

## ECON 712 Dissertation Projects in Economic Theory

**Fall 2024**

**Time and Location** We will have a preliminary meeting to discuss the time and place of the course. If you cannot make it, please let me know by email (sandroni@kellogg.northwestern.edu) and we will find some other way. The location of the first meeting is TBA.

**Instructor.** Alvaro Sandroni.

**Description.** This course relies on informal discussions of ideas. There are no exams. The main objective is to find good dissertation projects and, hence, to facilitate the transition from student to researcher. The topics depend on students interests and so, are typically determined in the first and second classes. Below are some suggestions used in the past.

### Diversity

A Theory of Strategic Uncertainty and Cultural Diversity. Review of Economic Studies, by Kets and Sandroni

Statistical Discrimination and Affirmative Action in the Lab, by Dianat, Echenique and Yariv

### Censorship

Political Correctness. Journal of Political Economy 2001, by Stephen Morris.

### Selection Bias

Hot Issues Concerning use of statistical evidence in employment discrimination class action litigation. And, “Statistical evidence in pattern and pattern

and practice litigation." (2009) by Michael D. Lieder.

What Happened in Hazelwood: Statistics, Employment Discrimination, and the 80% Rule. American Bar Foundation Research Journal

Affirmative Action and its Mythology. The Journal of Economic Perspectives. By Roland Fryer and Glenn Loury (2005)

Implicit Quotas. Journal of Legal Studies. Roland Fryer (2009).

Theories of Statistical Discrimination and Affirmative Action: A Survey. By Moro and Fang (2010).

#### Taxes

Taxes and Turnout, mimeo by Bierbrauer, Tsyvinski, and Werquin.

#### Law and Economics

The Structure of Optimal Law, mimeo, by Feddersen, Katz and Sandroni

Explaining the Firm and Other Contract Substitutes, mimeo, by Katz and Sandroni

What is the Value Added of a Judge? mimeo, by Katz and Sandroni

#### Diplomacy

Starting small and renegotiation J Watson - JET, 1999

Starting small and commitment J Watson - GEB, 2002