

CURRICULUM VITAE

Alexander Oettl

Goizueta Distinguished Chair in Entrepreneurship
Professor of Organization & Management
Goizueta Business School, Emory University

Fields of Interest

Economics of Innovation, Knowledge Spillovers, Human Capital, Economic Geography

Education

PhD in Strategic Management, University of Toronto, 2009
A New Taxonomy for Star Scientists: Three Essays

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

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

Positions

Goizueta Business School, Emory University Atlanta, GA
Goizueta Distinguished Chair in Entrepreneurship (2026 – present)
Professor of Organization & Management (2026 – present)

Scheller College of Business, Georgia Institute of Technology Atlanta, GA
Dean's Distinguished Term Professorship (2023 – 2026)
Professor of Strategy & Innovation (2023 – 2026)
Associate Professor of Strategy & Innovation (2017 – 2023)
Assistant Professor of Strategic Management (2009 – 2017)

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

Creative Destruction Lab Atlanta, GA
Founding Site Lead, CDL-Atlanta (2019 – 2024)

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

Awards and Grants

- 2026** Schmidt Sciences AI for Science Development Award, \$10,000
- 2024** Linda S. and Lloyd L. Byars Award for Faculty Research Excellence, Georgia Tech Scheller
- 2019, 2017, 2015, 2013** Management Science Meritorious Service Award
- 2017** Roundtable for Engineering Entrepreneurship Research (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. 2024. “Proximate (Co-)Working: Knowledge Spillovers and Social Interactions.” *Management Science*, 70(12), 8245–8264 <https://pubsonline.informs.org/doi/10.1287/mnsc.2022.03555>. Previous version as NBER Working Paper #30120
2. Chava, Sudheer, Alexander Oettl, Manpreet Singh, and Linghang Zeng. 2024. “Creative Destruction? Impact of E-Commerce on the Retail Sector.” *Management Science*, 70(4), 2168–2187. <https://doi.org/10.1287/mnsc.2023.4795>. Previous version as NBER Working Paper #30077
3. Agrawal, Ajay, John McHale, and Alexander Oettl. 2024. “Artificial Intelligence and Scientific Discovery: A Model of Prioritized Search.” *Research Policy*, 53(5), 104989. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2024.104989>. Previous version as NBER Working Paper #31558
4. Chava, Sudheer, Alexander Oettl, and Manpreet Singh. 2023. “Does a One-Size-Fits-All Minimum Wage Cause Financial Stress for Small Businesses?” *Management Science*, 69(11), 7095–7117. <https://doi.org/10.1287/mnsc.2022.4620>. Previous version as NBER Working Paper #26523
5. Agrawal, Ajay, John McHale, and Alexander Oettl. 2023. “Superhuman science: How artificial intelligence may impact innovation.” *Journal of Evolutionary Economics*, 33(5), 1473–1517. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00191-023-00845-3>.
6. 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>.
7. 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.

8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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>.
11. 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.
12. 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>
13. 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>
14. 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>
15. 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>

Comments in Refereed Journals

16. Oettl, Alexander. 2012. "Honour the Helpful," *Nature*, 489(7417), 496–497. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/489496a>

Book Chapters

17. Agrawal, Ajay, John McHale, and Alexander Oettl. 2026. "AI in Science" in *Economics of Science*. Eds. Megan MacGarvie and Reinhilde Veugelers. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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.

21. 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

22. Agrawal, Ajay, John McHale, and Alexander Oettl. “AI as a Tool for Augmenting Workers: A Task-Based Approach.” Revise & Resubmit at *Journal of Human Capital*.

Working Papers

23. Hasan, Sharique, Alexander Oettl, and Sampsa Samila. “From Model Design to Organizational Design: Complexity Redistribution and Trade-Offs in Generative AI.” Preparing for submission.

Work in Progress

Oettl, Alexander and Colleen Stuart. “Participation through Collaboration: Evidence from the United Nations.” Preparing manuscript.

Hasan, Sharique, Alexander Oettl, and Sampsa Samila. “The Skewed Adoption of Generative AI: Behavioral Evidence from U.S. Households, 2022–2024.” Analyzing data.

Press

The Economist, September 12, 2024, “Physical proximity has big effects in the workplace”

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 Emmigrate”

New York Times, April 10, 2006, “U.S. Research Funds Often Lead to Start-Ups, Study Says”

Presentations

Invited Seminars

- Columbia Business School, Columbia University, New York, NY (2026)
- A.B. Freeman School of Business, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA (2026)
- Fuqua School of Business, Duke University, Durham, NC (2026)
- Olin Business School, Washington University, St. Louis, MO (2026)
- Goizueta Business School, Emory University, Atlanta, GA (2025)
- Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition, Munich, Germany (2025)
- Carey School of Business, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD (2024)
- European School of Management and Technology, Berlin, Germany (2024)
- Georgetown University, Washington, DC (2022)
- Boston University, Boston, MA (2021)
- Rice University, Houston, TX (2021)
- Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (2019)
- Marriott School of Business, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT (2019)
- Smith School of Business, University of Maryland, College Park, MD (2018)
- Munich Innovation Seminar, Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition, Munich, Germany (2017)
- Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain (2017)
- National University of Singapore, Singapore (2016)
- Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA (2014)
- University of Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France (2014)
- University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom (2014)
- Fox School of Business, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA (2013)

- Max Planck Institute for Intellectual Property, Munich, Germany (2013)
- Emory University, Atlanta, GA (2013)
- University of Passau, Passau, Germany (2012)
- Olin Business School, Washington University, St. Louis, MO (2011)
- 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, NJ (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)
- Entrepreneurship, Growth and Public Policy Group, Max Planck Institute of Economics, Jena, Germany (2006)
- University of Toronto Strategic Management Workshop Series, Toronto, ON (2006)

Conference Presentations

- NBER Corporate Associates Research Symposium, New York, NY (2026)
- Cornell Workshop on Communities, Clusters, and Ecosystems, Ithaca, NY (2019)
- NBER Role of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Economic Growth Pre-conference, Cambridge, MA (2019)
- Technology, Governance and Regulation Conference, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel (2019)
- Organisation, Economics and Policy of Scientific Research Conference, Bordeaux, France (2019)
- Academy of Management Meetings, Anaheim, CA (2016)
- Individual and Collective Antecedents of Scientific Knowledge Production Workshop, Copenhagen Business School, Copenhagen, Denmark (2016)
- Organisation, Economics, and Policy of Scientific Research Conference, Turin, Italy (2015)
- Harvard Business School Workshop on Innovation in a Global Economy, Boston, MA (2015)
- Utah/BYU Winter Strategy Conference, Park City, UT (2015)
- DRUID Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark (2014)
- NYU Economics of Strategy Conference, New York, NY (2014)
- Organisation, Economics, and Policy of Scientific Research Conference, Turin, Italy (2014)

- Maryland Entrepreneurship Conference, College Park, MD (2014)
- Academy of Management Symposium, Philadelphia, PA (2014)
- REER Conference, Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA (2013)
- NBER Summer Institute Innovation Policy and the Economy, Cambridge, MA (2013)
- 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, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL (2012)
- Duke University Strategy Conference, Durham, NC (2012)
- InnoS&T Conference, Munich, Germany (2011)
- Wharton People and Organizations Conference, Philadelphia, PA (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)
- CCC Doctoral Colloquium, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA (2008)
- DRUID Summer Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark (2007)
- Academy of Management Meeting, Philadelphia, PA (2007)
- Canadian Economic Association Meeting, Montréal, QC (2006)

Discussions and Panels

- Academy of Management Meetings, Copenhagen, Denmark (2025)
- Academy of Management Meetings, Chicago, IL (2024)
- Stanford Workshop on the Economics of Transformative AI, Asilomar, CA (2024)
- NBER Summer Institute, Cambridge, MA (2024)
- University of Southern California Economics of Quantum IT Conference, Los Angeles, CA (2024)
- University of Southern California Economics of Quantum IT Conference, Los Angeles, CA (2023)
- Utah-BYU Winter Strategy Conference, Park City, UT (2022)
- Labor & Finance Group Conference, Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA (2022)
- UNC Emergence Workshop, Chapel Hill, NC (2021)
- Workshop on Field Experiments in Strategy, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship, Duke University (2020)

- Cornell Innovation and Entrepreneurship Workshop, Ithaca, NY (2019)
- Academy of Management Meetings, Chicago, IL (2018)
- Academy of Management Meetings, Atlanta, GA (2017)
- Academy of Management Meetings, Anaheim, CA (2016)
- Strategic Management Society Meetings, Denver, CO (2015)

Invited Keynotes

- “Artificial Intelligence and Organizational Transformation,” Amazon Transportation Operations Management Group (2025)
- “Building Tomorrow’s Science: AI, Talent, and Geography,” Max Planck Institute RISE Conference (2024)
- “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)

Teaching

Mean instructor effectiveness ratings: 4.7–5.0/5 across all courses

Courses Taught

Undergraduate: Strategic Management (core), Foundations of Strategy (core)

Evening/Full-time MBA: Strategic Management (core), Managing Innovation (elective)

Executive MBA: Global Strategy, Comparative Systems

PhD: Models & Methods for Causal Inference in Management Research

Executive Education: Coca-Cola, Georgia Tech Alumni Association, Norfolk Southern, Reliance Worldwide Corporation, FanDuel, Chief AI and Digitization Officer Certificate Program

Teaching Material

- Roche, Maria P., Anne Marie Knott, and Alexander Oettl. “Toilets for the Underserved: The SURT Commercialization Challenge.” Harvard Business School Case 726-369, July 2025.

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
- 2024** – Organization Science, Editorial Review Board Member

Ad-Hoc Reviewer

Administrative Science Quarterly, American Economic Review, 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, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 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

Last Modified July 2026