

# Alistair Cameron

*Applied (experimental) microeconomist, occasional theorist*

*"This is our crusade"  
– Robin Hood*

## Publications

2021 **Peer monitoring & Islamic microfinance.** Cameron, Oak & Shan.

Journal of Economic Behavior & Organisation

We explore Shari'ah compliant, profit-loss-sharing microfinance contracts. We show that these contracts offer better insurance for borrowers, but also increase incentives for strategic default. We then introduce a novel mechanism to limit strategic default. This mechanism is joint liability in truthfully reporting realised profits as a way for the MFI to leverage private (local) information. When local knowledge is sufficiently high, we show PLS contracts, with our new mechanism, can outperform interest-bearing loans.

## PhD Thesis: On Inequality and Identity

2021–  
mid 2024 Very fortunate to be supervised by Pushkar Maitra, Lata Gangadaran and Paulo Santos.  
Monash University, visiting GATE-LSE in 2023-24.

Chapter One **On the Origins of Misogyny.** Cameron, Gangadaran, Maitra and Santos.

We gather a large dataset of potential, exogenous historical determinants of contemporary misogyny (preference for gender equality) and use machine learning techniques to identify those which best explain misogyny. Once these are identified, we explain why these are the most important. Working paper available on request.

Chapter Two **Inequality Aversion & Crowding Out.** Cameron, Gangadaran, Maitra, Santos & Joe Vecci  
We conducted a large, cross country online experiment in September through December 2022. Within treatments, we varied inequality levels between subjects. Across treatments we varied the way experimental income was redistributed between the rich and poor. Then, in an extended dictator game, we find no crowding out of either pro- or anti- social payments between subjects, irrespective of country, or of redistribution policy. Structural estimates show inequality aversion does not differ between treatments, likely explaining why we see no crowding out. Working paper available on request.

Chapt. Three **Risk Aversion across the Lifecycle.** Romain Viry, Dauid Smerdon and Pushkar Maitra.  
Using a new, more granular measure of risk based on opening moves players make in chess games, and millions of games across decades and numerous countries, we profile risk preferences over the life cycle and across countries.

## Prior Education

2014–2016 **Bachelor of International Development,** *Adelaide Uni.*

2015–2016 **Bachelor of Economics,** *Adelaide Uni.*

2016 **Erasmus exchange,** *Strasbourg Uni.*

2017 **Honours of Economics,** *Adelaide Uni,* First Class.

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## Selected Work Experience

- 2014–2017 **Youth Worker**, WILTJA BOARDING, DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION, Adelaide, Australia.  
Worked as part of a team of youth workers to provide a safe, supporting boarding facility for Indigenous Australian students attending high school in Adelaide.
- 2018–2019 **Economist**, RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA, Sydney, Australia.  
Contract clauses restrict what can be discussed. Analysed, interpreted large datasets to help paint a picture of the Australian economy.
- 2019–2020 **Microfinance Officer**, HEARTS FOR HUE (H4H), Hue, Viet Nam.  
Funded through the Australian government's Australian Volunteers Programme, I worked in a "capacity development" role at this fantastic grassroots NGO. My two contributions were *i*) setting up an interview with Vinh, H4H's volunteer-extraordinaire, and CKC (another great, local NGO), and *ii*) helping Vy, a brilliant H4H colleague win a scholarship to do postgrad study in Adelaide. These two are the future NGO leaders in Hue.
- 2017, 2020, 2022, 2023 **Teaching Assistant**, ADELAIDE AND MONASH UNIVERSITIES.  
Taught undergraduate and postgraduate units including Game Theory II; Managerial Economics II; Money, Banking and Financial Markets III, Internet Economics III, Project Evaluation IV and the economics programme's capstone course.  
My teaching philosophy is to create a "chilled" environment that maximises student engagement and critical thought. Student evaluations consistently > 95%.

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## Scholarships and Grants

- 2021–present RTP scholarship, Department of Education, Australian Government
- 2021–present Dean's Excellence Award, Monash Business School
- 2022 Monash Business School Research Support Grant: \$14,400
- 2023 Monash Business School International Research Award: \$4,200
- 2023 Monash Graduate Research Office Travel Grant: \$2,200

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## Languages & Packages

### Spoken

French Conversationally fluent (willing to interview in French or English).

### Programming

Python, R,  $\LaTeX$ , Stata Strong preference for open source languages.

MySQL, JavaScript, HTML, CSS Have *dabbled* with these for various projects.

### Packages

creeps Calling beta-testers! creeps takes a .bib file, runs it against a database of academics penalised by their institution for sexual misconduct, highlights entries in bibliographies with matches.

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## Academic Presentations & Commentary

- Presentations 2023: Asia Pacific Economic and Business History Conference; European ESA Meeting in Exeter; GATE external speaker seminar; ASFEE Graduate Meeting (upcoming);
- Commentary I4R Discussion Paper Series #50. A comment on Jumping the Gun: How Dictators Got Ahead of their Subjects (Hariri & Wingender, 2023). With Sharmi Sen and Adit Maitra.

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## Interests

- Chess Australian U16 champion 2011; Australian U18 champion 2012; South Australian champion 2012
- Frisbee Most *stylish* player – Monash Uni Frisbee Club 2021

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