JASON SOMERVILLE

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EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, University of California, Santa Barbara	*2025 –*
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Stanford Department of Economics	*2023 – 2024*
Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of New York	*2020 – 2025*

FIELD INTERESTS

Behavioral Economics, Experimental Economics

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Department of Economics, Cornell University	*2014 – 2020*
M.Litt., Department of Economics, Trinity College Dublin	*2013 – 2014*
M.Sc., Department of Economics, Trinity College Dublin	*2012 – 2013*
B.A., Economics & Psychology, Trinity College Dublin	*2007 – 2011*

PUBLISHED WORK

Connecting Common Ratio and Common Consequence Preferences
(with Christina McGranaghan, Kirby Nielsen, Ted O'Donoghue, and Charles Sprenger)
Journal of Political Economy, Forthcoming.

Inequality of Opportunity and Income Redistribution
(with Marcel Preuss, Germán Reyes, and Joy Wu)
Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics, 2026, 4(3): 870–905.

Are Elites Meritocratic and Efficiency-Seeking? Evidence from MBA Students
(with Marcel Preuss, Germán Reyes, and Joy Wu)
Journal of Public Economics, 2026, 260: 105700.

Administrative Burden and Procedural Denials: Experimental Evidence from SNAP
(with Eric Giannella, Tatiana Homonoff, and Gwen Rino)
American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, 2024, 16(4): 316–340.

Menu-Dependent Risk Attitudes: Theory and Evidence
(with Zhuo Chen and Russell Golman)
Journal of Risk and Uncertainty, 2024, 68: 77–105.

Gasoline Price Changes and Consumer Inflation Expectations: Experimental Evidence
(with Felix Aidala, Olivier Armantier, Gizem Koşar, Giorgio Topa, and Wilbert van der Klaauw)
Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, 2024, 220: 66–80.

Distinguishing Common Ratio Preferences from Common Ratio Effects Using Paired Valuation Tasks
(with Christina McGranaghan, Kirby Nielsen, Ted O'Donoghue, and Charles Sprenger)
American Economic Review, 2024, 114(2), 307–347.

Range-Dependent Attribute Weighting in Consumer Choice: An Experimental Test
Econometrica, 2022, 90(2): 799–830

Program Recertification Costs: Evidence from SNAP
(with Tatiana Homonoff)
American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, 2021, 13(4): 271–298.

Quantifying Brand Loyalty: Evidence from the Cigarette Market
(with Philip DeCicca, Donald S. Kenkel, and Feng Liu)
Journal of Health Economics, 2021, 79: 102512.

Consumers' Ability to Identify a Surplus When Returns to Attributes are Nonlinear
(with Pete Lunn)
Judgment and Decision Making, 2021, 16(5): 1186–1220

Modeling Risk Aversion in Economics
(with Ted O'Donoghue)
Journal of Economic Perspectives, 2018, 32(2): 91–114.

Can Chocolate Cure Blindness? Investigating the Effect of Preference Strength and Incentives on the Incidence of Choice Blindness
(with Féidhlim McGowan)
Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics, 2016, 61: 1–11.

Choice Blindness in Financial Decision Making
(with Owen McLaughlin)
Judgment and Decision Making, 2013, 8(5): 561–572.

WORKING PAPERS

The Misallocation of High-Value Work
(with Carl Meyer and Germán Reyes)

HANDBOOK CHAPTERS

Investigating Risk Preferences Using Experiments
(with Ted O'Donoghue)
Forthcoming in the Handbook of Experimental Methods in the Social Sciences

RESEARCH GRANTS

"Understanding and Mitigating Within-Task Performance Declines" (PI). UCSB Faculty Career Development Award (course release), 2026–27: $5,000.

"The Dynamics of Luck, Effort, and Redistribution" (CO-PI) with Marcel Preuss (PI), Germán Reyes (CO-PI), and Joy Wu (CO-PI). Funded by the Cornell Center for Social Sciences, 2020: $12,000.

"Choice Set Distortions: Theory and Evidence". Funded by the Russell Sage Foundation Behavioral Economics Small Grant, 2017: $4,500.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of California, Santa Barbara
Instructor, Experimental Economics, Econ 176 (Undergrad) *Winter 2026, Spring 2026*

Cornell University
Head Teaching Assistant, Principles of Business Management (Undergrad) *Summer 2017, 2018, 2019*
Teaching Assistant, Principles of Business Management (Undergrad) *Summer 2016*
Teaching Assistant, Behavioral Economics (Undergrad) *Spring 2016*
Teaching Assistant, Intermediate Mathematical Economics (Graduate) *Fall 2015*

Trinity College Dublin
Teaching Assistant, Economy of Ireland (Undergrad) *Fall 2012, 2013; Spring 2013, 2014*

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Refereeing: *American Economic Review*, *Econometrica*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics*, *Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics*, *Management Science*, *Economic Journal*, *Games and Economic Behavior*, *European Economic Review*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Experimental Economics*, *Journal of Risk and Insurance*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Economics Letters*, *National Tax Journal*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Journal of Behavioral Decision Making*

Conference Organization

Santa Barbara Conference on Experimental and Behavioral Economics (planned)	*2027*
Behavioral and Experimental Economists of the Mid-Atlantic (BEEMA)	*2023, 2024*
ECB - New York Fed Conference on Expectations Surveys	*2022*

Graduate Student Committees: Anastasiia Morozova, Austin Brooksby

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2027	Texas A&M University*
2026	Berlin Behavioral Economics Seminar Series, University of Southern California, University of Zurich, University of Pittsburgh, Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics (Psychology and Economics)*
2025	UC Santa Barbara, University of Chicago, Chapman University
2024	Spring Behavioral and Experimental Economics Research Workshop, Bay Area Behavioral and Experimental Economics Workshop, Ohio State University (Economics)
2023	NYU (Economics), Economic and Social Research Institute, East Coast Behavioral and Experimental Workshop, Spring Behavioral and Experimental Economics Research Workshop, Stanford University (Economics), UC Davis (Economics), ESA North America Meeting
2022	University of Pennsylvania (Wharton BEPP), University of Bonn (briq/Economics), Central Bank of Ireland, Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics (Experimental Economics), ESA North America Meeting
2021	Drexel University (Economics), National Tax Association Annual Meeting
2020	University of California San Diego (Economics), University of Utah (Eccles Business School), Purdue University (Economics), Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Carnegie Mellon University (Social and Decision Sciences), University College Dublin (Economics)
2019	Economic and Social Research Institute, WEAI Graduate Student Dissertation Workshop, ESA World Meeting, Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics (Psychology and Economics), ESA North America Meeting, Cornell University (Economics)

* = scheduled

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Citizenship: Ireland. US Permanent Resident

Updated: June 29, 2026