

CURRICULUM VITAE

Alexander Oettl

Professor of Strategy & Innovation
Scheller College of Business
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Fields of Interest

Economics of Innovation, Knowledge Spillovers, Star Scientists, Economic Geography

Education

PhD in Strategic Management, University of Toronto, 2009
A New Taxonomy for Star Scientists: Three Essays
Committee: Ajay Agrawal (chair), Joanne Oxley, Olav Sorenson

MSc in Managerial Economics, Queen's University at Kingston, 2004
Knowledge Diffusion and the Canadian-US Border: A Patent Citation Analysis
Supervisor: John McHale

Bachelor of Commerce (Honours), Queen's University at Kingston, 2002

Positions

Scheller College of Business, Georgia Institute of Technology Atlanta, GA
Dean's Distinguished Term Professorship (2023 – present)
Professor of Strategy & Innovation (2023 – present)
Associate Professor of Strategy & Innovation (2017 – 2023)
Assistant Professor of Strategic Management (2009 – 2017)

Creative Destruction Lab Atlanta, GA
Co-Site Lead, CDL-Atlanta (2019 – present)

National Bureau of Economic Research Cambridge, MA
Research Associate, Productivity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship Program (2018 – present)

Max Planck Institute of Economics Jena, Germany
External Research Fellow (2005 – 2008)

Awards and Grants

2019, 2017, 2015, 2013 Management Science Meritorious Service Award

2017 Roundtable on Entrepreneurship and Engineering (REER) Conference, Kauffman Foundation Grant, PI, \$60,000

2014 Kauffman Junior Faculty Fellowship in Entrepreneurship Research, \$35,000

2010 – 2021 Georgia Tech Dean Griffin’s Day “Thank a Teacher” Award Honoring Outstanding Teaching

2011 NSF Science of Science and Innovation Policy, PI, \$18,365

2010 Nominee, Governor General Gold Medal (Best Dissertation at the University of Toronto)

2010 Finalist, Academy of Management BPS Division Best Dissertation Award

2010 Finalist, DRUID Conference Dissertation Award

2004 – 2009 University of Toronto Open Doctoral Fellowship

Research

Publications

1. Roche, Maria, Alexander Oettl, and Christian Catalini. Accepted. “Proximate (Co-)Working: Knowledge Spillovers and Social Interactions.” *Management Science*. Previous version as NBER Working Paper #30120
2. Chava, Sudheer, Alexander Oettl, Manpreet Singh, and Linghang Zeng. Forthcoming. “Creative Destruction? Impact of E-Commerce on the Retail Sector” *Management Science*. <https://pubsonline.informs.org/doi/abs/10.1287/mnsc.2023.4795>. Previous version as NBER Working Paper #30077
3. Chava, Sudheer, Alexander Oettl, and Manpreet Singh. Forthcoming. “Does One-Size-Fits-All Minimum Wage Cause Financial Stress to Small Businesses?” *Management Science*. <https://pubsonline.informs.org/doi/10.1287/mnsc.2022.4620>. Previous version as NBER Working Paper #26523
4. Hasan, Sharique, Alexander Oettl, and Sampsa Samila. 2022. “Helpful behavior and the durability of collaborative ties” *Organization Science*, 33(5), 1816–1836. <https://doi.org/10.1287/orsc.2021.1511>.
5. Agrawal, Ajay, John McHale, and Alexander Oettl. 2019. “Does Scientist Immigration Harm US Science? An Examination of the Knowledge Spillover Channel” *Research Policy*, 48(5), 1248–1259. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2019.01.005>. Previous version as NBER Working Paper #24519.
6. Agrawal, Ajay, Alberto Galasso, and Alexander Oettl. 2017. “Roads and Innovation” *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 99(3), 417–434. http://dx.doi.org/10.1162/REST_a_00619.
7. Agrawal, Ajay, John McHale, and Alexander Oettl, 2017. “How Stars Matter: Recruiting and Peer Effects in Evolutionary Biology” *Research Policy*, 46(4), 853–867. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2017.02.007>. Previous version as NBER Working Paper #20012.
8. Catalini, Christian, Nico Lacetera, and Alexander Oettl. 2015. “The incidence and role of negative citations in science,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 112(45), 13823–13826. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1502280112>.

9. Agrawal, Ajay, Iain Cockburn, Alberto Galasso, and Alexander Oettl. 2014. “Why are some regions more innovative than others? The role of small firms in the presence of large labs,” *Journal of Urban Economics*, 81(1), 149–165. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jue.2014.03.003>. Previous version as NBER Working Paper #17793.
10. Chava, Sudheer, Alexander Oettl, Ajay Subramanian, and Krishnamurthy Subramanian. 2013. “Banking Deregulation and Innovation,” *Journal of Financial Economics*, 109(3), 759–774. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jfineco.2013.03.015>
11. Oettl, Alexander. 2012. “Honour the Helpful,” *Nature*, 489(7417), 496–497. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/489496a>
12. Oettl, Alexander. 2012. “Reconceptualizing Stars: Scientist Helpfulness and Peer Performance,” *Management Science*, 58(6), 1122–1140. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1287/mnsc.1110.1470>
13. Agrawal, Ajay, Devesh Kapur, John McHale, and Alexander Oettl. 2011. “Brain Drain or Brain Bank? The Impact of Skilled Emigration on Poor-Country Innovation,” *Journal of Urban Economics*, 69(1), 43–55. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jue.2010.06.003>
14. Oettl, Alexander and Ajay Agrawal. 2008. “International Labor Mobility and Knowledge Flow Externalities,” *Journal of International Business Studies*, 39(8), 1242–1260. (Lead Article) <http://dx.doi.org/10.1057/palgrave.jibs.8400358>

Book Chapters

15. Choe, Derrick, Alexander Oettl, and Rob Seamans. 2022. “What’s Driving Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Transport Sector?” in *The Role of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Economic Growth*. Eds. Aaron Chatterji, Josh Lerner, Scott Stern, and Michael J. Andrews. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Also NBER Working Paper #27284.
16. Agrawal, Ajay, John McHale, and Alexander Oettl. 2019. “Finding Needles in Haystacks: Artificial Intelligence and Recombinant Growth” in *The Economics of Artificial Intelligence: An Agenda*. Eds. Ajay Agrawal, Joshua Gans, and Avi Goldfarb. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Also NBER Working Paper #24541.
17. Agrawal, Ajay, John McHale, and Alexander Oettl. 2015. “Collaboration, Stars, and the Changing Organization of Science: Evidence from Evolutionary Biology” in *The Changing Frontier: Rethinking Science and Innovation Policy*. Eds. Adam Jaffe and Benjamin Jones. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Also NBER Working Paper #19653.
18. Audretsch, David B., Taylor Aldridge and Alexander Oettl. 2009. “Scientist Commercialization and Knowledge Transfer” in *Entrepreneurship, Growth and Public Policy*. Eds. Zoltan J. Acs, David B. Audretsch and Robert Strom. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Papers Under Review

- “Artificial Intelligence and Scientific Discovery: A Model of Prioritized Search.” with Ajay Agrawal and John McHale
- “Superhuman science: How artificial intelligence may impact innovation.” with Ajay Agrawal and John McHale

Working Papers

Agrawal, Ajay, John McHale, and Alexander Oettl. 2022. “Superhuman science: How artificial intelligence may impact innovation.” *Brookings Institute Center on Regulation and Markets Working Paper*.

“Participation through collaboration: Evidence from the United Nations” with Colleen Stuart.

Presentations

Oettl, Alexander. “(Co-)Working in Close Proximity: Knowledge Spillovers and Social Interactions”

- Georgetown University, Washington, DC (2022)
- Boston University, Boston, MA (2021)
- Rice University, Houston, TX (2021)
- Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (2019)
- Cornell Workshop on Communities, Clusters, and Ecosystems, Ithaca, NY (2019)
- Munich Innovation Seminar at the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition, Munich, Germany (2017)

Oettl, Alexander. “What’s Driving Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Transportation Sector?”

- NBER Role of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Economic Growth Pre-conference, Cambridge, MA (2019)

Oettl, Alexander. “Creative Destruction? Assessing the Impact of E-Commerce on Employees at Brick-and-Mortar Retailers”

- The Technology, Governance and Regulation Conference at Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel (2019)

Oettl, Alexander. “The incidence and role of negative citations in science”

- Academy of Management PDW: The direction of innovation & science (2017)
- The Organisation, Economics, and Policy of Scientific Research Conference, Turin, Italy (2015)

Oettl, Alexander. “Does Scientist Immigration Harm US Science? An Examination of Spillovers”

- Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain (2017)
- Harvard Business School Workshop on Innovation in a Global Economy, Boston, MA (2015)
- Academy of Management Symposium, Philadelphia, PA (2014)

Oettl, Alexander. “Helpfulness Makes Collaboration Networks Resilient”

- Organisation, Economics and Policy of Scientific Research Conference, Bordeaux, France (2019)
- Marriott School of Business, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT (2019)
- Smith School of Business, University of Maryland, College Park, MD (2018)
- Academy of Management Meetings, Anaheim, CA (2016)

- Individual and collective antecedents of scientific knowledge production Workshop, Copenhagen Business School, Copenhagen, Denmark (2016)
- Utah/BYU Winter Strategy Conference, Park City, UT (2015)

Oettl, Alexander. “Roads and Innovation”

- DRUID Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark (2014)
- NYU Economics of Strategy Conference, New York, NY (2014).
- University of Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France (2014)
- University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom (2014)
- Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA (2014).

Oettl, Alexander. “How Stars Matter: Recruiting and Peer Effects in Evolutionary Biology”

- National University of Singapore, Singapore (2016)
- Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA (2014)
- The Organisation, Economics, and Policy of Scientific Research Conference, Turin, Italy (2014)
- DRUID Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark (2014)
- Fox School of Business, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA (2013)
- REER Conference, Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA (2013)
- Max Planck Institute for Intellectual Property, Munich, Germany (2013)
- NBER Summer Institute Innovation Policy and the Economy, Cambridge, MA (2013)
- Emory University, Atlanta, GA (2013)
- University of Passau, Passau, Germany (2012)

Oettl, Alexander. “Why Are Some Regions More Innovative Than Others? The Role of Firm Size Diversity”

- Maryland Entrepreneurship Conference, College Park, MD (2014)
- University of Passau, Passau, Germany (2012)
- Center for European Economic Research (ZEW) Conference on Entrepreneurship, Mannheim, Germany (2012)
- HEC Workshop on Entrepreneurship, Jouy-en-Josas, France (2012)
- Searle Conference on Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Northwestern University, Chicago, IL (2012)
- Duke University Strategy Conference, Durham, NC (2012)

Oettl, Alexander. “Asymmetric Information and Labor Mobility: The Case of Scientist Productivity”

- Wharton People and Organizations Conference, Philadelphia, PA (2011)

Oettl, Alexander. “Helpfulness and Productivity: Implications of a New Taxonomy for Star Scientists.”

- Olin Business School, Washington University, St. Louis, MO (2011).

- InnoS&T Conference, Munich, Germany (2011).
- Harvard Business School Strategy Conference, Boston, MA (2010).
- DRUID Summer Conference, London, United Kingdom (2010).
- NBER, Winter Productivity Meeting, Cambridge, MA (2009).
- Atlanta Conference on Science and Innovation Policy, Atlanta, GA (2009).
- Academy of Management Meeting, Chicago, IL (2009).
- Wharton People and Organizations Conference, Philadelphia, PA (2009).
- Science Seminar, Harvard Business School, Boston, MA (2009).
- Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Tilburg University, Tilburg, Netherlands (2009).
- European School of Management and Technology, Berlin, Germany (2009).
- College of Management, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA (2009).
- Rutgers Business School, Rutgers University, Newark, NY (2009).
- INSEAD, Fontainebleau, France (2009).
- IESE, Barcelona, Spain (2009).
- Stern School of Management, New York University, New York, NY (2009).
- HEC, Jouy-en-Josas, France (2008)
- CCC Doctoral Colloquium, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA (2008).

Oettl, Alexander. “International Labor Mobility and Knowledge Flow Externalities”

- DRUID Summer Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark (2007).
- Entrepreneurship, Growth and Public Policy Group, Max Planck Institute of Economics, Jena, Germany (2006).

Oettl, Alexander. “Which Stars Should You Reach For? Firm Innovation and the Mobility of Scientific Stars.”

- Academy of Management Meeting, Philadelphia, PA (2007).
- Canadian Economic Association Meeting, Montréal, QC (2006)
- University of Toronto Strategic Management Workshop Series, Toronto, ON (2006).

Press

- Wall Street Journal*, August 21, 2022, “How Co-Working Spaces Lead to More Innovation for Tech Startups”
- Wall Street Journal*, September 14, 2021, “Amazon Adding 125,000 Workers in U.S., Opening Dozens of Facilities”
- Wall Street Journal*, December 4, 2020, “Your Covid-19 Shopping Habits Are Changing What Jobs Are Available”
- Wall Street Journal*, December 15, 2019, “Small Business and the Fight for \$15”
- Nature*, October 26, 2015, “Science papers rarely cited in negative ways”
- The Scientist*, October 26, 2015, “Parsing Negative Citations”
- Harvard Business Review*, December 4, 2014, “What the Two Most Innovation-Friendly States Have in Common”
- Harvard Business Review*, April 14, 2014, “The big reason to hire superstar employees isn’t the work they do”
- The Atlantic*, April 8, 2014, “Why the ‘Next Silicon Valley’ Is Always Silicon Valley”
- Quartz*, April 1, 2014, “Why organizations pay so much for star performers”
- Atlantic Cities*, January 9, 2014, “How to Build a Productive Tech Economy”
- Science, Careers*, January 9, 2014, “The Rich Get Richer”
- Marginal Revolution*, December 6, 2013, “The rising star system for scientific achievement and collaboration”
- Financial Times*, November 25, 2013, “Non-monetary effects of research evolution”
- WSJ Real Time Economics Blog*, June 12, 2013, “Can Cities do Anything to Promote Startups?”
- Wired.com*, January 9, 2012, “New Ways to Measure Science”
- Profit Magazine*, March 2009, “The Hidden Gains in Losing a Star”
- Biz Ed*, the magazine of the AACSB, July/August 2008, “Emigration Boosts Innovation”
- U of T Magazine*, Summer 2008, Volume 34, Issue 4, “When Inventors Emigrate”
- New York Times*, April 10, 2006, “U.S. Research Funds Often Lead to Start-Ups, Study Says”

Invited Keynotes

- “The Value of Star Scientists,” DRUID Conference Debate, Copenhagen, Denmark (2018)
- “Managing Innovation Portfolios,” Atlanta Enterprise Entrepreneurship Series, Atlanta, GA (2017)
- “Collaboration, Stars, and the Changing Organization of Science,” NSF Cyberinfrastructure Workforce RCN Workshop, Alexandria, VA (2017)
- “Star Scientists: Their Science and their Spillovers,” Georgia Research Alliance Board Meeting, Atlanta, GA (2016)
- “The Future of Talent,” ADP Executive Board Meeting, New York, NY, (2015)

Service

- 2020** – Scientific Advisory Committee, Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition, Munich, Germany
- 2019** – **2023** National Academies of Science Committee Member, Review of the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs at the National Science Foundation
- 2019** – **2023** PhD Coordinator, Strategy & Innovation Area, Scheller College of Business, Georgia Tech
- 2017** – **2020** Scientific Production Function Society (Funding from Sloan Foundation and Elsevier), Steering Committee Member
- 2016** – College of Business, Roundtable on Engineering and Entrepreneurship Research (REER) Conference, Organizer
- 2012** – **2017** College of Business, Equity, Diversity and Excellence Initiative, Committee Member
- 2010** – **2019** College of Business, IT Policy Committee Member
- 2010** – **2012** Atlanta Competitive Advantage Conference, Organizing Committee

Editorial Service

- 2019** – Strategic Management Journal, Editorial Review Board Member

Ad-Hoc Reviewer

Administrative Science Quarterly, American Sociological Review, Economics Letters, Industrial and Corporate Change, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of Economic Growth, Journal of Economics and Management Strategy, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of International Business Studies, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Urban Economics, Kauffman Foundation, Management Science, National Institute of Health, National Science Foundation, Organization Science, PLOS One, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Review of Economics and Statistics, Research Policy, Science, Social Forces, Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal, Strategic Management Journal, U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation, University of Chicago Press.

Memberships

Academy of Management, American Economic Association

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