

ALESSANDRA CASSAR

Curriculum Vitae

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ADDRESS:

University of San Francisco
Department of Economics
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

2015- present Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, University of San Francisco

2009-2015 Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of San Francisco

2003-2008 Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of San Francisco

2001-2003 University of California Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Economics, University of California, Santa Cruz

OTHER APPOINTMENTS:

2022-present Associate Editor for European Economic Review

2022-present Vice President of North America Economic Science Association (ESA)

2019-present Faculty affiliate at Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA), University of California at Berkeley

2018-present Research Affiliate at Economic Science Institute, Chapman University

2018-present Director of Econ Lab Without Borders

2020-present NSF Panelist

2017-2019 Member of the Executive Committee of the Economic Science Association (ESA)

2003-2013 LEEPS Lab. (Learning and Experimental Economics Projects of Santa Cruz), University of California, Santa Cruz

EDUCATION:

| <i>Degree</i> | <i>Field</i> | <i>Institution</i> | <i>Year</i> |
|---------------|---------------------------|---|-------------|
| Ph.D. | International Economics | University of California, Santa Cruz | 2001 |
| M.S. | Applied Econ. and Finance | University of California, Santa Cruz | 1998 |
| M.A. | Economics | Universita' Bocconi, Milano, Italy | 1996 |
| B.A. | Economics | Universita' degli Studi di Parma, Italy | 1995 |

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- ◆ Laboratory and field experiments
- ◆ Evolutionary origins of preferences
- ◆ Preferences and their role in development
- ◆ Gender – maternal strategies
- ◆ Effects of wars and natural disasters on behavior
- ◆ Networks and social capital
- ◆ Microfinance and saving

RESEARCH

JOURNAL ARTICLES:

- ◆ “Sustaining the potential for cooperation as female competitive strategy.” Alessandra Cassar and Mary L. Rigdon. *Philosophical Transactions B*. Forthcoming.
- ◆ “Staying alive includes adaptations for catalyzing cooperation.” Alessandra Cassar. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, Volume 45 , e133, 2022.
- ◆ “The competitive woman: Evolutionary insights and cross-cultural evidence into finding the *Femina Economica*.” Alessandra Cassar & Y. Jane Zhang. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, Volume 197, Pages 447-471, 2022.
- ◆ Prosocial option increases women’s entry into competition. Alessandra Cassar and Mary L. Rigdon. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 118 (45), Nov 2021.
- ◆ “Option to Cooperate Increases Women's Competitiveness and Closes the Gender Gap.” Alessandra Cassar & Mary Rigdon. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, Volume 42, Issue 6, Pages 556-572, November 2021.
- ◆ “Raising Achievement Among Microentrepreneurs: An Experimental Test of Goals, Incentives, and Support Groups in Medellin, Colombia”. Paulina Aguinaga, Alessandra Cassar, Jennifer Graham, Lauren Skora, and Bruce Wydick. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, Vol. 161, Pages 79-97, 2019.
- ◆ “War Increases Religiosity”. Joseph Henrich, Michal Bauer, Alessandra Cassar, Julie Chytilová, & Benjamin Grant Purzycki. *Nature Human Behaviour*, Vol. 3, 129–135, 2019.
- ◆ “Financial Exclusion in Developed Countries: a Field Experiment Among Migrants and Low-income People in Italy”. Giorgia Barboni, Alessandra Cassar, Timothee Demont. *Journal of Behavioral Economics for Policy*, Vol. 1, No. 2, 39-49, 2017.
- ◆ “Trust, Risk, and Time Preferences After a Natural Disaster: Experimental Evidence from Thailand”. Alessandra Cassar, Andrew Healy and Carl von Kessler. *World Development*, Vol. 94, pp. 90–105, 2017.
- ◆ “Competing for the Benefit of Offspring Eliminates the Gender Gap in Competitiveness”. Alessandra Cassar, Feven Wordofa, and Y. Jane Zhang. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, PNAS*: May 10, 2016, vol. 113, no. 19, 5201-5205.

- ◆ “Institutional Quality, Culture, and Norms of Cooperation: Experimental Evidence from Italy and Kosovo”. Alessandra Cassar, Giovanna D’Adda and Pauline Grosjean. Forthcoming, *Journal of Law and Economics*, Vol. 57, 2014.
- ◆ “War’s Enduring Effects on the Development of Egalitarian Motivations and In-group Biases.” Michal Bauer, Alessandra Cassar, Julie Chytilová and Joseph Henrich. *Psychological Science*, Vol. 25(1) 47–57, 2014.
- ◆ “Do Risky Borrowers Really Invest in Risky Projects? A Test of Stiglitz and Weiss with Bolivian Microfinance.” Alessandra Cassar, Bruce Wydick and Eliana Zeballos. *The Journal of Development Studies*, Vol. 50(2) 276–287, 2014.
- ◆ “Legacies of Violence: Trust and Market Development.” Alessandra Cassar, Pauline Grosjean and Sam Whitt. *Journal of Economic Growth*, Vol. 18 285–318, 2013.
- ◆ “Social Preferences of Ex-Combatants: Survey and Experimental Evidence from Postwar Tajikistan.” Alessandra Cassar, Pauline Grosjean and Sam Whitt. Forthcoming in: *The Economics of Conflict: Theory and Empirical Evidence*, edited by Karl Wärneryd, MIT Press, 2013.
- ◆ “Adverse Selection and Moral Hazard in Joint Liability Loan Contracts: Evidence from an Artefactual Field Experiment.” Giorgia Barboni, Alessandra Cassar, Arturo Rodriguez Trejo and Bruce Wydick. *Journal of Economics and Management*. Vol. 9(2), 2013.
- ◆ “Trust and Trustworthiness in Networked Exchange.” Alessandra Cassar and Mary Rigdon. *Games and Economic Behavior*, Vol. 71(2) 282–303, 2011.
- ◆ “A Laboratory Investigation of Networked Markets.” Alessandra Cassar, Daniel Friedman and Patricia Higinio Schneider. *The Economic Journal*, Vol. 120, Issue 547, 919–943, 2010.
- ◆ “Does Social Capital Matter? Evidence from a Five-Country Group Lending Experiment”. Alessandra Cassar and Bruce Wydick. *Oxford Economic Papers*, Vol. 62(4) 715-739, 2010.
- ◆ “Cheating in Markets: A Laboratory Investigation.” Alessandra Cassar, Daniel Friedman and Patricia Higinio Schneider. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, Vol. 72(1) 240-259, 2009.
- ◆ “Spillovers and Growth in a Local Interaction Model.” Alessandra Cassar and Rosella Nicolini. *The Annals of Regional Science*, Vol. 42(2), 2008.
- ◆ “The Effect of Social Capital on Group Loan Repayment: Evidence from Field Experiments.” Alessandra Cassar, Lucas Crowley and Bruce Wydick. *The Economic Journal*, Vol. 117, Issue 517, F85, 2007.
- ◆ “Coordination and Cooperation in Local, Random and Small World Networks: Experimental Evidence.” Alessandra Cassar. *Games and Economic Behavior*, Vol. 58(2) 209-230, 2007.
- ◆ “Contagion of Financial Crises under Local and Global Networks.” Alessandra Cassar and Nigel Duffy. In *Agent-Based Methods in Economics and Finance: Simulations in Swarm*, edited by Francesco Luna and Alessandro Perrone, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2001.

BOOK:

- ◆ *Economics Lab: An Intensive Course in Experimental Economics* - by Daniel Friedman and Alessandra Cassar with contributions from Reinhard Selten and others. Routledge Advances in Experimental & Computable Economics, Routledge, 2004.

BOOKS CHAPTERS:

- ◆ “Gender, Behavior, and Women’s Economic Empowerment”. CGD Paper. Washington, DC: Center for Global Development. Alessandra Cassar and Elizabeth Katz. 2016.
- ◆ “Violence, Conflict-Related.” Alessandra Cassar, Pauline Grosjean and Sam Whitt. Forthcoming, *Encyclopedia of Law and Economics* edited by Jürgen Backhaus. id: 438460.
- ◆ “Contagion of Financial Crises under Local and Global Networks.” Alessandra Cassar and Nigel Duffy. In *Agent-Based Methods in Economics and Finance: Simulations in Swarm*, edited by Francesco Luna and Alessandro Perrone, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2001.

GRANTS:

- ◆ 2019-2022. 3-year grant from the NSF (National Science Foundation) grant titled: “Gender Differences in Willingness to Compete – Incentive Mechanism Effects” in collaboration with Mary Rigdon.
- ◆ 2018. Charles Koch Foundation grant titled: “Does Access to Improved Menstruation Technology (Reusable Pads) Affect Female Outcomes?” to support fieldwork in Sierra Leone.
- ◆ 2017. Charles Koch Foundation grant titled: “Improvement in Sanitary Products for Menstruation and Female Outcomes” to support fieldwork in Nepal.
- ◆ 2016. Charles Koch Foundation grant titled: “Improving Education in Disadvantaged Communities and Decreasing the Gender Gap” to support fieldwork in Colombia, Bosnia, and Togo.
- ◆ 2013. Levis Strauss Foundation grant for the project: “Financial Inclusion in a Developed Country: An Experiment about Formal Savings in Italy.”
- ◆ 2012. Charles Koch Foundation grant to support students’ research for a project in Zimbabwe and Zambia titled: “Managing Risk through Social Networks in Zimbabwe.”
- ◆ 2011. Grant from Title VIII/Department of State, Bureau of Intelligence and Research for the project: “Culture, Institutions and Economic Exchange: Experimental evidence from Kosovo” in collaboration with Pauline Grosjean.
- ◆ 2010. Grant from Title VIII/Department of State, Bureau of Intelligence and Research for “Democracy, Violence, Trust and Economic Preferences: An Empirical Investigation in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan” in collaboration with Pauline Grosjean.

- ◆ 2004-2008. Grant from the NSF (National Science Foundation) for “A Laboratory Investigation of Networked Markets.” Alessandra Cassar, Daniel Friedman and Patricia Higinio Schneider.
- ◆ REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) supplemental funds from National Science Foundation to support undergraduate students.
- ◆ 2004 – present. Funds from the University of San Francisco Faculty Development Funds.
- ◆ 2002. Grant from University of California, Santa Cruz for experiments on Social Networks in International Trade.
- ◆ 1998-1999. STAR and GSA research grant from University of California, Santa Cruz for experiments on Cooperation and Coordination with Local Interactions.

MISCELLANEA:

- ◆ “An Electronic Calendar Auction.” Alessandra Cassar and Daniel Friedman. White Paper commissioned by OneDayFree, 2000.
- ◆ *Modelli Teorici e Testi Empirici della Relazione tra Tassi di Cambio e Prezzi all'Esportazione.* Alessandra Cassar. 1996 Prize “Luigi Casati” by Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei for Best Undergraduate Thesis.

DISSERTATION:

Title: *Local, Random, and Small-World Networks: Economic Consequences for Coordination, Cooperation, and Contagion.* September 2001. Principal Advisor: Professor Daniel Friedman.

SUMMER SCHOOLS:

- ◆ CEBEX Summer School on Behavioral Sciences, 2020, 2021. Invited Lecturer.
- ◆ Santa Fe’ Institute Summer Graduate Workshop. Summer 2010 - Invited lecturer at the Santa Fe’ Institute Summer Graduate Workshop (on experimental methods and research on warfare and social preferences in children).
- ◆ Trento Summer School. Assistant lecturer at the Second Trento Summer School: Intensive Course in Experimental Economics. University of Trento, Italy, Summer 2001.
- ◆ Santa Fe’ Institute. 1999 Summer School in Computational Economics. Project: “Simulating Financial Crises in Local-Interactions Models of Artificial Economies.”

REVIEWER:

American Economic Review; American Journal of Agricultural Economics; British Journal of Political Science; Computational & Mathematical Organization Theory; Conflict Management and Peace Science; Econometrica; Economic Development and Cultural Change; Experimental Economics; European Economic Review; Economic Inquiry; Economic Journal; Evolutionary Human Science; Evolution and Human Behavior; Games and Economic Behavior; Journal of

Artificial Societies and Social Simulation; Journal of Business, Economics and Finance; Journal of Comparative Economics; Journal of Conflict Resolution; Journal of Development Studies; Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization; Journal of the European Economic Association; Journal of Human Resources; Journal of International Economics; Journal of Legal Studies; Journal of Economic Geography; Journal of African Economies; Journal of Public Economics; Management Science; Nature; National Science Foundation; Oxford Economic Papers; PLOS One; Review of Economic Studies; Southern Economic Journal; Social Networks; World Bank Economic Review; World Development.

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS AND HONORS:

- ◆ Dean Turpin Award for undergraduate research;
- ◆ University of California Postdoctoral Faculty Fellowship, June 2001 - June 2003;
- ◆ Fellowship “Romeo and Enrica Invernizzi Foundation,” 1996;
- ◆ First Prize “Luigi Casati” for Best Undergraduate Thesis by Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome, 1996;
- ◆ Fellowship from “Universita’ degli Studi di Parma,” 1995;
- ◆ Fellowship “O.N.A.O.S.I.,” 1996-2000.

TEACHING**COURSES TAUGHT AT UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO:**

- ◆ Graduate Seminar
- ◆ Economics as an Experimental Science
- ◆ Principles of Macroeconomics
- ◆ Economic Methods
- ◆ Mathematics for Economists

COURSES TAUGHT AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ:

- ◆ Economics and Management of Technology and Innovation
- ◆ Advanced Quantitative Methods
- ◆ Applied Econometric Analysis I

THESIS ADVISING:

Thesis advisor of:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Project</u> | <u>Country</u> |
|----------------------|--|-----------------|
| Lauren Lamson | Preferences in Matrilocal & Patrilocal | Solomon Islands |
| Myrtille Genot | Preferences in Matrilocal & Patrilocal | Solomon Islands |
| Bethany Gerdermann | Preferences in Polygyny & Monogamy | Sierra Leone |
| Ashwini Shridhar | Menstruation management | Sierra Leone |
| Madison Levine | Menstruation management | Sierra Leone |
| Okkar Mandalay | Gender risk gap | Myanmar |
| Nneoma Nwobilor | Women empowerment program | Nigeria |
| Imuetinyan Aiguwuhuo | Women empowerment program | Nigeria |
| Emeka Ugwu | Maternal health and social networks | Uganda |
| Anjali Limbu | Menstruation management | Nepal |
| Theodore Wisinski | School incentives | Colombia |
| Daniel Salicath | School incentives | Colombia |
| Aminata Cissokho | Female competitiveness | Togo |
| Miranda Lambert | Female competitiveness | Colombia |
| Boris Jokic | Female competitiveness | Bosnia |
| Elnaz Safarha | School incentives for street children | Iran |
| Mwape Chalansi | Social networks & schooling | Zambia |
| Tobias Sytsma | Genetic markers risk tolerance | Bangladesh |
| Feven Wordofa | Gender difference in competition | China |
| Stephanie Chou | Gender difference in competition | China |
| Yilin Gao | Gender difference in competition | China |
| Jennifer Graham | Group & incentives for poverty reduction | Colombia |
| Paulina Aguinaga | Group & incentives for poverty reduction | Colombia |
| Lauren Skora | Group & incentives for poverty reduction | Colombia |
| Daniel McKay | Mafia & entrepreneurship | Italy |
| Bem Andzenge | Governance & trust | Italy |
| James Boyle | Income redistribution | Kosovo |
| Kyle Martin | Conflict & trust | Kosovo |
| Nicholas Weiss | Trust | Kosovo |
| Travis Wiggans | Markets | Kosovo |

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|-------------------|--|----------------|
| Alexandra Gosh | Civil war & trust | Tajikistan |
| Lexi Russell | Civil war & trust | Tajikistan |
| Deanna Karapetyan | Civil war & social preferences | Sierra Leone |
| Priyanka Talwar | Civil war & social preferences | Sierra Leone |
| Nathan Cutler | Micro-health insurance | Cambodia |
| Greg Donheiser | Micro-health insurance | Cambodia |
| Frank Hoffman | Micro-health insurance | Cambodia |
| Patrick Madigan | Micro-health insurance | Cambodia |
| Joshua Holtrust | Natural disaster & trust preferences | Thailand |
| Carl von Kessler | Natural disaster & risk time preferences | Thailand |
| Tuan Anh Phan | Natural disaster & risk preferences | Thailand |
| Bassel Zinaty | Natural disaster & time preferences | Thailand |
| Eliana Zeballos | Microfinance | Bolivia |
| Arturo Rodriguez | Microfinance | Bolivia |
| Jean Paul Petraud | Microfinance | India |
| Luke Crowley | Microfinance | Armenia |
| David M. Thompson | Microfinance | Guatemala |
| Oliver J. Trimiew | Microfinance | Kenya |
| Il Hong Yoo | Microfinance | Philippines |
| Gaute Farner | Female education | Egypt |
| Carolina Herrera | Displacement | South Africa |
| Katie Hubner | Rawls in field exp. | India & Panama |
| Leonard Kang | Trust games and group lending | Philippines |
| Rohit Kapuria | Governance | Nigeria |
| Lukas Musil | Subsidized housing | Czech Republic |
| Javier S. Ortiz | Corruption and stealing | Columbia |
| Rede Shifferaw | Medical doctors' brain drain | Ethiopia |
| Jessica Varney | Yield insurance | Peru |
| Jessica Zuzik | Children & Violence | Burkina Faso |
| Andrea Calabria | Regional growth | Italy |

SERVICE

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS:

- ◆ Director of M.S. IDEC (Master of Science in International and Development Economics);
- ◆ Organizer of the Economic Department Seminar Series, 2006-2019;
- ◆ Member of the Economic Faculty Search Committee in 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2013-2014, 2016-2017;
- ◆ Organizer of IDEC Oral Defenses, 2012-present;
- ◆ Reviewer for IDEC program, 2008-present;
- ◆ Contributor to external review document for the WASC accreditation process, 2013-2014;
- ◆ Co-coordinator for the drafting of the Department of Economics learning outcomes for the WASC accreditation process, 2004-2005;
- ◆ Faculty mentor to Asst. Prof. Jesse Anttila-Hughes, 2012-present;
- ◆ Faculty mentor to Asst. Prof. Pauline Grosjean, 2008-2011;
- ◆ Faculty mentor to Asst. Prof. Jennifer Alix-Garcia, 2007-2009;
- ◆ Faculty mentor to Adj. Prof. Seema Arora, 2008-2009;
- ◆ Faculty supervisor of the Experimental Economics Club, 2006;

SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE:

- ◆ Committee member in the Internationalization Task Force FABI
- ◆ Committee member of Student Research and Scholarly Activity Committee
- ◆ Organizer of the Day of Celebration of Students' Research and Artistic and Scholarly Creative Activity 2011-present (CARD – Creative Activity and Research Day);
- ◆ Co-Chair of the Academic Excellence Task Force on student research, 2012-present;
- ◆ Co-chair Undergraduate Research Committee, 2010-2012;
- ◆ University of San Francisco team member for CUR (Council on Undergraduate Research). Initial meeting at California State University, Northridge; 15-17 February 2008. 2008-2010;

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION:

- ◆ NSF Panelist 2019-present
- ◆ ESA mentor 2020-present
- ◆ UC Berkeley, CEGA mentor
- ◆ Member of the Executive Committee of the Economic Science Association (ESA) 2017-2019
- ◆ Founder in 2009 of the networking group of experimental and behavioral economists of the Bay Area---University of San Francisco, UC Berkely, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, Santa Clara University, San Francisco State University, Stanford. Organizer of the yearly BABEEW - Bay Area Behavioral and Experimental Economics Workshop:

- UC Santa Cruz, May 2010
 - UC Berkeley, May 2011
 - Santa Clara University, May 2012
 - University of San Francisco, May 2013
 - Stanford University, May 2014
 - University of California, Santa Cruz, May 2015
 - UC Berkeley, May 2016
 - Santa Clara University, May 2017
 - University of San Francisco, May 2018
 - University of San Francisco, May 2019
 - Zoom, May 2020
- ◆ Member of the Fulbright U.S. Student National Screening Committee;
 - ◆ Ph.D. Commette Member for Giorgia Barboni (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna);
 - ◆ Reviewer (see under Research).