Farhang Shamsoddin

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Profile

Economist specializing in industrial organization, antitrust, and applied econometrics, with direct experience quantifying cartel damages, market power, and merger effects using structural and reduced-form methods. Core research develops a nonparametric auction model of bid rigging in public procurement and a structural model of productivity and market power in U.S. manufacturing; additional co-authored work applies causal machine learning to data-driven mergers in digital advertising. Prior collaboration with the Competition Bureau of Canada on empirical measures of market competition.

Education

Ph.D., Economics *2026*
Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto
Fields: Industrial organization, applied econometrics, competition policy.

M.A., Economics *2018*
Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran
Ranked 1st in cohort; "Distinguished Student of the Year."

B.Sc., Mechanical Engineering *2016*
Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran

CRESSE Summer School on Competition and Regulation (2021) — advanced coursework in antitrust economics, industrial organization, and empirical methods for competition policy.

Skills

Software: Stata, Python, MATLAB, C++
Econometric & Empirical Methods: Nonparametric auction estimation (GPV), structural estimation, difference-in-differences, panel data / fixed effects, instrumental variables, damages and merger simulation, causal machine learning (causal forests)

Research Experience

"The Misallocation Costs of Bid Rigging: Evidence from Montreal Asphalt Procurement Auctions" *2026*
- Estimated firm-specific cost distributions using a nonparametric auction framework (Guerre-Perrigne-Vuong) applied to a real bid-rigging cartel in Montreal's asphalt procurement market. - Simulated competitive counterfactual outcomes to quantify the cartel's price overcharge (24%) and decompose it into misallocation and markup effects, finding that misallocation of contracts toward higher-cost firms — not reduced price competition — was the primary channel of harm to public buyers.

"Heterogeneity, Productivity and Reallocation: Evidence from the U.S. Cement Industry" *2026*
- Developed a structural spatial-Cournot model to estimate plant-level productivity and market power in the U.S. Portland cement industry, using Simulated Method of Moments (SMM). - Decomposed productivity dispersion into observed and unobserved components and simulated the reallocation effects of a counterfactual carbon tax.

"Should We Share Our Cookies? The Effect of Data on Match Quality in Online Advertising" (with M. Akhbari) *2024*
- Co-authored study using causal forests and quasi-random ad allocation to estimate heterogeneous click-through rates across 1.6 million users. - Finds that data-driven platform mergers improve match quality by 14–25%, while platform breakups reduce it by 12–20%, with most gains attributable to increased data volume rather than richer user observables — evidence relevant to antitrust review of data-intensive mergers.

Professional Experience

Competition Bureau of Canada Research Project, University of Toronto *Apr 2022 – May 2023*
- Contributed to a University of Toronto research team that assisted the Competition Bureau of Canada with data analysis, interpretation, and writing on *"Competition in Canada from 2000 to 2020: An Economy at a Crossroads,"* a non-peer-reviewed report using Statistics Canada administrative firm-level data (NALMF).

Teaching Assistant, University of Toronto & Sharif University of Technology *2016 – 2024*
- Supported graduate and undergraduate courses in Industrial Organization, Game Theory, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, and Strategic Management.

Honors and Awards

University of Toronto Doctoral Fellowship (full funding)
University of Toronto Faculty Research Traineeship, 2024
Distinguished Student of the Year & Ranked 1st, Economics M.A. Cohort, Sharif University of Technology, 2018
Member, Iran's National Elites Foundation, 2017
2nd Place, National Economics Graduate Entrance Exam, Iran, 2016
Ranked 150th among 250,000+ candidates, Iranian National University Entrance Examination (Konkur), 2012; Silver Medal, National Olympiad in Physics, Iran, 2010