

ÁLVARO PARRA

CONTACT INFORMATION

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Microeconomic Theory, Industrial Organization, Competition Policy, and Strategy

EMPLOYMENT

Dalhousie University, Department of Economics

Assistant Professor, 2024 - present

University of British Columbia, Sauder School of Business

Assistant Professor, 2013 - 2024

EDUCATION

Northwestern University

Ph.D. in Economics, June 2013 , Advisor: [Michael Whinston](#)

M.A. Economics, June 2008

Pontificia Univeridad Católica de Chile

M.A. Financial Economics, June 2007

B.A. Business Economics, June 2006

PUBLISHED OR FORTHCOMING PAPERS

7. "Optimal Insurance Contracts under Moral Hazard" with [Ralph Winter](#)
Handbook of Insurance: Vol. II, 2025, pp. 129–164. Springer
6. "Monopsony Power and Upstream Innovation" with [Guillermo Marshall](#)
Journal of Industrial Economics, Vol. 72(2), June 2024, pp. 1005–1020
5. "Equilibrium Uniqueness in Entry Games with Private Information" with [J.A. Espin-Sanchez](#) & Y. Wang
RAND Journal of Economics, Vol. 54(3), August 2023, pp.512–540
4. "Early-Stage Venture Financing," with [Ralph Winter](#)
Journal of Corporate Finance, Vol. 77, December 2022: 102291
3. "Announcing High Prices to Deter Innovation," with [Guillermo Marshall](#)
Management Science, Vol. 67(4), April 2021, pp. 2448–2465
2. "Sequential Innovation, Patent Policy, and the Dynamics of the Replacement Effect"
RAND Journal of Economics, Vol 50(4), September 2019, 568–590
1. "Innovation and Competition: The Role of Product Market Competition," with [Guillermo Marshall](#)
International Journal of Industrial Organization, Vol 65, July 2019, 221–247
Recipient of the International Journal of Industrial Organization Best Paper Award 2019.

WORKING PAPERS

- "On the Interaction between Patent Screening and its Enforcement," with [Gerard Llobet](#) & [Javier Suarez](#) [*Revised and Re-submitted*]
- "Efficiency in Second Price Auctions with Participation Costs," with [José Antonio Espin-Sanchez](#)
- "Health Insurance Markets with Endogenous Risks," with [Vitor Farinha Luz](#)
- "Mergers in Innovative Industries: A Dynamic Framework," with [Guillermo Marshall](#)
- "Second Price Auctions with Participation Costs," with [José Antonio Espin-Sanchez](#) & Yuzhou Wang
- "When to license Sequential Inventions"

WORK IN PROGRESS

- "Equilibrium Existence and Uniqueness of Pricing Games with Scope" joint with [Scott Orr](#)
- "Herculean Equilibrium and Risk Dominance" joint with [José Espin-Sanchez](#)
- "Carbon Tax, Competition and Abatement " joint with [Guillermo Marshall](#)
- "Location, Spillovers, and Patent Races"

GRANTS

- Insight Grant, SSHRC, 2025 (130k – Co-applicant)
- Insight Development Grant, SSHRC, 2023 (56k)
- Sauder's Exploratory Grant, 2022 (4.5k)
- Bureau of Asset Management: P-H and North Centre for Financial Research Grant, 2020 (6k)
- Insight Development Grant, SSHRC, 2018 (52k)
- Sauder's Dean's Office Grant, 2016 (15k)
- UBC Hampton Research Fund, 2016 (2.5k)
- Sauder's Dean's Office Grant, 2015 (10k)
- UBC Bridge Funding, 2015 (2.5k)
- Sauder's Exploratory Grant, 2014 (7.5k)
- Sauder's Start-up Grant, 2013 (25k)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Bachelor of International Economics, 2024's Cohort Best Course award for COEC 491
- International Journal of Industrial Organization Best Paper Award 2019
- Nominated to the Killam Teaching Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, 2018 & 2019
- Northwestern University, Center of Economic Theory 2011 & 2012
- Northwestern University, Teaching Assistant Fellow, 2011-12
- Northwestern University, Economics Distinguished Teaching Assistant 2011-12 and 2008-09
- Northwestern University, University Fellowship 2007
- Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Distinguished Master Thesis 2006

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

- 2025** Canadian Economic Association, Montreal
- 2024** Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC), Universidad de Chile ; Universidad Andrés Bello; Universidad Diego Portales; Université Laval; ENSAI; University of Padova; Università di Bologna; FGV (Sao Paulo); Clemson University; Dalhousie University; Universidad de los Andes, Chile; 25th IOSC conference (Whinston's Fest), PUC Alumni Conference

2023 University of Manitoba; University of Essex; University of Nottingham; OECD, [Roundtable on the relationship between competition and innovation](#); Canadian Economic Association, Winnipeg; UBC, Sauder School of Business; UBC, Vancouver School of Economics

2022 Canadian Economic Association, Ottawa; UBC, Sauder School of Business

2021 ZEW; North American Econometric Society, Montreal; UBC, Sauder School of Business; UBC, Vancouver School of Economics

2016–2020 Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (x2); Canadian Economic Association, Banff; Econometric Society, Seattle; UBC Sauder School of Business (x2); TOI Chile (canceled due to social unrest); UC Davis; CEMFI; Texas A&M; Searle Center/USPTO Conference on Innovation Economics; FTC's 9th Microeconomic Conference; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; IIOC, Boston; Canadian Economic Association, Toronto.

2015 or before Yale; Canadian Economic Association, Vancouver; IIOC, Boston; CRESSE; Econometric Society World Congress, Montreal; Canadian Economic Association, Toronto; UBC-HKU Summer Theory Conference; UBC, Sauder School of Business (x3); UBC, Vancouver School of Economics; TOI, Viña del Mar; FTC's 7th Microeconomic Conference; Econometric Society Latin American Meeting; Econometric Society European Summer Meeting, Gothenburg; TOI, Zapallar; IESE; University of Washington; Mannheim University; Bates and White; Summer Meeting Econometric Society, Evanston; Northwestern University (Student Job Market Seminar, Theory Lunch (x2), Theory Seminar, IO Seminar), Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee Experience

Econometrica, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, RAND Journal of Economics, Journal of European Economic Association, AEJ: Microeconomics, AEJ: Macroeconomics, AEJ: Economic Policy, AER: Insights, The Economic Journal, Journal of Economic Theory, Games and Economic Behavior, Management Science, International Economic Review, Review of Financial Studies, International Journal of Industrial Organization, Journal of Industrial Economics, Journal of Economics and Management Strategy, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, Journal of Economics Dynamics and Control, International Journal of Game Theory, Journal of Public Economic Theory, The BE Journal of Theoretical Economics, Mathematical Social Sciences, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Bulletin of Economic Research, Journal of Legal Studies, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, NSF, FONDECIT Chile.

Conference Organization

2022 - 34th UBC Summer IO Conference, Organizer

2021 - 34th UBC Summer IO Conference, Organizer

2017 - Canadian Conference of Economic Theory, Organizing Committee

2016–2019 UBC Summer IO Conference, Organizing Committee

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Dalhousie University 2024- present

Undergraduate: Industrial Organization (ECON 3319), Intermediate Microeconomics (ECON 2200)

Graduate: Microeconomic Theory (ECON 5509)

Instructor, Sauder School of Business, UBC, 2014-2024

Undergraduate: Strategic Management (COMM 491, COEC 491 & COMR 493)

Nominated twice to the Killam Teaching Award for excellence in undergraduate teaching

Bachelor of International Economics, 2024's Cohort Best Course award for COEC 491

Graduate: Business Strategy (BASM 501 for MBA and MM 550 for MA students)

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, 2008-12

Graduate: Microeconomic Theory 410-2 (3 times), 410-3 (x2).

Undergraduate: Industrial Economics, Competition Monopoly and Public policy (x2), Intermediate Microeconomics 310-2 (x2)

Teaching Assistant, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, 2002-07 (in Spanish)

Graduate: Microeconomics, Mathematical Economics, Financial Economics (x2)

Undergraduate: Introduction to Economics (x2), Intermediate Microeconomics I (x2), Intermediate Microeconomics II (x2), Intermediate Macroeconomics, and Industrial Organization (x2).

MBA: Introduction to Economics (x2)

STUDENT SUPERVISION

Ernest Owusu-Ansah (DAL) – Master Thesis supervisor

Chenyang Yang (UBC)– Committee Member: Singapore Management University, School of Economics.

Navid Siami (UBC) – Committee Member: Theory + Practice

Zining Liu (UBC)– Ph.D. Summer Paper Advisor

OTHER INFORMATION

Chilean/Canadian · married to Javiera Pumarino · father of Lucía & Sofía · June 9th, 1983

Languages: Spanish (native) · English · German & French (embarrassingly basic)

Interests: Guitar · Music · Chess · Books · Windsurf · Woodworking · Golf

June 25, 2025