

Willemien Kets

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Current Positions

Professor, Mathematical Institute, Utrecht University	2022–
Secretary and treasurer, Game Theory Society	2022–
CEPR Research Fellow	2021–
External Professor, Santa Fe Institute	2018–

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Tilburg University, 2003–2008
BSc and MSc in Chemistry, Nijmegen University, 1999. *Highest honors.*

Publications

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1. **W. Kets**, W. Kager, and A. Sandroni (2022), The value of a coordination game, *Journal of Economic Theory*, conditionally accepted.
 2. **W. Kets** and A. Sandroni (2021), A theory of strategic uncertainty and cultural diversity, *Review of Economic Studies* 88(1), pp. 287–333.
 3. **W. Kets** and A. Sandroni (2019), A belief-based theory of homophily. *Games and Economic Behavior* 114, pp. 410–435.
 4. A. Heifetz and **W. Kets** (2018), Robust multiplicity with a grain of naiveté. *Theoretical Economics* 13, pp. 415–465.
 5. A. Perea and **W. Kets** (2016), When do types induce the same belief hierarchy? *Games* 7(4), 28 (Special issue on Epistemic Game Theory and Logic).
 6. J. Y. Halpern and **W. Kets** (2015), Ambiguous Language and Common Priors, *Games and Economic Behavior* 90, pp. 171–180.
 7. Y. Feinberg and **W. Kets** (2014), Ranking friends, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* 107, pp. 1–9.
 8. J. Y. Halpern and **W. Kets** (2014), A logic for reasoning about ambiguity, *Artificial Intelligence* 209, pp. 1–10. *Invited submission.*
 9. **W. Kets** (2011), Robustness of equilibria in anonymous local games, *Journal of Economic Theory* 146, pp. 300–325.
 10. **W. Kets**, G. Iyengar, R. Sethi, and S. Bowles (2011), Inequality and network structure, *Games and Economic Behavior* 73, pp. 215–226.
 11. **W. Kets** (2010), Learning with fixed rules: The minority game, *Journal of Economic Surveys* 26, pp. 865–878.
 12. M. Deijfen and **W. Kets** (2009), Random intersection graphs with a tunable degree distribution and clustering, *Probability in the Engineering and Informational Sciences* 23, pp. 661–674.
 13. **W. Kets** and M. Voorneveld (2008), Learning to be prepared, *International Journal of Game Theory* 37, pp. 333–352.
 14. M. Voorneveld, **W. Kets** and H. Norde (2005), An axiomatization of minimal curb sets, *International Journal of Game Theory* 33, pp. 479–490. *Invited submission*
 15. **W. Kets** and P.J.G. Tang (2004), Free trade and its enemies, *De Economist* pp. 427–437.
 16. R. de Kort, M. C. M. M. van der Wielen, A. J. A. van Roij, **W. Kets** and H. van Kempen (2001), Zn- and Cd-induced features at the GaAs(110) and InP(110) surfaces studied by low-temperature scanning

tunneling microscopy, *Physical Review B* 63, 125336.

17. R. de Kort, **W. Kets** and H. van Kempen (2001), A low-temperature scanning tunneling microscopy study on the Sn- and Zn-doped InP(110) surfaces, *Surface Science* 482, pp. 495–500.

Conference Proceedings (Refereed)

18. **W. Kets**, D. Pennock, R. Sethi, and N. Shah (2014), Betting Strategies, Market Selection, and the Wisdom of Crowds, *Twenty-Eighth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-14)*.

19. J. Y. Halpern and **W. Kets** (2012), Ambiguous language and differences in beliefs, *Proceedings of the 13th International Conference on Principles of Knowledge Representation and Reasoning (KR2012)*.

Ray Reiter Best Paper Award.

Writing for the General Public and Policy Papers

1. Introduction to “Inductive Reasoning and Bounded Rationality,” *Foundational Papers in Complexity Science*, 2022.

2. Want more innovation? Get more diversity, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 23 November 2015.

3. What this U.S. Supreme Court Justice Gets Wrong About Diversity, *Fortune*, 16 December 2015.

4. A Compelling Case for Hiring Someone on the Autism Spectrum (with Sarah C. Bauer), *Crain’s Chicago Business*, 15 April 2016.

5. How revealing personal health conditions helps fight stigma. *TIME*, 30 June 2016.

6. Police brutality drivers impossible to uncover without accurate stats (with Rajiv Sethi), *The Hill*, 19 July 2016.

7. How running (literally) everywhere helps me cope with epilepsy, The Huffington Post, 11 May, 2016.

8. Non-CO₂ Greenhouse Gases: All Gases Count (with Gerard Verweij). CPB Discussion Paper 44, 2005.

9. Sectoral TFP Developments in the OECD (with Arjan Lejour). CPB Memorandum 58, 2003.

10. Concurrentie op de veiling en om de markt, ESB 4445, p. 521–523, 2004 (in Dutch).

11. De Europese innovatieachterstand (with Henri de Groot), ESB 4371, 2002 (in Dutch).

Working papers

1. Bounded reasoning and higher-order uncertainty.

2. Is bounded rationality driven by limited ability? (with Amanda Friedenberg and Terri Kneeland).

3. How (not) to eat a hot potato (with Wouter Kager and Alvaro Sandroni).

4. Organizational design: Culture and incentives.

Past Positions

Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Oxford	2017–2022
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Fellow in Economics, The Queen’s College, Oxford	2017–2020
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Assistant Professor, MEDS, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern U.	July 2011–2017
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Research Fellow, U.C. Irvine	Nov. 2010–June 2011
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Omidyar Fellow, Santa Fe Institute	Jan. 2008–Oct. 2010
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Research fellow, Netherlands Bureau of Economic Policy Analysis (CPB)	2001–2003
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Policy analyst, Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment	2000–2001
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Awards and Fellowships

British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship (declined)	2022
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Excellence in Refereeing Award, Journal of the European Economic Association	2021
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John Fell Research Grant	2018
Kellogg Certificate of Impact Teaching Award	2017
Northwestern University Public Voices Fellowship	2015–2016
Kellogg Research Grant	2014
Ray Reiter Best Paper Award	2012
Omidyar Fellowship	2008–2010
Travel grant, Econometric Society	2010
Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences Grant	2008
Santa Fe Institute CSSS Alumni Fellowship	2006
University Prize, Nijmegen University	2000
Visitor’s grant St. John’s College, Oxford	1999
European Union ERASMUS Scholarship	1999
Royal Dutch/Shell Excellence Scholarship	1994–1999

Teaching

Advanced Microeconomic Theory (graduate, lectures, Oxford)	2018–
Game Theory (undergraduate, lectures, Oxford)	2017–
Intermediate Microeconomics (tutorials & lectures, Oxford)	2017–2021
Introductory Microeconomics (tutorials, Oxford)	2017–2020
Supervision graduate research (MPhil, Oxford)	2018–
Managerial Economics (MBA, Kellogg School of Management)	2012–2017
Logic and Game Theory (graduate level, Tilburg University)	2009
Social and Economic Networks (graduate, lectures, Tilburg University)	2008
Minicourse Networks and Games (graduate, lectures, Vanderbilt)	2008
Supervision undergraduate research projects (NSF/REU)	2008–2009
Microeconomics (graduate, lectures, TA, Tilburg University)	2007
Supervision of bachelor theses (Tilburg University)	2005–2006
Advanced Microeconomics (undergraduate, lectures, Tilburg University)	2005
Advanced Microeconomics (undergraduate, TA, Tilburg University)	2004

Other Positions and Research Visits

Visiting Professor, Kellogg MEDS, Northwestern U.	2017–2020
Development Research Group, World Bank	Aug. 2018
Visiting Scholar, U. of Bonn	Nov.–Dec. 2016, Apr.–May 2017
Visiting Scholar, U. of Warwick	Oct.–Nov. 2016, Mar.–Apr 2017
Visiting Scholar, NYU (CESS)	Sept.–Oct. 2015
Visiting Scholar, Stanford U.	Oct. 2009–Dec. 2010
Visiting Scholar, NYU Stern School of Business	Sept.–Nov. 2010
Visiting Scholar, Cornell U.	Apr. 2009
Visiting Scholar, LIDS, MIT	Jan. 2009
Visiting Student, Santa Fe Institute	July 2006
Visiting Student (physics), University of Oxford	Jan.–July 1999

Seminars and Invited Talks

2022–2023 Columbia, VSET (Virtual Seminars in Economic Theory), Glasgow, Bocconi, Pompeu Fabra.
2021–2022 Cowles conference (Yale); ERINN Conference (Paris); Dublin; Manchester; Alicante; Utrecht

(Mathematical Institute); Frankfurt; CREED/TI workshop on coordination and equilibrium selection; Bonn workshop in economic theory; Barcelona GSE Workshop; Workshop Partial Representations Venice; Workshop on Learning and Experimentation Leicester; Instituto de Física Interdisciplinar y Sistemas Complejos (IFISC).

2020–2021 MIT, VIBES (Virtual Behavioral Economics Seminar), LSE (Mathematics), Bar Ilan, UC Louvain, Sussex, Rotterdam, Florida State University, Vienna.

2019–2020 University of Zürich; Copenhagen; Royal Holloway; Graz; Edinburgh; Workshop Diversity & Organizational Performance Bath.

2018–2019 University of Zürich; London Business School; ERINN Conference (London); Workshop Decentralization & Incentives (Johns Hopkins); LSE Behavioural Political Economy Workshop; Bristol-Kent-Southampton workshop in Economic Theory; Humboldt Universität Berlin/Freie Universität/ESMT/TU Berlin (joint seminar); Lund; University of the Basque Country; University of Amsterdam (CREED).

2017–2018 Workshop on Economic Design and Institutions (Brussels); Carnegie Mellon philosophy colloquium & seminar; University of Oxford.

2016–2017 University of Michigan; Penn State; Queen Mary University of London; University of Warwick; Pittsburgh/Carnegie Mellon (joint seminar); University of Cambridge (INET); University of Essex; University of Bonn; University of Edinburgh; Humboldt Universität Berlin/Freie Universität (joint seminar); University of East Anglia; Nottingham CEDEX; Maastricht University; Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods; SFI Postdocs in Complexity Conference.

2014–2015 Columbia; UCL Workshop on Recent Advances in Behavioral Game Theory; Purdue; CERGE-EI (Prague); University of Bonn; Institute for Logic, Language, and Computation (University of Amsterdam); Barcelona GSE Workshop.

2013–2014 Duke; Bocconi; Paris School of Economics; Maastricht University; Toulouse School of Economics; UW Madison; University of Arizona; Northwestern (bag lunch); Penn State; NYU; Queen's University (Canada); ASSA meetings; University of Amsterdam.

2012–2013 Yale; Northwestern (bag lunch).

2011–2012 Brown; U. Penn; U. of Chicago; Northwestern (Northwestern Institute on Complex Systems); Northwestern (EECS).

2010–2011 U.T. Austin; CUNY (Computer science); Stanford (Micro Theory Lunch); U.C. Davis; U.C. Irvine (Logic and Philosophy of Science); Workshop on Game Theory (Tsukuba, Japan); U.C.L.A.; Workshop on Behavior on Networks (Irvine); C.U. Boulder; U. of Toronto; Penn State; Fuqua School of Business; Kellogg School of Management; Indiana U.; Columbia; UQAM; Rochester; University College London; U. of Essex; U. of Warwick; U. of Pittsburgh; Stony Brook Workshop on Bounded Rationality.

2009–2010 SITE Workshop on Social Capital (Stanford); Behavioral and Quantitative Game Theory Conference (Newport Beach); Stanford (Micro Theory Lunch); U.C. Irvine; U. of Amsterdam (ILLC); U.C. Irvine (IMBS).

2008–2009 Conference in Honor of Wayne Shafer (UIUC); Vanderbilt U.; Indiana U.; MIT (LIDS); U. of Arizona; Arizona State U. (brown bag); Cornell U.; U. of Edinburgh; U. of Amsterdam; PALMYR Workshop on Formal Epistemology; Los Alamos National Laboratory; U.C. San Diego.

2007–2008 U. of Konstanz; U. of Warwick; U. of Amsterdam (ILLC); Conference in Memory of Toni Calvó-Armengol (U. Autònoma).

2006–2007 U. of Bielefeld; U. of Alicante; Santa Fe Institute; Paris School of Economics; EU Workshop on Random Graphs.

Conference Presentations

2019 European Meeting of the Econometric Society (Manchester), Transatlantic Theory Workshop.

2018 Barcelona GSE Summer Forum, ESSET/CEPR Gerzensee.

2017 5th European Conference on Networks (UCL); Barcelona GSE Summer Forum; SAET (Faro).

2016 NSF/CME Decentralization Conference (Brown); NSF Conference on Network Science in Economics (Stanford); Toulouse Workshop Norms, Actions, Games; World Congress Game Theory Society; Transatlantic Theory Workshop (Oxford).

2015 Canadian Economic Theory Conference; Workshop on Social and Information Networks (ACM-EC; Portland); SAET (Cambridge, UK); Econometric Society World Congress (Montréal); Workshop on Welfare Evaluation under Subjective Expectations (Milan).

2014 Canadian Economic Theory Conference; Maastricht Behavioral and Experimental Economics Symposium; Econometric Society European Meeting (Toulouse); Transatlantic Theory Workshop (Paris).

2013 SAET (Paris); Workshop on Stochastic Methods in Game Theory (Erice).

2012 Econometric Society Summer meeting (Northwestern U.); World Congress Game Theory Society.

2011 Canadian Economic Theory Conference (Vancouver), NSF/NBER Mathematical Economics/GE conference (Iowa City).

2010 Midwest Economic Theory (Northwestern U.); 21st Game Theory Festival (Stony Brook); Econometric Society World Congress (Shanghai).

2009 SAET (Ischia).

2008 Third World Congress of the Game Theory Society (Northwestern U.).

2007 Coalition Theory Network Meeting (Louvain-la-Neuve); SAET (Kos); APET (Nashville).

2006 Econometric Society European Meeting (Vienna); NAKE Research Day (Amsterdam).

2005 Xth Spring Meeting of Young Economists (Geneva), NAKE Research Day (Amsterdam).

Professional Activities and Service

Editorial Activity: International Journal of Game Theory (Associate Editor, 2017–present), Research in Economics (Associated Editor, 2018–present), Oxford Economic Papers (Editorial Board, 2017–present), De Economist (Associate Editor, 2014–present).

Selected Refereeing: AEJ Micro, American Economic Review, AER-Insights, Econometrica, Economic Journal, Economic Theory, European Economic Review, Games and Economic Behavior, International Journal of Game Theory, Israel Science Foundation, Journal of Mathematical Psychology, Journal of Applied Probability, Journal of Economic Theory, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Mathematical Economics, Journal of Theoretical Biology, RAND Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Science Advances, Social Networks, Synthese.

Program Committee: European Economic Association Annual Congress (2019), Royal Economic Society (2018–2021), ACM Conference on Electronic Commerce (2012); LOFT (Logic and the Foundations of Game and Decision Theory, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018), LORI (Logic, Rationality and Interaction, 2017).

PhD students: Luciano Pomatto (2015; committee; first placement: Cowles Foundation postdoc and Caltech), Philip Marx (2017; committee; first placement: Harvard postdoc), Jasmin Droege (current).

Other: Head Microeconomic Theory Research Group (Oxford, 2020–2022); Member Research Committee (Oxford, 2020–2022); Member Senior Recruitment Committee (Oxford, 2020–2022); Lead Equality, Diversity, Inclusion (Oxford, 2021); Member Ethics Committee (Oxford, 2020–2021); Co-organizer Economic Theory Seminar (Oxford, 2019–2021); Member Junior Recruitment Committee Oxford (2019–2020); Co-organizer Workshop “Identification of rationality” (Warwick, 2017); Course coordinator Managerial Economics (Kellogg, 2014); Organizer Theory Workshop (Northwestern University, 2012–2013, 2015–2016); Member Recruiting Committee Kellogg (2011–2012, 2012–2013, 2014–2015); Organizer Workshop “Reasoning, Perception and Beliefs in Strategic Settings” (Santa Fe Institute, 2010); Organizer Conference “Networks and Games” (Tilburg, 2008); Co-organizer seminar series Santa Fe Institute (2008–2010); Session organizer SAET 2009, 2013, 2015, 2017.