

Ronald Wolthoff

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Canada

Academic History

Academic Employment

- 2025– Professor, Department of Economics, University of Toronto.
- 2017–2025 Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Toronto.
- 2010–2017 Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Toronto.
- 2008–2010 Instructor and Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Economics, University of Chicago.

Administrative Positions

- 2024– Chair, Department of Economics, University of Toronto Mississauga.
Interim Chair: July–September 2024.
- 2020–2024 Associate Chair, Department of Economics, University of Toronto Mississauga.
sabbatical leave: January–June 2022, January–June 2024.
- 2019–2020 Teaching Assistant Coordinator, Department of Economics, University of Toronto.

Short-Term Visiting Positions

- 2024 Visiting Scholar, Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance.
- 2022 Visiting Associate Professor, National University of Singapore.
- 2019 Visiting Scholar, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.
- 2018 MacCaLM Visiting Fellow, University of Edinburgh.
- 2017 Fernand Braudel Fellow, European University Institute.
- 2016 Visiting Scholar, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.
- 2008 Visiting Graduate Student, University of Pennsylvania.

Affiliations

- 2026– Research Fellow, IZA@LISER Network.
- 2012–2025 Research Fellow, IZA Institute of Labor Economics.
- 2013–2020 Cross-Appointed Faculty Member, Institute for Management & Innovation, University of Toronto.
- 2011–2014 International Scholar, Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI).
- 2008–2011 Research Affiliate, IZA Institute of Labor Economics.

Education

- 2008 Ph.D. in Economics, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.
Thesis: "Essays on Simultaneous Search Equilibrium." Advisors: Pieter Gautier and Gerard van den Berg.
- 2004 M.Sc. in Econometrics (with distinction), University of Amsterdam.
- 2004 M.Sc. in Actuarial Science (with distinction), University of Amsterdam.
- 2003 B.Sc. in Econometrics and Operations Research (with distinction), University of Amsterdam.

2003 B.Sc. in Actuarial Science, University of Amsterdam.

Honors, Awards and Scholarships

- 2025 Dean's Excellence Award, University of Toronto.
previously received in 2023, 2021, 2017, 2015.
- 2011 FEEM (Young Economist) Award, European Economic Association.
- 2003 *Bonusbeurs* Scholarship, University of Amsterdam.

Selected Research Grants

- 2018–2025 Insight Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (CAD 74,557).
- 2017 Research and Scholarly Activity Fund, University of Toronto Mississauga (CAD 10,000).
- 2014–2016 Connaught Fund, University of Toronto (CAD 10,000).

Research

Refereed Publications

- 2025 "Simultaneous Search and Adverse Selection"
with Sarah Auster and Piero Gottardi
The Review of Economic Studies, vol. 92 (6), pp. 3541–3573.
- 2025 "Wage Setting Protocols and Labor Market Conditions: Theory and Evidence"
with Stanislav Rabinovich and Brenda Samaniego de la Parra
Labour Economics, vol. 97, 102806.
- 2025 "Search, Screening, and Sorting"
with Xiaoming Cai and Pieter Gautier
American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, vol. 17 (3), pp. 205–236.
- 2025 "Spatial Search"
with Xiaoming Cai and Pieter Gautier
Journal of Economic Theory, vol. 224, 105976.
- 2023 "Meetings and Mechanisms"
with Xiaoming Cai and Pieter Gautier
International Economic Review, vol. 64 (1), pp. 155–185.
- 2022 "Misallocation Inefficiency in Partially Directed Search"
with Stanislav Rabinovich
Journal of Economic Theory, vol. 206, 105559.
- 2020 "Opening the Black Box of the Matching Function: The Power of Words"
with Ioana Marinescu
Journal of Labor Economics, vol. 38 (2), pp. 535–568.
- 2018 "Applications and Interviews: Firms' Recruiting Decisions in a Frictional Labour Market"
The Review of Economic Studies, vol. 85 (2), pp. 1314–1351.
- 2017 "Competing with Asking Prices"
with Benjamin Lester and Ludo Visschers
Theoretical Economics, vol. 12 (2), pp. 731–770.
- 2017 "Search Frictions, Competing Mechanisms and Optimal Market Segmentation"
with Xiaoming Cai and Pieter Gautier
Journal of Economic Theory, vol. 169, pp. 453–473.
- 2016 "Search Costs and Efficiency: Do Unemployed Workers Search Enough?"
with Pieter Gautier and Jose Luis Moraga-Gonzalez
European Economic Review, vol. 84, pp. 123–139.
- 2015 "Becker Meets Ricardo: Multisector Matching with Communication and Cognitive Skills"
with Robert McCann, Xianwen Shi and Aloysius Siow
Journal of Law, Economics and Organization, vol. 31 (4), pp. 690–720.
- 2015 "Academic Wages and Pyramid Schemes: A Mathematical Model"
with Alice Erlinger, Robert McCann, Xianwen Shi and Aloysius Siow
Journal of Functional Analysis, vol. 269 (9), pp. 2709–2746.

- 2015 “Meeting Technologies and Optimal Trading Mechanisms in Competitive Search Markets”
with Benjamin Lester and Ludo Visschers
Journal of Economic Theory, vol. 155, pp. 1–15.
- 2014 “It’s About Time: Implications of the Period Length in an Equilibrium Search Model”
International Economic Review, vol. 55 (3), pp. 839–867.
- 2010 “Early Retirement Behaviour in the Netherlands: Evidence from a Policy Reform”
with Rob Euwals and Daniel van Vuuren
De Economist, vol. 158 (3), pp. 209–236.
- 2009 “Simultaneous Search with Heterogeneous Firms and Ex Post Competition”
with Pieter Gautier
Labour Economics, vol. 16 (3), pp. 311–319.

Work in Progress

- “Platform-Controlled Search and Distortions in Attention Allocation”
with Xiaoming Cai and Pieter Gautier.
- “Signals, Interviews, and Discrimination in the Labor Market”
with Piero Gottardi, Benjamin Lester and Ryan Michaels.

Conference and Seminar Presentations

- scheduled Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Dynamics, Athens.
- 2026 Theories and Methods in Macro (T2M) Conference, Montreal
- 2025 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Macroeconomics Study Group, London, ON • Annual Congress of the European Economic Association, Bordeaux.
- 2024 Annual Congress of the European Economic Association, Rotterdam • Annual Conference of the Canadian Economics Association, Toronto.
- 2023 Search and Matching Conference, New York University • European Meeting of the Econometric Society, Barcelona • Annual Congress of the European Economic Association, Barcelona • Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Dynamics, Cartagena • Second DC Search and Matching Workshop, Federal Reserve Board.
- 2022 National University of Singapore.
- 2021 IZA Institute of Labor Economics • Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Dynamics, Minneapolis • Annual Meeting of the Search and Matching Research Group, Copenhagen • Universidad Diego Portales.
- 2020 Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland • Drexel University • SaMMF Workshop: Advances in Search Theory • Search and Matching Webinar, University of Essex / Royal Holloway • University of Alberta.
- 2019 York University • Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia • Penn State • Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory, Ischia • Third Annual Workshop of Southern Ontario Macro Economists, McMaster University • First DC Search and Matching Workshop, Federal Reserve Board • Conference on Theoretical Advances on Frictional Markets, Princeton University.
- 2018 University of Calgary • National University of Singapore • Annual Meeting of the Search and Matching Research Group, Cambridge, UK • Upjohn-Chicago Fed Workshop on Job Search and Vacancies.
- 2017 University of Waterloo • University of Western Ontario • Tongji University • Shanghai Macroeconomics Workshop • Montreal Workshop on Markets with Frictions • European University Institute.
- 2016 Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam • Empirical Microeconomics Workshop, University of Calgary • Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia • UC3M & CEMFI Macroeconomics Workshop, Madrid.
- 2015 World Congress of the Econometric Society, Montreal • Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Dynamics, Warsaw • University of British Columbia.
- 2014 Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Dynamics, Toronto • Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.
- 2013 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Macroeconomics Study Group, Toronto • Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory, Paris • Workshop on the Microstructure of Real Estate Markets, Rotman School of Management • University of Guelph.
- 2012 University of Waterloo • Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam • Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam • Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Dynamics, Limassol • Annual Meeting of the Search and Matching Research Group, Nicosia • Workshop on Matching Problems, Becker Friedman Institute • McMaster University • Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis.

- 2011 European Meeting of the Econometric Society, Oslo • Annual Congress of the European Economic Association, Oslo • Annual Conference of the Canadian Economics Association, Ottawa • University of Rochester.
- 2010 University of Western Ontario • Queen's University • Macro Perspectives (Rogerson, Shimer and Wright), NBER Summer Institute • Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Dynamics, Montreal • Workshop on Labour Market Search and Policy Applications, University of Konstanz • Midwest Economic Theory Meeting, Evanston • University of Melbourne • Australian National University • University of Toronto • University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign • Stockholm School of Economics • Purdue University.
- 2009 University of Chicago • Chicago Booth • Conference on Labor Market Policy Evaluation, IZA Institute of Labor Economics, Washington DC • Search and Matching Workshop, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia • Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam • European Meeting of the Econometric Society, Barcelona • Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Dynamics, Istanbul • University of Iowa.
- 2008 La Pietra–Mondragone Workshop, Florence • Search and Matching Workshop, University of Pennsylvania • Tilburg University • IZA Institute of Labor Economics • University of Aarhus.
- 2007 Workshop on Labor Market Dynamic Growth, University of Aarhus • Workshop on Labor Market Flows, Collegio Carlo Alberto • European Meeting of the Econometric Society, Budapest • Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Dynamics, Prague • Workshop on Economic Theory, Erasmus University Rotterdam • Workshop on Heterogeneity in Micro Econometric Models, IZA Institute of Labor Economics, Bonn.
- 2006 Third Meeting of the Microdata RTN, Madrid • Helsinki Center of Economic Research • Annual Meeting of the Netherlands Network of Economics, Amsterdam • Annual Conference of the European Association of Labour Economists, Prague.
- 2005 IZA European Summer School in Labor Economics, Buch am Ammersee.
- 2004 CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis.

Teaching

Instructor

- Toronto ECO2100H1, Macroeconomic Theory I (Ph.D.).
2016/17–2025/26.
- ECO466H5, Empirical Macroeconomics and Policy (undergraduate).
2025/26.
- ECO209Y5, Macroeconomic Theory and Policy (undergraduate).
2014/15–2015/16, 2017/18, 2020/21, 2022/23.
- ECO345H5/ECO352H5, Macroeconomics and the Labor Market (undergraduate).
2016/17–2019/20, 2021/22.
- ECO4051H1, Frontiers in Macroeconomics (Ph.D.), 2 lectures.
2019/20–2020/21.
- ECO4051H1, Topics in COVID Economics (M.A./Ph.D.), 1 lecture.
2020/21.
- ECO2101H1, Macroeconomic Theory II (Ph.D.).
2010/11–2015/16.
- ECO208Y5, Macroeconomic Theory (undergraduate).
2010/11–2013/14.
- NUS EC4313, Search Theory and Applications (undergraduate).
2021/22.
- Chicago ECON20000, Elements of Economic Analysis I (undergraduate).
2008/09–2009/10.
- ECON20100, Elements of Economic Analysis II (undergraduate).
2008/09–2009/10.

Doctoral Students

Ph.D. Thesis (Co-)Supervisor

- in progress Irisa Zhou.
Initial placement: Visiting Assistant Professor, Indiana University Bloomington.

- 2022 Frank Leenders, "Essays in the Macroeconomics of the Labour Market."
Initial placement: Postdoctoral Fellow, Stockholm School of Economics.

Ph.D. Thesis Committee Member

in progress Shanshan Liu

in progress Zhongdao Wang

- 2025 Jie Duan (NUS), "Essays on Labor Market Mismatch."
Initial placement: Assistant Professor, Zhejiang University.
- 2019 Kevin Fawcett, "Wages, Worker Mobility, and the Macroeconomy."
Initial placement: Assistant Professor, Ryerson University.
- 2018 Kevin Devereux, "Essays in Interpersonal Economics."
Initial placement: Assistant Professor, University College Dublin & Beijing-Dublin International College.
- 2017 Ashique Habib, "Three Essays in Macroeconomics."
Initial placement: Economist, International Monetary Fund.
- 2016 Hélène Desgagnés, "Financial Intermediaries, Regulation, and Macroeconomic Stability."
Initial placement: Senior Economist, Bank of Canada.
- 2015 Brian Tavares, "Three Essays on Macroeconomic Labour Search."
Initial placement: Assistant Professor, Universidad Diego Portales.

Ph.D. Defence Committee Member

- 2026 Sean Elliott, "Essays in Marriage, Cohabitation, and Fertility."
2017 Christine Tewfik, "Essays in Macroeconomics and Financial Frictions."
2015 Jie Cao, "Three Essays in Macroeconomics."
2014 Li Li, "Three Essays on Sovereign Default, Self-Control and Policy Implications."

External Ph.D. Thesis Reviewer

- 2018 Jonathan Créchet, Université de Montréal, "Employment Protection Legislation in a Frictional Labor Market."
2017 Florian Sniekers, University of Amsterdam, "On the Functioning of Markets with Frictions."

Second-Year Paper Supervisor

- 2022 Irisa Zhou, "Shout Louder if You're Mediocre: Searching in the Housing Market with Asking Prices."
2017 Frank Leenders, "Occupational Mobility over the Business Cycle."
2013 Kevin Devereux, "Risk Sharing and On-the-Marriage Search."
2013 Ashique Habib, "Adverse Selection, Directed Search and Credit Ratings."

Service and Professional Activities

Conference and Workshop Organization

- 2021– Co-organizer, The Macroeconomics of Labor Markets, Barcelona School of Economics Summer Forum.
2013–2019 (Co-)organizer, Macro Graduate Lunch Seminar, University of Toronto.
2018 Co-organizer, 32nd Annual Meeting of the Canadian Macroeconomics Study Group, University of Toronto.
2018 Co-organizer, Macro Conference on Innovation, Labour and Productivity, University of Toronto.

Referee Activities

- articles American Economic Journal: Applied Economics • American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics • American Economic Review • B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics • Canadian Journal of Economics • De Economist • Econometrica • Economic Development and Cultural Change • Economic Journal • Economic Theory • Economics Letters • Electronic Commerce Research and Applications • European Economic Review • International Economic Review • International Tax and Public Finance • Journal of the European Economic Association • Journal of Economic Theory • Journal of Labor Economics • Journal of Mathematical Economics • Journal of Monetary Economics • Journal of Money, Credit and Banking • Journal of Political Economy • Journal of Political Economy Macroeconomics • Labour • Labour Economics • Macroeconomic Dynamics • Management Science • Quarterly Journal of Economics • RAND Journal of Economics • Review of Economic Dynamics • Review of Economic Studies • Scandinavian Journal of Economics • Southern Economic Journal • Theoretical Economics • TPEdigitaal.
- grants European Research Council • National Science Foundation • Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Conference Discussions

- 2024 “Dual Labor Markets and the Equilibrium Distribution of Firms” by Josep Pijoan-Mas and Pau Roldan-Blanco, Third DC Search and Matching Workshop, Federal Reserve Board.
- 2023 “Dynamics of Job Search Effort and Vacancies: Evidence from Classified Advertisements” by Huixin Bi, Nicolas Petrosky-Nadeau, Nora Traum and Greg Woodward, Annual Meeting of the Canadian Macroeconomics Study Group, Queen’s University.
- 2022 “Should We Insure Workers or Jobs During Recessions?” by Camille Landais, KVS Economencafé on Optimal Labor Market Policies During Recessions.
- 2017 “Indebted Sellers, Liquidity and Mortgage Standards” by Allen Head, Hongfei Sun and Chenggang Zhou, Annual Meeting of the Canadian Macroeconomics Study Group, Ottawa.
- 2016 “Rational Inattention in Hiring Decisions” by Sushant Acharya and Shu Lin Wee, Tepper-LAEF Advances in Macro-Finance Conference, Pittsburgh.
- 2015 “Born Under a Bad Sign: The Cost of Entering the Job Market During a Recession” by Shu Lin Wee, Annual Meeting of the Canadian Macroeconomics Study Group, Montreal.
- 2014 “Optimal Employment Contracts with Hidden Search” by Rasmus Lentz, Search and Matching Workshop, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.
- 2014 “Unemployment Risk and the Distribution of Assets” by Jan Eeckhout and Alireza Sepahsalari, Workshop on Unemployment, Wage Inequality and Labor Market Policy, University of Konstanz.

Professional Activities

- 2016 Academic Reviewer, Employment and Social Development Canada.
- 2005–2008 Editorial Board Member, Tinbergen Magazine, Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam.
- 2006–2007 Editorial Board Member, KVS Jaarboek, Royal Netherlands Economic Association.
- 2003–2005 Research Assistant, Amsterdam Institute for International Development.
- 2003–2004 Research Assistant, CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis.
- 2003–2004 Research Assistant, SEO Amsterdam Economics.