ZACH Y. BROWN

4413 North Quad
105 S. State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Email: zachb@umich.edu
Web: https://websites.umich.edu/~zachb/

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor of Economics (with tenure), University of Michigan, 2025–

Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Michigan, 2018–2025

Post-Doctoral Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2017–2018

AFFILIATIONS AND VISITING POSITIONS

Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2021–
Programs: Industrial Organization, Health Care

Member, University of Michigan Institute for Healthcare Policy & Innovation, 2019–

Visiting Scholar, New York University, 2025

Visiting Scholar, Harvard Business School, 2024

Visiting Scholar, University of California, Berkeley, 2021–2022

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Department of Economics, Columbia University, 2017

M.Phil., Department of Economics, Columbia University, 2013

M.A., Department of Economics, Columbia University, 2012

B.A., Department of Economics, University of California, Berkeley, 2007

RESEARCH

"Why Do Index Funds Have Market Power? Quantifying Frictions in the Index Fund Market" joint with Mark Egan, Jihye Jeon, Chuqing Jin, & Alex Wu.

"Information and Disparities in Health Care Quality: Evidence from GP Choice in England" joint with Chris Hansman, Jordan Keener, and Andre Veiga, Reject & resubmit, *American Economic Review*.

"Algorithmic Coercion with Faster Pricing" joint with Alexander MacKay, Revise & resubmit, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

"An Empirical Model of Price Transparency and Markups in Health Care", Revise & resubmit, *Journal of Political Economy*.

"Streamlining oversight in Medicare advantage: measuring coding intensity via contract rankings" joint with Trenton Chang, Michelle Qiu, Zhiyi Hu, Dylan Zapzalka, Divya Shanmugam, Daniel Shenfeld, Ravi Parikh, Maggie Makar, Ezekiel Emanuel, Amanda Kowalski, & Jenna Wiens, *Health Affairs Scholar*, July 2024, 4(9).

"Market Structure and Extortion: Evidence from 50,000 Extortion Payments," joint with Eduardo Montero, Carlos Schmidt-Padilla, & Maria Micaela Sviatschi, *Review of Economic Studies*, May 2025, 92(3): 1595-1624.

"Broadband Internet Access and Health Outcomes: Patient and Provider Responses in Medicare" joint with Jessica Van Parys, *International Journal of Industrial Organization*, July 2024, Volume 95.

"Endogenous Information and Simplifying Insurance Choice," joint with Jihye Jeon, *Econometrica*, May 2024, 92(3): 881-911.

"Hospital Facility Prices Declined As A Result Of Oregon's Hospital Payment Cap," joint with Roslyn Murray, Sarah Miller, Edward Norton, & Andrew Ryan, *Health Affairs*, March 2024, 43(3): 424-432.

"Competition in Pricing Algorithms," joint with Alexander MacKay, *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics*, May 2023, 15(2): 109-56.

"Product Proliferation under Rational Inattention: Application to Health Insurance," joint with Jihye Jeon, *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, May 2021, 111: 554-59.

"Equilibrium Effects of Health Care Price Information," *Review of Economics & Statistics*, October 2019, 101(4): 699–712.

Other Writing

"Data and Price Competition: The Special Role of Information About Rivals' Prices," joint with Alexander MacKay, *CPI Antitrust Chronicle: Surveillance Pricing*, July 2025.

"Are Online Prices Higher Because of Pricing Algorithms?," joint with Alexander MacKay, *Brookings Series: The Economics and Regulation of Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies* , July 2022.

Professional Experience

Staff Economist, White House Council of Economic Advisers, Washington DC, 2014–2015

Analyst, Cornerstone Research, San Francisco and Menlo Park, CA, 2008–2010

Honors and Awards

American Economic Journal, Best Paper Award, "Competition in Pricing Algorithms", 2025

Post-Doctoral Fellow supported by Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award, 2017-2018

Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Economics, Columbia University, 2015-2016

Faculty Fellowship, Department of Economics, Columbia University, 2014

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2011-2013

Presentations

Bergen Center for Competition Law and Economics (2026); CEPR AI, algorithms and Markets workshop (2026); George Washington University, Health Policy (2026); International Industrial Organization Conference (2026); UCSB, Economics (2026); University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Gies College of Business (2026); UCLA, Economics (2025); New York University, Stern School of Business (2025); Federal Trade Commission (2025); Seoul National University ESWC IO Pre-Conference (2025); Econometric

Society World Congress (2025); ZEW Conference on the Economics of Information and Communication Technologies (2025); Barcelona Summer Forum Digital Economics (2025); Helsinki Graduate School of Economics (2025); International Industrial Organization Conference (2025); University of Georgia, Terry College of Business (2025); Utah Winter Business Economics Conference (2025); Columbia University, Economics (2024); Industrial Organization and Development Conference of Barranquilla, Colombia (2024); Cornell, Economics (2024); Stanford, Health Policy and Economics (2024); Federal Communications Commission (2024); University of Florida IO Conference (2024); Johns Hopkins, Economics (2024); MIT, Economics (2023); Yale, Economics (2023); NABE Tech Economics Conference (2023); Penn State, Economics (2023); Indiana University, Kelley School of Business (2023); American Society of Health Economists (2023); Utah Winter Business Economics Conference (2023); University at Buffalo, Social Science (2023); Johns Hopkins, Business School (2022); University of Arizona, Economics (2022); University of Maryland, Economics (2022); Duke, Economics (2022); NBER Summer Institute (2022); ZEW Conference on the Economics of Information and Communication Technologies (2022); Caltech, Social Science (2022); Tsinghua University, Economics (2022); Berkeley, Economics (2022); University of Pennsylvania, Economics (2022); Texas A&M IO Day (2021); Econometric Society North America (2021); International Industrial Organization Conference (2021); Stanford, Graduate School of Business (2021); Indiana University, Economics (2021); ASSA Annual Meeting x2 (2021); Carnegie Mellon, Tepper (2020); University of North Carolina, Economics (2020); University of Michigan H2D2 (2020); Princeton University, Economics (2020); NBER Winter Industrial Organization Meeting (2020); University of Michigan, Ross Marketing (2020); Washington University in St. Louis, Economics (2019); Yale University, Economics (2019); NBER Summer Institute (2019); University of Michigan H2D2 (2019); International Industrial Organization Conference (2019); IO Fest, University of Wisconsin (2018); Imperial College Business School (2018); Federal Trade Commission (2018); Princeton University, Economics (2017); University of Washington, Economics (2017); University of Michigan, Economics (2017); University of Wisconsin, Economics (2017); University of Pennsylvania, Wharton (2017); University of Massachusetts Amherst, Agriculture and Resource Economics (2017); INSEAD, Marketing (2017), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Economics (2017); NBER Insurance Working Group (2017).

DISCUSSIONS

Bergen Center for Competition Law and Economics (2026); International Industrial Organization Conference (2026); Midwest Health Economics Conference (2025); NBER Summer Industrial Organization Meeting (2025); ZEW Conference on the Economics of Information and Communication Technologies (2025); International Industrial Organization Conference (2025); CEPR Annual Applied Industrial Organisation Conference (2024); NBER Winter Industrial Organization Meeting (2023); ASSA Annual Meeting (2023); ZEW Conference on the Economics of Information and Communication Technologies (2022); International Industrial Organization Conference (2021); China Virtual Industrial Organization Seminar (2021); International Industrial Organization Conference (2019); ASSA Annual Meeting (2019); Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (2018); ASSA Annual Meeting (2018)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Ad-hoc reviewer for *U.S. National Science Foundation*, *Austrian Science Fund*, *Dutch Research Council*

Referee for *American Economic Journal: Applied*; *American Economic Journal: Economics Policy*; *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics*; *American Economic Review*; *American Economic Review: Insights*; *Econometrica*; *Economics & Business Letters*; *Economics Letters*; *Economics & Politics*; *Economic Journal*; *European Journal of Health Economics*; *Experimental Economics*; *Health Affairs*; *Health Economics Review*; *Health Policy*; *International Economic Review*; *International Journal of Industrial Organization*; *Journal of Applied Econometrics*; *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*; *Journal of Economics & Management Strategy*; *Journal of Health Economics*; *Journal of Industrial Economics*; *Journal of Marketing Research*; *Journal of Public Economics*; *Management Science*; *RAND Journal of Economics*; *Review of Economic Studies*; *Review of Industrial Organization*; *Science Advances*; *Quantitative Economics*; *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

Associate Editor, *Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics*, 2022–

Grants

National Institute of Health, Kirschstein National Research Service Award (supporting NBER Post-doc)

National Bureau of Economics Research Digitization Grant ($15,000)

Michigan Institute for Teaching and Research in Economics (MITRE) Faculty Grant ($20,000)

Michigan Institute for Teaching and Research in Economics (MITRE) Faculty Grant ($8,000)

Arnold Foundation, with Roslyn Murray, Andrew Ryan, Edward Norton, & Sarah Miller ($224,133)

Anti-Monopoly Fund, with Alex MacKay ($20,000)

Service

Graduate Admissions Committee, University of Michigan Department of Economics, 2019-2020

Michigan Medicine Advisory Committee, Michigan Data Collaborative, 2020-2023

Graduate Program Committee, University of Michigan Department of Economics, 2023-2024

Executive Committee, University of Michigan Department of Economics, 2022-2023, 2024-2025

Teaching

University of Michigan, Department of Economics (2019–present)

Government Regulation of Industry (Undergraduate)

Industrial Organization and Public Policy (Ph.D.)

Bogota Summer School, Universidad de los Andes (2024)

Topics on Competition and Regulation of Industry (Master's)

PhD Advising

Kimberly Conlon (Federal Trade Commission, 2020), Anirudh Jayanti (Bates White, 2020), Colin Watson (Amazon, 2020), Andrew Usher (Bank of Canada, 2020), Travis Triggs (Federal Trade Commission, 2021), Giacomo Meille (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 2021), Jason Gibbons (Johns Hopkins, 2021), Xuan Teng (University of Munich, 2022), Nafisa Lohawala (Resources for the Future, 2022), Aaron Kaye (Boston University, 2024), Shwetha Raghuraman (Aarhus University, 2024), Russell Morton (University of Rochester, 2024), Carolina Santos (Inter American Development Bank, 2024), Iris Vrioni (University of Rochester, 2024), Chris Hollrah (Federal Trade Commission, 2024), Jose Ramon Moran (Bank of Mexico, 2024), Roz Murray (Brown University, 2024), Qinyue Zhou* (Berkeley Research Group, 2025), Varad Deolankar (National University of Singapore, 2025), Bruna Guidetti (Charles River Associates, 2025), Yiman Ren (DRW, 2025), Nelson Oviedo (Econic, 2026); Yiqi Li (University of Hawaii, 2026); Yu Song (Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2026)

* Dissertation Committee Chair or Co-Chair

Last Updated: September, 2026