The Nineteenth Annual Federal Trade Commission Microeconomics Conference

November 5-6, 2026 — Washington, D.C.

AGENDA

Thursday, November 5

8:30 a.m. **Registration** (Continental breakfast provided)

9:00 a.m. **Welcome**

Ted Rosenbaum (Federal Trade Commission)

David M. Edelstein (Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, Georgetown University)

9:15 a.m. **Paper Session -** Chaired by Joesph Harrington (University of Pennsylvania)

If You Can't Beat Them, Ban Them: Hotel Market Power and Short-Term Rental Regulations
Karam Kang (University of Wisconsin-Madison and NBER)
co-authored with Sophie Calder-Wang (University of Pennsylvania and NBER), Chiara Farronato (Harvard University, CEPR, and NBER), and Quan Le (Harvard University)
Discussant: Matthew Weinberg (The Ohio State University)

Diversion Networks and Horizontal Acquisitions
Mario Leccese (Boston University)
co-authored with Athos Carvalho (Bocconi University), Shanglyu Deng (University of Macau), and Marco Loseto (Bocconi University and IGIER)
Discussant: Lorenzo Magnolfi (The Ohio State University)

Health Insurance Design and the Passthrough of List Prices to Out-of-Pocket Costs
Luca Maini (Harvard Medical School)
co-authored with Josh Feng (University of Utah)
Discussant: Colleen Carey (Cornell University)

10:55 a.m. **Break**

11:25 a.m. **Keynote Address, "Collusive Content in Corporate Communications"**
Joesph Harrington (University of Pennsylvania)

11:55 a.m. **Lunch** (provided)

1:00 p.m. **FTC Policy and Research Session**
Chaired by Samuel Kleiner and Eric Spurlino (FTC)

Consumer Injury from Deceptive "Bait-and-Switch" Pricing: FTC v. Instacart
Collin Hansen (Federal Trade Commission)

Modeling Incentives and Effects of Repair Restrictions: FTC v. Deere & Company
Xiaowei Yu (Federal Trade Commission)

Searching for Complex Products
Ben Casner (Federal Trade Commission)
co-authored with Katherine Chang (Harvard University), Kirby Nielsen (Caltech), and David Ronayne (ESMT Berlin)

Antitrust on Aisle Five: How Well Do Divestiture Remedies Work?
Brett Wendling (Federal Trade Commission)
co-authored with Xiao Dong (Federal Trade Commission),
Paul Koh (Yonsei University), Devesh Raval (Federal Trade Commission), and Dominic Smith (Case Western Reserve University)

Influencer Endorsements, Sponsorship Disclosure, and Sales
William Violette (Federal Trade Commission)

2:40 p.m. **Break**

3:00 p.m. **Keynote Address, "Algorithmic Agents as Economic Agents"**
Daniel Martin (University of California, Santa Barbara)

3:30 p.m. **Break**

3:50 p.m. **Paper Session -** Chaired by Daniel Martin (University of California, Santa Barbara)

AI Copilots in Real Estate: Evidence from China*
Xiang Hui (Washington University in St. Louis)
co-authored with Lin William Cong (Nanyang Technological University) and Yushan Zhou (CUHK Business School and DEFT Lab)
Discussant: Timothy DeStefano (Georgetown University)

AI Summaries Overrepresent Fake Reviews: Evidence from Amazon*
Sihan Zhai (New York University)
co-authored with Andrew T. Ching (Johns Hopkins University)
Discussant: Mingduo Zhao (University of British Columbia)

5:15 p.m. **Hors d'oeuvres Reception**
111 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington, DC
Lower Level Multi-Purpose Room
Including welcoming remarks by Georgetown Leadership

7:30 p.m. **First Day of Conference Concludes**

*Included terminology used by academic presenters is not representative of FTC or U.S. Government terminology for SI.

Friday, November 6

8:30 a.m. **Registration** (Continental breakfast provided)

9:00 a.m. **Welcome**

Devesh Raval (Federal Trade Commission)

Steven Berry (Yale University)

9:15 a.m. **Paper Session -** Chaired by Amanda Starc (Northwestern University)

Public Procurement vs. Regulated Competition in Selection Markets
Pietro Tebaldi (Columbia University and NBER)
co-authored with José Ignacio Cuesta (Stanford University and NBER)
Discussant: Keith Ericson (Boston University)

Mergers With Intermediation: The Price Effect of Distant Hospital Mergers
Benjamin Vatter (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
co-authored with David Dranove (Northwestern University) and Sungjin Kim (Northwestern University)
Discussant: Christopher Conlon (New York University)

Writing Code vs. Shipping Code: Productivity Effects Across Generations of AI Coding Tools*
Leon Musolff (University of Pennsylvania)
co-authored with Mert Demirer (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and Liyuan Yang (Boston University)
Discussant: Rahul Telang (Carnegie Mellon University)

10:55 a.m. **Break**

11:25 a.m. **Keynote Address, "Markets and Medicine: Understanding Competition in U.S. Healthcare"**

Amanda Starc (Northwestern University)

11:55 a.m. **Conference Concludes**

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