graduate courses in microeconomic theory, cooperative and noncooperative game theory, and political economy.

Please see my [full CV](#) for more complete information

EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University

- **Ph.D. Political Economy**, December 2008.
 - Dissertation title: “The Market Origins of Media Bias.”
 - Mathematical models of the industrial organization of the media market, finding conditions where profit incentives do and do not lead to biased coverage
 - Mathematical models of optimal search (multi-armed bandits) to study equilibrium levels of investigative reporting
 - Using structural equation modeling to empirically measure changes in ideological positions of various media outlets over time, in particular in response to the entry of Fox News.
- **M.S. Social & Decision Sciences**, December 2004
 - Thesis title: “Why did They Move? Networks, Beliefs and Policy Change.”
 - Computational model of belief propagation in social networks with an application to protests.
 - Different network topologies give rise to different levels of information aggregation, but beliefs about the network topology influence how leaders respond to aggregate turnout.
- **B.S. Logic & Computation** with an additional major in Philosophy, May 2000.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

- “[The Politics of Denying Aid: An Analysis of Disaster Declaration Turndowns](#)” *Journal of Public Management and Social Policy*, Vol 21, Issue 2 (2015).
 - Hierarchical logistic regression analysis of presidential denials of requests for disaster aid
 - Findings: during election years presidents use a lower threshold for damage sustained in decision to grant aid; presidents are more likely to grant aid to governors of the same party
- “[Shifting Ideologies? Re-examining Media Bias.](#)” Research Note. *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, Vol 6, No 1 (2011).
 - Structural model of media and congressional citations of policy experts to measure ideological positions of media outlets over time
 - Findings: ideological positions of media outlets are not stable over time, and many outlets moved when Fox News entered the TV news market.
- “[Make It Rain: Retrospection and the Attentive Electorate in the Context of Natural Disasters.](#)” (with Andrew Reeves). *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol 55, No. 2 (2011).
 - Linear regression models to measure the county-level electoral response to severe weather conditioned on the actions of elected officials
 - Findings: electorates punish incumbent officials for weather damage, but reward them for actions they take in response to exogenous events.
- “[Reporting for sale: the market for coverage.](#)” *Public Choice*, Vol 141, No. 3 (2009).
 - Industrial organizational model of the location of media outlets when consumers have behavioral biases consistent with empirical research
 - Findings: non-ideological media firms slant their coverage.

HONORS, AWARDS, & GRANTS RECEIVED

- *Provost Inclusive Teaching Fellow*, 2022-2023AC. Carnegie Mellon University
- *Richard M. Cyert Teaching Award* 2021. Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh.
 - Single annual award given to an Economics faculty member for teaching excellence.
- *Meritorious Teaching Award*, 2017. Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar.
 - Single annual award given to a faculty member for teaching excellence; chosen by student body
- *Seed Research Grant*. Qatar Foundation / Carnegie Mellon University.
- *Fulbright Fellow*. Center For Rationality and Interactive Decision Theory, The Hebrew University, Israel. United States-Israel Educational Fund. 2003-2004

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- CMU Economics Curriculum Review Co-chair. 2022-current. CMU Dietrich College Gen Ed Steering Committee Fall 21-current. Tepper DEI&B Undergraduate Working Group committee member. Spring 2020 - Summer 2021. Faculty Mentor, Tepper School of Business. Mentored four junior faculty. Fall 2019 - current. CMU Final Exam Policy working group. CMU Fall 2020-Summer 2021. Academic Advising Award Selection Committee member. CMU. 2019-2022. CMU Faculty Senate member. 2017 - 2019. CMUQ Qatar Foundation Institution Impact Study committee member. Fall 2017 - Spring 2018. . CMU-Q IRB Board member and Chair, 2015 - 2017; CMUQ Faculty Senate member; Committee member of CMU-Q Finance Review, 2015; CMU-Q Academic Review Board member, 2012 - 2014; Steering Committee Chair for CMU-Q / General Secretariat of Development Planning, 2012 - 2013; Committee Chair for CMU-Q Student Outreach and Recruitment Review, 2012.
- Reviewer for: *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Politics Research*, *American Political Science Review*, *Economics and Politics*, *Electoral Studies*, *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Network Theory in Finance*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, *Political Analysis*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, *Public Choice*, *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, *Southern Economic Journal*

COMPUTER SKILLS

- R (expert), Mathematica (intermediate), Java (intermediate), SQL (intermediate), L^AT_EX(expert)

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Travel (lived as an expat for 8+ years), cooking, fly fishing / tying, mountain biking, weightlifting, motorcycle adventuring (rode across the Himalayas on an Enfield, took a GS across South Africa).