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# RUGGIERO CAVALLO

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**RESEARCH GOALS** My work is at the intersection of game theory and computer science, mainly in the area of microeconomics called mechanism design. I address social welfare, fairness, and robustness properties of decision-making procedures in the face of two perennial obstacles: human self-interest and computational limitation.

Most research publications available online at: <http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cavallo/research.html>

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**EDUCATION** **Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA (2002–2008): Ph.D. in Computer Science, June 2008.  
Dissertation: *Social Welfare Maximization in Dynamic Strategic Decision Problems*  
Committee: David C. Parkes (advisor), Jerry Green, Barbara Grosz, Satinder Singh, and Leslie Valiant.  
S.M. degree in computer science, June 2004.

**Johns Hopkins University**, Baltimore, MD (2001–2002): grad. course work while employed at STScI.

**Cornell University**, Ithaca, NY (1999–2001): Bachelor of Arts with distinction in all subjects, 2001.  
Major in Computer Science; minor in Philosophy & Mathematics.

**Hamilton College**, Clinton, NY (1997–1999): Two years towards BA before transferring to Cornell.  
Major in Computer Science; minor in Philosophy.

Attended the *Stanford Summer School in Neuroeconomics*, **Stanford University**, Stanford, CA (July 2006).  
With 35 other graduate students, heard daily lectures from world's top experts in neuroscience, psychology, and economics on topics at the interface of these disciplines. Performed an experimental study examining whether humans are "Bayesian-optimal" in a basic multi-armed bandit decision task.

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**TEACHING** **Harvard University Teaching Fellow**: responsible for weekly recitation sections, review sessions, occasional lecture filling-in for professor; grading of homework, exams, and course projects; office hours; helping professor design/create course material, etc.

- **CS 182**: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (Fall 2003, Fall 2004)
- **CS 286r**: Topics at the Interface between Computer Science and Economics (Spring 2006)

**Harvard University Mind, Brain, & Behavior senior workshop leader**: led tutorials and group discussions among Harvard College seniors doing MBB theses (Spring 2004, Spring 2005)

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**EMPLOYMENT** **Yahoo! Research**, New York, NY (August 2010–present)  
*Research scientist*: In the Microeconomics and Social Systems group.

**University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA (September, 2008–July 2010)  
*Postdoctoral fellow*: Researcher in the CIS department, under the advisorship of Prof. Michael Kearns.

**Sony Computer Science Laboratory**, Tokyo, Japan (Summer, 2003)  
*Research Intern*: I explored problems related to computationally modeling aspects of human consciousness.

**Space Telescope Science Institute**, Baltimore, MD (July 2001–July 2002)  
*Software Engineer*: STScI is the astronomical research center responsible for operating the Hubble Space Telescope for NASA. I was a member of the planning & development team, the group that develops and maintains— among other projects— a long-range planner (SPIKE) and an expert system (TRANS) that “transforms” scientific specifications for HST observations into detailed plans for their execution.

**Cornell University**, Ithaca, NY (Summer 2000)  
*Research Assistant*: I worked with Prof. Bart Selman on a research project in the area of Boolean Satisfiability (SAT). Work included design and implementation of a genetic program to discriminate among, and form effective combinations of, various SAT solvers.

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**MISCELLANY** Musician/songwriter/guitar player; intermediate speaker of Mandarin Chinese; stint as web editor of *Harvard Asia Quarterly*; graduate committee for Harvard Mind/Brain/Behavior initiative.