

# IGOR LETINA

## EMPLOYMENT

- 07/2020– **Associate Professor for Microeconomics**  
University of Bern, Department of Economics
- 01/2024– **Vice President**  
Swiss Competition Commission

## PAST EMPLOYMENT

- 07/2017–06/2020 **Assistant Professor (tenure track) for Microeconomics**  
University of Bern, Department of Economics
- 09/2023–12/2023 **Member**  
Swiss Competition Commission

## AFFILIATIONS

- 12/2019– **Research Affiliate**  
Centre for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR)
- 03/2022– **Member**  
Committee for Industrial Economics of the Verein für Socialpolitik

## EDUCATION

- 2011–2017 **PhD in Economics**  
University of Zurich, Switzerland
- 2009–2011 **MSc in Economics and Social Sciences**  
University Bocconi, Italy
- 2005–2009 **BA in Economics & Pol. Science and IR**  
American University in Bulgaria

## EDITORIAL SERVICE

- 2022– **Associate Editor**  
Journal of Industrial Economics

## WORKING PAPERS

1. Market-Bound Research Contests,  
with Oleg Muratov,  
December 2024.
2. Startup Acquisitions: Acqui-hires and Talent Hoarding,  
with Jean-Michel Benkert and Shuo Liu,  
*R&R, European Economic Review*, revised January 2025.

## PUBLICATIONS

9. Never-ending Search for Innovation,  
with Jean-Michel Benkert,  
*Journal of Industrial Economics*, forthcoming.
8. Research Joint Ventures: The Role of Financial Constraints,  
with Philipp Brunner and Armin Schmutzler,  
*European Economic Review*, 2024, Vol. 165, 104742.
7. Killer Acquisitions and Beyond: Policy Effects on Innovation Strategies,  
with Armin Schmutzler and Regina Seibel,  
*International Economic Review*, 2024, Vol 65(2), pp. 591-622 (lead article).
6. Optimal Contest Design: Tuning the Heat,  
with Shuo Liu and Nick Netzer,  
*Journal of Economic Theory*, 2023, Vol. 213, 105616.  
Best paper award, 2021 Conference of the China Information Economics Society.
5. Designing Dynamic Research Tournaments,  
with Jean-Michel Benkert,  
*American Economic Journal: Microeconomics*, 2020, Vol. 12(4), pp. 270-289.
4. Delegating Performance Evaluation,  
with Shuo Liu and Nick Netzer,  
*Theoretical Economics*, 2020, Vol. 15(2), pp. 477-509.
3. Inducing Variety: A Theory of Innovation Contests,  
with Armin Schmutzler,  
*International Economic Review*, 2019, Vol. 60(4), pp. 1757-1780.
2. Optimal Search from Multiple Distributions with Infinite Horizon,  
with Jean-Michel Benkert and Georg Nöldeke,  
*Economics Letters*, 2018, Vol. 164, pp. 15-18.
1. The Road not Taken: Competition and the R&D Portfolio,  
*The RAND Journal of Economics*, 2016, Vol. 47(2), pp. 433-460.

## GRANTS

- 2019 Swiss National Science Foundation, Project Funding (PI), CHF 372'904.  
2019 Swiss National Science Foundation, Scientific Exchanges, CHF 10'600.

## REFEREEING (selected)

AEJ:Micro, AER, EER, EJ, IER, IJIO, JEBO, JEEA, JET, JEMS, JIndEc, JLEO, JPE, JPubE, ManagSci, QJE, RAND, REStud.

## INVITED SEMINARS

- 2024 University Bocconi, University of Lausanne, Pan-Asian Digital Economy Seminars  
2023 University of Padova, Lancaster University, TECHNIS, Tilburg University, University of Barcelona  
2022 Helsinki GSE, Global Seminar on Contests & Conflict, LUISS University Rome, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf (DICE)  
2021 University of Antwerp (online), University of Basel, National University of Singapore (online), University of British Columbia (online), Bar-Ilan University (online), Paris Seminar on the Economics of Digitization (online)  
2020 University of Leicester (online)

- 2019 New Economic School (Moscow), Higher School of Economics (Moscow), University of Hamburg, Carlos III (Madrid), University of Lausanne, Erasmus University Rotterdam, University of St. Gallen, Stockholm School of Economics
- 2018 Gothenburg University
- 2017 University of Cologne, LUISS University Rome
- 2016 University of Bern
- 2015 Research Institute of Industrial Economics (IFN, Stockholm)

## CONFERENCES

- 2024 MaCCI Annual Conference (Germany), Congress of the Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics
- 2023 Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory (France), Congress of the Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics
- 2022 Verein für Socialpolitik (Switzerland), Congress of the Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics, Conference on Mechanism and Institution Design (Singapore, online)
- 2021 Joint CEPR conferences: IMO and ENT (Denmark), CRESSE (Greece), IIOC (USA, online)
- 2020 MaCCI-ZEW Workshop “Economics of Innovation” (Germany, online), Contests: Theory and Evidence (UK; online), MaCCI Annual Conference (Germany)
- 2018 Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory (Taiwan), China Meeting of the Econometric Society (China), Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society (S. Korea)
- 2017 Contests: Theory and Evidence (UK), EARIE (Netherlands)
- 2016 Verein für Socialpolitik (Germany), EARIE (Portugal), Contests: Theory and Evidence (UK), Barcelona GSE Summer Forum (Spain), Swiss IO Day , Swiss Theory Day
- 2015 IIOC (USA), Midwest Economic Theory and International Trade Conference (USA), International Game Theory Conference (USA), UECE Lisbon Meetings in Game Theory and Applications (Portugal)
- 2014 Stanford Theory Lunch (USA), Barcelona GSE Summer Forum (Spain), EEA (France), IO Workshop (Italy), Oligo Workshop (Italy), Swiss IO Day, Young Swiss Economists Meeting, Zurich Workshop on Economics
- 2013 EARIE (Portugal), Verein für Socialpolitik (Germany), Zurich Workshop on Economics, Swiss IO Day, Spring Meeting of Young Economists (Denmark), Warwick Economics PhD Conference (UK)
- 2012 Zurich Workshop on Economics

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 2021– Board member – Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics
- 2022– Co-organizer – Swiss IO Day
- 2018–2022 Co-organizer – Swiss Theory Day
- 2019 Organizer – Bern Workshop on Contest Theory

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Lecture Microeconomics II (Master, every Fall since 2017)
- Lecture Digitalization of Societies (with Prof. Silke Adam, Bachelor, every Fall since 2022)
- Lecture Economics of Innovation (Bachelor/Master, Spring 2018–2021, Spring 2023)
- Lecture Organizational Economics (Bachelor/Master, Fall 2020)
- Seminar Recent Developments in Competition Policy (Master, Spring 2024-2025)
- Seminar Case Studies in Economics of Innovation (Bachelor, Fall 2024)
- Seminar Markets and Morals (Bachelor, Fall 2020, Spring 2022-2025)
- Seminar Topics in Microeconomic Theory (PhD Seminar, every semester since Fall 2017)
- Seminar Advanced Topics in Microeconomics (Bachelor, Fall 2022, 2023)
- Seminar Solving Economic Models with Python (Bachelor, Fall 2020, Fall 2021)

## **RESEARCH VISITS**

2014-2015                      Stanford University (USA), Department of Economics  
(12 months)                    Supported by a Doc.Mobility grant of the Swiss National Science Foundation.