

# Jacob VanNattan

Department of Economics, Washington University in St. Louis  
1 Brookings Drive, MSC 1208-228-308  
Harry and Susan Seigle Hall, Suite 307  
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899  
Email: [jdvannattan@wustl.edu](mailto:jdvannattan@wustl.edu)  
Website: [jacobvannattan.com](http://jacobvannattan.com)  
Phone: (817) 703-2529

*Last updated: February 2, 2026*

## EDUCATION

---

<b>Ph.D. in Economics</b> , Washington University in St. Louis <i>Arts &amp; Sciences Fellowship</i> <i>Advisor: Brian W. Rogers</i>	Anticipated 2028 2022–present
<b>M.A. in Economics</b> , Washington University in St. Louis	2024
<b>M.A. in Crisis and Trauma Studies</b> , Tel-Aviv University <i>Focus: Community resiliency and social responses to crises</i>	2016
<b>B.S. in Economics</b> , The University of Texas at Dallas <i>Minor: Statistics</i> <i>Honors: Magna Cum Laude, Eugene McDermott Scholar, National Merit Scholar, Major Honors with Distinction, Collegium V Honors</i>	2015

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

**Primary:** Network Economics, Social Learning, Belief Formation, Strategic Behavior in Networks  
**Secondary:** Conflict, Coordination, Collective Action

## PUBLICATIONS

---

“**Enhancing Resiliency and Promoting Prosocial Behavior Among Tanzanian Primary-School Students: A School-Based Intervention**” (with Rony Berger, Joy Benatov, Raphael Cuadros, and Marc Gelkopf). *Transcultural Psychiatry*, 55(6): 821–845, 2018.

We develop and evaluate a culturally adapted school-based intervention for children facing chronic adversity in Tanzania. Students randomly assigned to the intervention showed significant improvements in resiliency and prosocial behaviors at both post-intervention and 8-month follow-up.

## UNDER REVIEW

---

“**Cooperation in a Dynamic Network**” (with Nicole Immorlica, Brendan Lucier, and Brian W. Rogers)

We study cooperation in networks where agents play repeated games and can sever relationships. We show that coexistence of cooperators and defectors arises naturally even with patient agents, and characterize when cooperators must be exclusive to sustain cooperation.

## WORKING PAPERS

---

“**Belief Formation on Networks**” (with Junya Murayama, Brian W. Rogers, and Xiannong Zhang)

We design experiments to study how people combine interdependent information sources. About half of subjects solve problems requiring exact deduction, but none solve similar problems with non-degenerate posteriors, suggesting success relies on fragile heuristics rather than robust understanding.



## SKILLS

---

**Programming:** R, Python, Stata, MATLAB, zTree, oTree

**Research Methods:** Economic Modeling, Applied Microeconomics, Network Analysis, Applied Econometrics, Structural Estimation, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Experimental Economics, Field Research, Program Evaluation

## REFERENCES

---

**Brian Rogers**

Professor of Economics  
Department of Economics  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Email: [brogers@wustl.edu](mailto:brogers@wustl.edu)

**Brent Hickman**

Assistant Professor  
Olin Business School  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Email: [hickmanbr@wustl.edu](mailto:hickmanbr@wustl.edu)