

Alexander Coutts

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Address
Schulich School of Business
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Employment

2025– Associate Professor of Economics, Schulich School of Business, York University, Toronto, Canada.
2021–2025 Assistant Professor of Economics, Schulich School of Business, York University, Toronto, Canada.
2015–2020 Assistant Professor of Economics, Nova School of Business and Economics, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal.

Education

PhD. In Economics, New York University, 2015.
M.Phil. in Economics, New York University, 2014.
M.A. in Economics, Queen’s University, 2010.
B.A. in Honours Economics, University of British Columbia, 2008.

Research Fields

Behavioral Economics, Development Economics, Experimental Economics.

Teaching

2024-2026 The Economic Environment of Business (*MBA*); Schulich School of Business.
2024 Applied Macroeconomics (*Bachelor’s*); Schulich School of Business.
2023–2024 Behavioural Economics Insights (*Bachelor’s*); Schulich School of Business.
2022–2023 Macroeconomics for Managers (*Bachelor’s*); Schulich School of Business.
2021 Microeconomics for Managers (*Bachelor’s*); Schulich School of Business.
2018–2022, Behavioral Insights for Business and Finance; Universidad de los Andes – School of
& 2024 Management (International Summer School – *Mixed audience*).
2020 Advanced Behavioral Economics (*Master’s*); Nova SBE.
2018-2019 Development Economics (*Bachelor’s*); Nova SBE.
2016-2020 Microeconomics II (*Ph.D.*); Nova SBE.
2016-2019 Game Theory (*Master’s*); Nova SBE.
2016-2020 Behavioral Economics and Finance (*Master’s*); Nova SBE.
2014 Microeconomic Theory and Analysis (*Bachelor’s*); NYU, *TA for Danilo Guaitoli*.
2011 Intermediate Macroeconomics (*Bachelor’s*); NYU, *TA for Chetan Dave*.
2008-2009 Intro Micro/Macro (*Bachelor’s*); Queen’s University, *TA for Ian Cromb*.

Research Positions and Related Experience

2015–Present Novafrika Resident Member, Economics for Policy Affiliate (Nova SBE).
2019–2020 Co-Director, Nova SBE Behavioral Lab.
2011–2013 Center for Technology and Economic Development, NYU, Research Assistant.
2011 Asst. Coordinator for Innovations for Poverty Action, Uganda, “Evaluating Village Savings and Loan Associations in Uganda”. PIs: Dean Karlan, Bram Thuysbaert.
2010 Research Intern for Save the Children, Vietnam, “Expanding Access to Financial Services for Rural Low-Income Women”.
2008–2009 University of British Columbia, Research Assistant for Giovanni Gallipoli.

Conferences

2026	CEA (Vancouver), ESA Europe (Barcelona), SWET (Los Angeles).
2025	ASSA (San Francisco), CSAE (Oxford), ESA Asia-Pacific (Osaka), CLEF (Toronto), CEA (Montreal), EAEBE Workshop (Taiwan, participant).
2024	ESA Asia-Pacific (Singapore), CEA (Toronto), Novafrika Conference (Lisbon), PEJ (Faro), Behavioral Game Theory Workshop (Norwich).
2023	CIRANO Workshop (Montreal), TUM Workshop on Beliefs (Munich), IMEBESS (Lisbon), ESA North America (Charlotte), SEA Meetings (New Orleans).
2022	Novafrika Conference (Lisbon), PEJ (Terceira), ESA North America (Santa Barbara).
2021	CEA (Online; SFU), Workshop on Memory, Narratives and Belief Formation (Munich, participant).
2020	WGAPE Berlin (Online), Workshop on Subjective Expectations (Online).
2019	CSAE (Oxford), BRIQ Workshop on Beliefs (Bonn), WGAPE (Berlin, participant), IMEBESS (Utrecht), CEA (Calgary), NASMES (Seattle), ESA World (Vancouver), Bayesian Crowd Conference (Rotterdam), ECBE (San Diego), Lisbon Meetings (Lisbon).
2018	ECBE (Bergen, discussant), SEEDec (Wageningen), M-BEES (Maastricht), THEEM (Kreuzlingen), CSAE (Oxford), UECE Lisbon Meetings (Lisbon).
2017	UECE Lisbon (Lisbon), NYU CESS (New York), ESA Europe (Vienna), PEJ (Vila Real), ESA World (San Diego), THEEM (Kreuzlingen).
2016	UECE Lisbon (Lisbon), Advances with Field Experiments (Chicago), EEA (Geneva), GAMES (Maastricht), Novafrika Conference (Lisbon), PEJ (Coimbra), ASFEE (Cergy-Pontoise), IMEBESS (Rome), SMYE (Lisbon), RES Junior (Sussex).
2015	ESA Europe (Heidelberg), RES Post Graduate Meeting (London).
2014	ESA North America (Fort Lauderdale), ESA World (Honolulu).

Invited Seminars

2026	UC Santa Barbara, Loyola Marymount University, New York University, UC San Diego, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics.
2025	University of Exeter, University of Gothenburg, Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore, Hong Kong Baptist University, University of Macau.
2024	Queen's University, Nanyang Technological University, Monash University, University of Melbourne, UTS Sydney.
2023	McMaster University, Munich LMU.
2022	University of Michigan.
2021	FAIR NHH (online).
2018	WZB Berlin, SHUFE, NYU Shanghai, University of Amsterdam, University of Alicante, HEC Lausanne, University of Portsmouth.
2017	Catolica Porto, ICS - U Lisboa.
2015	Navarra Center for International Development.

Grants

2021	Aga Khan Development Network and FCT (Portugal), Co-PI (PI: Pedro Vicente), "Reducing maternal and infant mortality in Guinea-Bissau", 236,265 EUR .
2021	FCT (Portugal), Co-PI (PI: Sandra Maximiano), "Female representation and workplace dynamics: an experimental approach", 243,391 EUR .
2021	SSHRC Insight Development Grant, PI, "Motivated beliefs and racial discrimination", \$73,915 CAD .
2021	SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant, PI, "Incorporating traditional beliefs to improve maternal and child health outcomes in Guinea-Bissau", \$24,942 CAD .
2020	The British Academy, Co-PI (PI: Boon Han Koh), "The Signals We Give: Gender, Feedback, and Competition", 9,974 GBP .

2019	Faculty of Business & Law, Portsmouth University, Co-PI (PI: Zahra Murad), “Gender and Competition”, 5,000 GBP .
2018	Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (Portugal), Co-PI (PI: Pedro Vicente), “Belief Systems and Health Behaviors in Guinea Bissau”, 239,852 EUR .
2017	Hamburgische Wissenschaftliche Stiftung, Co-PI (with Leonie Gerhards and Zahra Murad), “Performance Beliefs and Allocation of Teamwork: An Experiment”.
2013	Russell Sage Foundation, PI, Project #98-14-06 “Belief Biases with Financial Stakes”.

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships

2009–2014	MacCracken Graduate Fellowship (NYU).
2009–2013	SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship (SSHRC Canada).
2008	Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship (Master’s level; SSHRC Canada), Tri-Council Recipient Recognition Award (Queen’s University).
2007	Joseph A Crumb Prize for Best Graduating Honors Economics Thesis (UBC), Dal Grauer Memorial Scholarship (UBC), Margaret Lawrence Scholarship in Arts (UBC), Trek Excellence Scholarship for Continuing Students (UBC), Summer Scholarship (UBC).

Service

2026	Major Awards Advisory Committee member (Schulich School of Business)
2021–Present	Committee for Equity and Community member (Schulich School of Business)
2019	Co-founder of Nova SBE Behavioral Lab
2018	Co-founder of Lisbon Micro Group
2018	Co-organizer of Lisbon Meeting on Economics and Political Science.
2016	Organizer of Beliefs and Decisions workshop, Nova SBE, Portugal.

Supervision (*Primary supervisor unless noted.*)

PhD

2020	Ana Garcia Hernandez.
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Master’s

2021	Tobias Tesing, Joana Vasconcelos (co-supervisor).
2020	Jiaming Liu, Marta Silva, Bernardo Silva, Carine Spellanzon.
2019	Miguel Castro, Daniela Sanches, Rita Silva, Annette Streicher.
2018	Robin Bohn, Joao Dias, Peter Dorfner, Xaver Schenker.
2017	Guilherme Roth, Hans Klimas.

Dissertation Committee Member / Examiner Roles

2025	Examining member for MA defense of Emily Drisdelle (York Faculty of Graduate Studies).
2024–2027	Member of Supervisory Committee for Şükran Dinç (York Faculty of Graduate Studies).
2023	Internal examiner for PhD defense of Andy Zhu (York Faculty of Graduate Studies).
2023	External examiner for PhD defense of Matilde Grácio (Nova SBE).
2022	External examiner for MLitt defense of Le Wu (University of Oxford).

Refereeing

American Economic Journal: Microeconomics, American Economic Review, American Economic Review: Insights, Binational Science Foundation (United States – Israel), Economics Letters, Economic Inquiry, Economic Journal, European Economic Review, European Political Science Review, Experimental Economics, Games and Economic Behavior, International Economic Review, International Journal of Health Economics and Management, Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, Journal of Economic Psychology, Journal of Economic Theory, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Risk and Uncertainty, Management Science, National Science Foundation (NSF), Portuguese Economic Journal, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Financial Studies, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), World Bank Economic Review.

Publications

1. Coutts, A., Koh, B.H., and Murad, Z., 2026. *The signals we give: Gender, feedback, and competition.* **Management Science**.
2. Coutts, A., Gerhards, L., and Murad, Z., 2024. *What to blame? Self-serving attribution bias with multi-dimensional uncertainty.* **Economic Journal**, 134(661), pp. 1835-1874.
3. Coutts, A., 2024. *The Age of Consequences: Unraveling Conflict's Impact on Social Preferences, Norm Enforcement, and Risk-Taking.* **Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization**, 218, pp. 48-67.
4. Armand, A., Coutts, A., Vicente, P. and Vilela, I., 2023. *Measuring corruption in the field using behavioral games.* **Journal of Public Economics**, 218, pp. 104799.
5. Coutts, A., 2022. *Identifying communication spillovers in lab in the field experiments.* **Journal of Development Economics**, 157(6), pp. 102845.
6. Armand, A., Coutts, A., Vicente, P. and Vilela, I., 2020. *Does Information Break the Political Resource Curse? Experimental Evidence from Mozambique.* **American Economic Review**, 110(11), pp. 3431-53.
7. Coutts, A., 2019. *Good news and bad news are still news: Experimental evidence on belief updating.* **Experimental Economics**, 22(2), pp. 369-395.
 Winner of Editor's Award: for the best paper published in Experimental Economics for the year 2019 
8. Coutts, A., 2019. *Testing models of belief bias: An experiment.* **Games and Economic Behavior**, 113, pp. 549-565.

Publications as member of Crowd-Sourced Research Projects

Fišar, M., Greiner, B., Huber, C., Katok, E., Ozkes, A. I., & Management Science Reproducibility Collaboration, 2024. *Reproducibility in management science.* **Management Science**, 70(3), pp.1343-1356.

Working Papers

Probabilistic Beliefs, Choice Reversals, and Commitment [Joint with Séverine Toussaert]

Gender Visibility, Credit, and the Choice to Collaborate [Joint with Şükran Dinç]

Belief Systems and Health Behaviors in Guinea-Bissau [Joint with Teresa Molina-Millán, Brais Álvarez Pereira, and Pedro Vicente]

Belief elicitation under ambiguity [Joint with Christoph Drobner, Boon Han Koh, and Chris Woolnough]

High stakes, more mistakes? Belief elicitation and incentives. [Joint with Christoph Drobner, Boon Han Koh, and Chris Woolnough]

How robust is overconfidence? [Joint with Miguel Costa-Gomes]

Racial bias around the world.

Last updated: September 2026