

# Olivia J. Chu

---

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Bryn Mawr College  
Department of Mathematics  
Park Science Center  
101 North Merion Avenue  
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010, USA

✉ [ochu@brynmawr.edu](mailto:ochu@brynmawr.edu)  
☎ (610) 526-5347  
🏢 Office: Park 334

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Evolutionary game theory, evolutionary dynamics, complex adaptive networks, social behavior, quantitative social science

## EDUCATION

**Princeton University**, Princeton, New Jersey, USA

Ph.D., Quantitative and Computational Biology, September 2021

M.A., Quantitative and Computational Biology, January 2017

- Advisor: Corina E. Tarnita
- Committee: Alin I. Coman, Simon A. Levin, Grigore Pop-Eleches
- Thesis: Heterogeneity in human populations, from structure to personality – a modeling and data approach

**New York University, Courant Institute**, New York, New York, USA

B.A., Mathematics (highest honors), May 2015

- Advisors: Robert V. Kohn, Trushant S. Majmudar
- Thesis: Analysis of the “euglenoid motion” – locomotion by shape deformations

**Stuyvesant High School**, New York, New York, USA

Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors, June 2011

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**Bryn Mawr College**, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, USA

Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Aug. 2024-present

**Dartmouth College**, Hanover, New Hampshire, USA

Visiting Scholar, Neukom Institute for Computational Science, Sept. 2024-present

Neukom Institute Postdoctoral Fellow, Sept. 2021-Aug. 2024

Lecturer, Dept. of Mathematics, Sept. 2021-Aug. 2024

## PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING PAPERS

1. **Olivia J. Chu**, Jonathan F. Donges, Grigore Pop-Eleches, and Graeme B. Robertson (2021). The micro-dynamics of geographic polarization: a model and an application to survey data from Ukraine, *PNAS*, *118*(50).
2. Zachary Nathan\* and **Olivia J. Chu**, An evolutionary game theory model of altruism via arrhenotoky, *in prep.*
3. Liam F. Nokes\* and **Olivia J. Chu**, Mycorrhizal evolutionary dynamics: games on bipartite networks and applications, *in prep.*
4. Amar J. Scherzer\* and **Olivia J. Chu**, Using Infectious Disease Simulations to Model, Quantify, and Predict the Impact of Self-Quarantine and Vaccination on Mpox Spread across the United States, *in prep.*
5. **Olivia J. Chu**, Vítor V. Vasconcelos, and Corina E. Tarnita, The role of loners in the evolutionary dynamics of group structured populations, *in prep.*

6. **Olivia J. Chu**, Atticus W. McWhorter, and Wai-Tong Louis Fan, Heterogeneous Preferences and Personality in Adaptive Network Models, *in prep.*

\* indicates an undergraduate co-author.

TEACHING

**Bryn Mawr College**

MATH B295 – Select Topics in Mathematics: Evolutionary Game Theory  
*Instructor* **Fall 2024**

**Dartmouth College**

Math 76 – Evolutionary Dynamics  
*Instructor* **Winter 2023**

Math/QSS 30.04 – Evolutionary Game Theory and Applications  
*Instructor* **Spring 2022, 2024**

**Princeton University**

MAT 378 – Theory of Games  
*Assistant in Instruction (AI)* **Spring 2018, 2019, 2020**

MAT 104 – Calculus II  
*Assistant in Instruction (AI)* **Summer 2020, Fall 2020**

**Courant Institute, New York University**

*Grader, Mathematics for Economics* **Spring 2015**

*Mathematics Tutor, Calculus I-III, Discrete Mathematics* **Fall 2013, Spring 2014**

*Teaching Assistant, Calculus III, Linear Algebra* **Summer 2013**

*Grader, Calculus II* **Spring 2013**

*Grader, Calculus I* **Fall 2012**

RESEARCH  
 ADVISING AND  
 MENTORING

**Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor**

*Dartmouth College* **2022-2024**

- Advisor for the following honors theses:
  - ◆ Arturo F. Serrano Borrero ('24, Mathematics): *A Survey-Informed Evolutionary Opinion Dynamics Model of Political Activism with an Application to the 2022 Panamanian Protests* (awarded high honors and the *Hazleton Mirkil Prize* for Best Senior Thesis Presentation).
  - ◆ Samson S. O'Donnell ('24, Quantitative Social Science (QSS)): *Edgeworth Cycles and Consumer Welfare: Competitive Phenomenon or Tacit Collusion?* (awarded honors).
  - ◆ Sara Catherine Cook ('23, Mathematical Data Science (MDS)): *Too Big to Fail: An Evolutionary Dynamics Approach to Social Media Controversy*.
  - ◆ Amar J. Scherzer ('23, Quantitative Social Science (QSS)): *The role of behavior in mpox dynamics – an SIR model approach* (awarded high honors).

**Independent Study Advisor**

*Dartmouth College* **2022-2024**

- Advisor for the following independent study projects:
  - ◆ Liam F. Nokes ('25, Mathematics), through the James O. Freedman Presidential Scholars Program: *Mycorrhizal evolutionary dynamics: games on bipartite networks and applications* (Summer '23).
  - ◆ Zack Nathan ('23, Computer Science & Mathematics): *An evolutionary game theory model of altruism via arrhenotoky* (Winter, Spring '23).
  - ◆ Brian Wang ('23, Mathematics & Computer Science), Ryan Wu ('23, Computer Science & Quantitative Social Science), and Adi Ogale ('23, Applied Mathe-

matics & Economics), through the Neukom Scholars program: *Meerkats and Alloparenting: Examining why meerkats choose to take care of kids that are not their own* (Winter '23).

- ◆ Arturo F. Serrano Borrero ('24, Mathematics): *Models of evolution, adaptation, and revolution: understanding political activism in post-COVID Panama* (Summer '22).
- ◆ Graduate student reading course on adaptive network models (Winter '23).

### Undergraduate Honors Thesis Reader

*Dartmouth College*

**2022-2024**

- Second reader for the following QSS honors theses:
  - ◆ Max Blum ('23): *Information diffusion in online social networks: a simulation experiment*.
  - ◆ Max Schindel ('22): *Who wins? A game theoretic approach to three candidate elections in ranked choice voting*.

### ReMatch Graduate Mentor

*Princeton University*

**Sept. 2016 - Sept. 2017**

- Research student advised: Ayanna Matthews ('20, Physics)

### HONORS AND AWARDS

Interviewee for the AWM's *Biographies of Contemporary Women in Mathematics* Essay Contest, 2024

- Dartmouth College local contest, first prize for middle school: [Link to essay](#)
- National contest, honorable mention for middle school: [Link to essay](#)

Princeton Center for Health and Wellbeing (CHW) Research Grant for *The creation and evolution of social networks on campus: a case study in how individuals integrate and assimilate into social groups*, 2020

Maple Poster Prize, Society for Mathematical Biology (SMB) Annual Meeting, 2019

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (NSF GRFP), Mathematical Sciences – Mathematical Biology, 2017-2020

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (NSF GRFP) Honorable Mention, Life Sciences – Biophysics, 2016

Courant Institute, Hollis Cooley Prize for excellence and promise in undergraduate mathematics, 2015

Courant Institute, Highest Honors in Mathematics, 2015

NYU University Honors Scholar, Founder's Day Award, 2015

NYU Undergraduate Research Conference Panel Winner in Mathematics, 2015

NYU Dean's Undergraduate Research Fund Grant, 2014

Courant Institute Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Grant, 2014

### INVITED TALKS

1. *The Dynamics of Social Mobilization and Climate Activism*, SIAM Conference on Mathematics of Planet Earth. Portland, OR, June 2024
2. *Exploring the Role of Altruism with Dynamic Beehive Models*, Philadelphia Undergraduate Mathematics Conference, Plenary talk. Bryn Mawr College, Apr. 2024
3. *Using Conviction-Moderated Adaptive Network Models to Understand Political Activism*, JMM. San Francisco, CA, Jan. 2024

4. *Heterogeneous Preferences and Personality in Adaptive Network Models*, JMM. San Francisco, CA, Jan. 2024
5. *Altruism and Arrhenotoky with Evolutionary Game Theory*, MAA MathFest. Tampa, FL, Aug. 2023
6. *Altruism and Arrhenotoky with Evolutionary Game Theory*, Society for Mathematical Biology Annual Meeting (SMB). The Ohio State University, July 2023
7. *An adaptive voter model in heterogeneous environments*, SIAM Conference on Applications of Dynamical Systems. Portland, OR, May 2023
8. *The role of loners in the evolution of cooperation in group-structured populations*, Smith College Thursday Lunch Seminar. Northampton, MA, March 2023
9. *An evolutionary game theory model of altruism via arrhenotoky*, AMS Spring Sectional Meeting. Georgia Tech, March 2023
10. *An adaptive voter model in heterogeneous environments and the microdynamics of spatial polarization*, JMM. Boston, MA, Jan. 2023
11. *The role of loners in the evolution of cooperation in group-structured populations*, Mathematics Colloquium. University of Central Florida, Oct. 2022
12. *An adaptive voter model in heterogeneous environments and the microdynamics of spatial polarization*, AMS Fall Sectional Meeting. UMass Amherst, Oct. 2022
13. *The role of loners in the evolution of cooperation in group-structured populations*, SIAM Conference on the Life Sciences. Pittsburgh, PA, July 2022
14. *Heterogeneity in human populations, from structure to personality – a modeling and data approach*, Inaugural AIMS Seminar (Applied Interdisciplinary Mathematics and Sociology). University of Central Florida, Virtual, April 2022
15. *The role of loners in the evolution of cooperation in group-structured populations*, JMM. Virtual, April 2022
16. *Heterogeneity in human populations, from structure to personality – a modeling and data approach*, Applied and Computational Mathematics Seminar. Dartmouth College, March 2022
17. *The microdynamics of spatial polarization: A model and an application to survey data from Ukraine*, Santa Fe Institute CounterBalance Seminar. Virtual, Feb. 2022
18. *The Emergence and Stability of Population Structure: Two Approaches*, Society for Mathematical Biology Annual Meeting (eSMB). Virtual, Aug. 2020
19. *Polarization and Adaptive Voter Models*, Political Polarization Workshop. Virtual, Aug. 2020
20. *An Adaptive Voter Model in Heterogeneous Environments*, AMS Spring Western Sectional Meeting. California State University, Fresno, May 2020 (postponed due to COVID-19).
21. *Evolutionary Dynamics in Set Structured Populations*, Applied and Computational Mathematics Seminar. Dartmouth College, Oct. 2019

CONTRIBUTED  
TALKS

1. *The Micro-dynamics of Geographic Polarization: a Model and an Application to Survey Data from Ukraine*, Society for Mathematical Biology Annual Meeting. Virtual, June 2021
2. *The Micro-dynamics of Geographic Polarization: a Model and an Application to Survey Data from Ukraine*, APS March Meeting. Virtual, Mar. 2021
3. *The Emergence and Stability of Population Structure*, QCB Colloquium. Princeton University, Nov. 2020

4. *An Adaptive Voter Model Applied to Polarization Data*, Theoretical Ecology Lab Tea. Princeton University, Nov. 2020
5. *Evolutionary Dynamics in a Group Population Structure with Barriers to Group Entry*, SIAM Conference on the Life Sciences (cancelled due to COVID-19), June 2020
6. *An Adaptive Voter Model in Heterogeneous Environments*, SIAM Conference on the Life Sciences (cancelled due to COVID-19), June 2020
7. *Evolutionary Dynamics in a Group Population Structure*, Joint Mathematics Meetings (JMM). Denver, CO, Jan. 2020
8. *An Adaptive Voter Model with Optimal Distinctiveness*, Theoretical Ecology Lab Tea. Princeton University, Oct. 2019
9. *Evolutionary Dynamics in a Group Population Structure*, Social Decisions Workshop. University of Houston, Oct. 2019
10. *Evolutionary Dynamics in a Group Population Structure* (poster), Society for Mathematical Biology Annual Meeting. Montréal, QC, Canada, July 2019
11. *Optimal Distinctiveness and its Effects on Network Formation and Social Integration*, CoCCoN Workshop on the Social Modulation of Risk & Collective Cognition. Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, July 2019
12. *Evolutionary Dynamics in a Group Population Structure*, SIAM Conference on Applications of Dynamical Systems. Snowbird, UT, May 2019
  - Talk recording and slides: <https://bit.ly/2Zp8BmD>
13. *Evolutionary Dynamics in a Group Population Structure*, APS March Meeting. Boston, MA, Mar. 2019
  - Featured in the conference’s media materials: <https://phys.org/news/2019-03-approach-cooperate.html>
  - Participated in a press conference with members of the media
14. *Evolutionary Dynamics on Sets with Barriers to Entry*, Theoretical Ecology Lab Tea. Princeton University, Dec. 2017
15. *Evolutionary Dynamics on Sets with Barriers to Entry*, NIH NHGRI Annual Meeting. St. Louis, MO, Apr. 2017
16. *Evolutionary Dynamics on Sets with Barriers to Entry*, QCB Colloquium. Princeton University, Apr. 2016
17. *Analysis of the “Euglenoid Motion” – Locomotion by Shape Deformations*, NYU Dean’s Undergraduate Research Conference. Apr. 2015
18. *Analysis of the “Euglenoid Motion” – Locomotion by Shape Deformations*, Courant Institute Undergraduate Research Conference. Oct. 2014

OTHER  
PRESENTATIONS

- An Introduction to Evolutionary Game Theory*, cSplash, Courant Institute. Apr. 2019
- Topics in Quantitative and Computational Biology*, NYU Courant Institute Mathematics Society. Nov. 2015
- Calculus Crash Course: Biology and Medicine*, cSplash, Courant Institute. Apr. 2014, 2016
- Fourier Series and Their Applications to Music*, cSplash, Courant Institute. Apr. 2013

INVITED  
WORKSHOPS AND  
CONFERENCES

**Building a Bigger and Better US**, *MIT*, Sept. 2024

- Co-hosted by MIT's Laboratory for Financial Engineering, American Exchange Project, and The Cooperation Game, in collaboration with the Santa Fe Institute

**Collective Adaptation in a Turbulent World**, *Santa Fe Institute*, Sept. 2023

**CoCCoN Workshops (Cooperation and Collective Cognition Network)**

- Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany – Nov. 2017, July 2019
- Princeton University, Princeton, NJ – May 2017, Jan. 2019

**Langfeld Meeting**, *From Micro-Level Cognitive Phenomena to Large-Scale Social Dynamics*, Princeton University, May 2017

LEADERSHIP,  
SERVICE, AND  
VOLUNTEERING

**Minisymposium Organizing**

**SIAM Life Sciences (LS)**

*Portland, OR*

**June 2024**

- Co-organized a special session on “Evolutionary Game Theory in Modeling Biological and Social Systems”.

**SMB Annual Meeting**

*The Ohio State University*

**July 2023**

- Co-organized a special session on “Modeling and Analysis of Evolutionary Dynamics Across Scales and Areas of Application”.

**AMS Spring Sectional Meeting**

*Georgia Tech*

**March 2023**

- Co-organized a special session on “Multiscale Approaches to Modeling Ecological and Evolutionary Dynamics”.

**Joint Mathematics Meetings (JMM)**

*Boston, MA*

**Jan. 2023**

- Co-organized a special session on “Mathematical Modeling of Ecology and Evolution: From Infectious Disease to the Evolution of Cooperation”.

**AMS Fall Sectional Meeting**

*UMass Amherst*

**Oct. 2022**

- Co-organized a special session on “Game-Theoretic and Agent-Based Approaches to Modeling Biological and Social Systems”.

**eSMB**

*Society for Mathematical Biology Annual Meeting (online)*

**June 2021**

- Co-organized a mini-symposium on “Collective Behavior and Social Evolution”.
- Served as session chair for a Population Dynamics & Evolution (EVOP) Contributed Talk session.

**SIAM Dynamical Systems (DS)**

*SIAM DS Meeting (online)*

**May 2021**

- Co-organized a mini-symposium on “Dynamical Systems Approaches for Biological and Cultural Evolution”.

## **eSMB**

*Society for Mathematical Biology Annual Meeting (online)* **Aug. 2020**

- Co-organized a mini-symposium on “The Emergence and Stability of Population Structure and Biological Aggregates Across Scales”.

## **AMS Spring Sectional Meeting**

*Tufts University* **March 2020, March 2022**

- Co-organized a special session on “Mathematical Methods for Ecology and Evolution in Structured Populations”.

## **Peer Mentoring**

### **QCB Peer Mentor**

*Princeton University* **Sept. 2017 - Sept. 2021**

- Co-founded the QCB Peer Mentoring Program; mentored five first-year graduate students.

### **Undergraduate Peer Mentor**

*Courant Institute, New York University* **Sept. 2012 - May 2015**

## **Service and Volunteering**

### **“Being a (Math) Postdoc” Panel**

*Professional Development Seminar, Dartmouth College* **May 2024**

### **SMB Newsletter Committee**

*Society for Mathematical Biology* **2024-present**

### **Student Poster Session Judge**

*Joint Mathematics Meetings (JMM), San Francisco, CA* **Jan. 2024**

### **Undergraduate Student Poster Session Judge**

*MAA MathFest, Tampa, FL* **Aug. 2023**

### **Undergraduate Poster Session Judge**

*Dartmouth College Dept. of Math* **May 2023**

### **Math department DEI committee**

*Dartmouth College* **2022-2024**

### **Judge for the AWM “biographies of contemporary women in mathematics” essay contest**

*Dartmouth College* **2022-2024**

### **Student Poster Session Judge**

*Joint Mathematics Meetings (JMM), Denver, CO* **Jan. 2020**

### **Courant Splash (cSplash)**

*Courant Institute, New York University* **Sept. 2012 - Sept. 2015**

- cSplash is an annual one-day lecture series for advanced high school students interested in STEM. Served as Advertising coordinator from 2012-2013, Logistics Coordinator from 2013-2014, and co-director from 2014-2015.

### Reviewing

#### **Grant Reviewer**

**Jan. 2023**

- Grant reviewer for the University of Tennessee's internal grant competition through the Center of Excellence in Computational Science and Engineering (CEACSE).

#### Seminar Organizing

Theoretical Ecology Lab Tea, Princeton University

**Fall 2018**

PROFESSIONAL  
AFFILIATIONS

SIAM, AWM, AMS, MAA