

BENJAMIN POLAK

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CURRENT POSITION: Provost; William C. Brainard Professor of Economics; Professor, School of Management

RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS: Microeconomic Theory, Economic History

DEGREES

- 1987-92 Ph.D. (1992) Economics, Harvard University
Thesis: "Problems from the History of Capital Markets"
- 1984-85 M.A. (1986) History, Northwestern University
Thesis: "Rinderpest and Kenya in the 1890s"
- 1981-84 B.A. (1984) Economics (first class honors), Cambridge University (Trinity College)
Dissertation: "Agricultural Credit and Rural Differentiation in Highland Kenya"

AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS

- 2008- William C. Brainard Professor of Economics
- 2006 The Lex Hixon '63 Prize for Teaching Excellence in the Social Sciences, Yale College
- 2005 Graduate Teaching Prize, Economics Department, Yale University
- 2005 William Clyde DeVane Medal for undergraduate teaching and scholarship at Yale College
- 2004 Graduate Advising Prize, Economics Department, Yale University
- 2000 Yale Course Critique Outstanding Course List: Econ 159 (joint 3rd), and Econ 159a (joint 8th)
- 1999-2001 Henry Kohn Associate Professor Chair, Yale University
- 1998 Graduate Advising Prize, Economics Department, Yale University
- 1998 Graduate Teaching Prize, Economics Department, Yale University
- 1998 Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship
- 1997 Yale Junior Faculty Sabbatical Fellowship
- 1996 Summer Research Support, MacArthur Foundation
- 1991-94 Junior Fellow, Harvard University Society of Fellows
- 1990-91 Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Merit Fellow
- 1990 Harvard Economics "Goldsmith" essay prize
- 1987-91 Harvard Economics Department Scholarship
- 1984-85 Trinity College Travelling Fellowship
- 1984 Cambridge University Wrenbury Prize for Economics
- 1984 Trinity College Van Heyden de Lancey Prize

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- 2013- Provost, Yale University
- 2010-13 Chairman, Economics Department, Yale University
- 2007-09 Director of Undergraduate Studies, Economics Department, Yale University
- 2006-08 Fellow, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University
- 2001- Professor, Yale School of Management
- 2001-03 Adjunct Professor, Yale Law School
- 2000-01 Visiting Scholar, Economics Department, New York University
- 2000-01 Visiting Professor, Yale School of Management
- 1995, 97-99 Visiting Fellow, Australian National University
- 1997 Visiting Academic/Lecturer, London School of Economics
- 1994- Professor, Economics Department, Yale University (asst. 1994-99, assoc. 1998-2001, full 2001-)
- 1991-94 Junior Fellow, Society of Fellows, Harvard University
- 1993 Visiting Fellow, Economics Department, University of Melbourne, Australia
- 1993 Visiting Professor, New Economic School, Moscow
- 1988-91 Resident Tutor, Adams House, Harvard University
- 1989-90 Teaching Fellow, Social Analysis 10, Harvard University
- 1985-86 Economics Supervisor, Trinity College, Cambridge University, England
- 1984-85 Tutor, Athletics Department, Northwestern University

ACCEPTED, FORTHCOMING AND PUBLISHED PAPERS

1. “A Generalized Representation Theorem for Harsanyi’s (Impartial) Theorem” (with Simon Grant, Atsushi Kajii, and Zvi Safra), *Social Choice and Welfare*, forthcoming.
2. “A two-parameter model of dispersion aversion”, joint with Bob Chambers, Simon Grant and John Quiggin. *Journal of Economic Theory*, 150 (2014) 611–641.
3. “Mean-Dispersion Preferences and Constant Absolute Uncertainty Aversion”, joint with Simon Grant. *Journal of Economic Theory*, 148 (2013), 1361–1398.
4. “Equally-Distributed Equivalent Utility, Ex Post Egalitarianism and Utilitarianism” (with Simon Grant, Atsushi Kajii, and Zvi Safra) *Journal of Economic Theory*, 147 (2012) 1545-1571.
5. “Generalized Utilitarianism and Harsanyi's Impartial Observer Theorem”, joint with Simon Grant, Atsushi Kajii and Zvi Safra. *Econometrica*, 78(6) (2010), 1939–1971.
6. “Judgment Aggregation: an Introduction”, joint with Christian List (editors’ introduction of a special symposium). *Journal of Economic Theory*, 145 (2010) 441-466.
7. “Probabilistic Sophistication and Stochastic Monotonicity in the Savage Framework”, joint with Simon Grant and Hatice Ozsoy. *Mathematical Social Sciences*, 55 (2008), 371-380
8. “Bayesian Beliefs with Stochastic Monotonicity’: An Extension of Machnina & Schmeidler”, joint with Simon Grant. *Journal of Economic Theory*, 130 (2006),1, 264-282.
9. “The Emergence and Persistence of the Anglo-Saxon and German Financial Systems” (joint with S. Baliga), *Review of Financial Studies*, 17 (2004), 1, 129-163.
10. “Third-Down with a Yard to Go: Recursive Expected Utility and the Dixit-Skeath Conundrum” (joint with S. Grant, & A. Kajii), *Economic Letters*, 73 (2001), pp. 275-286.
11. “A Model of a Predatory State” (joint with B. Moselle), *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization*, 17 (2001), pp. 1-33.
12. “Different Notions of Disappointment Aversion” (joint with S. Grant, & A. Kajii), *Economic Letters*, 70 (2001), 203-208.
13. “Decomposable Choice under Uncertainty” (joint with S. Grant & A. Kajii), *Journal of Economic Theory*, 92 (2000), pp. 169-197.
14. “Regulating Consumer Bankruptcy: A Theoretical Inquiry” (joint with B. Adler & A. Schwartz), *Journal of Legal Studies*, 29 (2000), pp. 585-613.
15. “Preference for Information and Dynamic Consistency” (joint with S. Grant & A. Kajii), *Theory and Decision*, 48 (2000), pp. 263-286.
16. “Temporal Resolution of Uncertainty and Non-Expected Utility Models” (joint with S. Grant & A. Kajii), *Econometrica*, 68 (2000), pp. 425-434.
17. “Intrinsic Preference for Information” (joint with S. Grant & A. Kajii), *Journal of Economic Theory*, 83 (1998), pp. 233-259.
18. “Epistemic Conditions for Nash Equilibrium, and Common Knowledge of Rationality”, *Econometrica*, 67 (1998), pp. 673-676.
19. “Comment” on Charles Calomiris’s paper “Universal Banking ‘American Style’”, *Journal of Theoretical and Institutional Economics*, 154 (1998), 1, pp. 58-60.
20. “When Managers Cover Their Posteriors: Making the Decisions the Market Wants to See” (joint with A Brandenburger), *Rand Journal of Economics*, (1996), pp. 523-541.
21. “Information Externalities, Stock-Based Incentives and Managerial Behaviour” (joint with S. Grant and S. King), *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 10 (1996), pp. 1-21.

22. "Fictitious Play in 2x2 Games: a Geometric Proof of Convergence" (joint with A. Metrick), *Economic Theory*, 4 (1994), pp. 923-933.
23. "Property Transactions in Ireland, 1708-1988: An Introduction" (joint with K. O'Rourke), *Irish Economic and Social History*, 21 (1994), pp. 58-71.
24. "The Emergence of a National Capital Market in England, 1710-1880" (joint with M. Buchinsky), *Journal of Economic History*, 53 (1993), pp. 1-24.
25. "Poverty, Policy and Industrialization in the Past" (joint with J.G. Williamson), in Lipton, M. & J. Van Der Gaag (Eds.) *Including the Poor*, (IBRD, 1993), pp. 219-245.
26. "Many Good Choice Axioms: When Can Many-Good Lotteries Be Treated as Money Lotteries?" (joint with S. Grant & A. Kajii), *Journal of Economic Theory*, 56 (1992), pp. 313-337.
27. "Many Good Risks: An Interpretation of Multivariate Risk and Risk Aversion Without the Independence Axiom" (joint with S. Grant & A. Kajii), *Journal of Economic Theory*, 56 (1992), pp. 338-351.
28. "Implementing the Core of a Two-Person Pure Allocation Game without Free Disposal" (joint with S. Grant, S. King, & S. Peterson) *Economic Letters*, 37 (1991), pp. 223-227.

OTHER RESEARCH PAPERS

1. "Does Microsoft Stifle Innovation? Dominant Firms, Imitation, and R&D Incentives", joint with Luis Cabra.
2. Second-Order Expected Utility (with Simon Grant and Tomas Strzalecki).
3. "Epistemic Conditions for Bayesian Equilibrium, and Common Knowledge of Rationality", LSE-STICERD working paper TE/97/341, 1997.
4. "Moral Hazard and Herding: Contracting with Endogenous Idiosyncratic Risk" (joint with S. King), in B. Polak, *Problems from the History of Capital Markets*, Ph.D. thesis, Harvard University (1992).
5. "Rinderpest and Kenya in the 1890s", MA thesis, Northwestern University, (1986).

REFEREEING

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|---------|---|
| 2009-13 | Associate Editor, <i>Econometrica</i> |
| 2001-11 | Associate Editor, <i>Journal of Economic Theory</i> |
| 2004-07 | Associate Editor, <i>Economic Journal</i> |
| 2000-01 | Editorial Board Member, <i>B.E. Journals in Theoretical Economics</i> |