“Our program is focused on achieving strong job placements and successful careers for each of top candidates we admit each year. Our students thrive in an environment where every faculty member is both research active and eager to collaborate with our doctoral students.”
—Lamar Pierce, Beverly and James Hance Professor of Strategy; Editor in Chief, Organization Science

At Olin, we believe that great Strategy and Entrepreneurship PhD candidates have a fundamental drive to impact business practice. Our students, like our faculty, have diverse undergraduate training, including economics, chemistry, engineering and mathematics. We strongly promote interdisciplinary and collaborative research among PhD students and faculty across business disciplines and with other areas and schools at Washington University.

The Center for Research in Economics and Strategy (CRES) advances the understanding of firms and markets by supporting scientific research employing state-of-the-art analytical and empirical methods. Intended for publication in top-tier academic journals, CRES-sponsored research addresses substantive questions in many areas of economics and strategy. In addition to research assistance, which includes PhD student funding and data collection, CRES supports frequent presentations of internal and external research, national and international short-term visitors, CRES Fellows and a website that includes extensive research listings.

Collaborative Research—Strategy and Entrepreneurship Faculty and PhD Students

Working Papers:

Published Papers:

Awards Received by PhD Students While in Our Program

- Ming Zhu Wang (PhD 2023 expected, joining University of Washington): Robert J. Litschert Best Doctoral Student Paper Award, AoM STR Division, 2020
- Trey Cummings (currently at Johns Hopkins University): Organization Science Dissertation Finalist; AoM STR Division Best Dissertation Finalist; AoM TIM Division Best Dissertation Finalist
- Leo Klüppel (currently at Ohio State University): SMS Best Conference PhD Paper Prize, 2017
- Timothy Gubler (currently at Brigham Young University): Robert J. Litschert Best Doctoral Student Paper Award – 2015; Strategic Human Capital Division Best Paper Prize, Strategic Management Society, Denver, CO, 2015
- Erin Scott* (currently at Massachusetts Institute of Technology): Kauffman Foundation Fellowship ($20,000); Organization Science Dissertation Proposal (Second Place)

*Indicates current or former student
CHAIR: Daniel W. Elfenbein  
Professor of Organization and Strategy and Associate Dean, EMBA Shanghai  
PhD, Harvard University  
Research interests: entrepreneurial decision-making, overconfidence, governance of complex transactions, corporate social responsibility

Nicholas Argyres  
Vernon W. and Marion K. Piper Professor of Strategy  
PhD, University of California, Berkeley  
Research interests: strategy and structure; vertical integration, contracting and inter-organizational arrangements; internal organization structure; industry evolution

Seth Carnahan  
Associate Professor of Strategy  
PhD, University of Maryland  
Research interests: strategy, entrepreneurship, human capital

Tarek Ghani  
Assistant Professor of Strategy  
PhD, University of California, Berkeley  
Research interests: how market and institutional frictions affect firm strategy in emerging economies, behavioral barriers that impede adoption of new financial technologies, how aligning firm incentives with public sector goals can address corruption

Anne Marie Knott  
Robert and Barbara Frick Professor of Business  
PhD, University of California - Los Angeles  
Research interests: innovation, R&D, entrepreneurship

Jackson A. Nickerson (Emeritus)  
Brookings Non-resident Senior Fellow in Government Studies and Frahm Family Professor of Organization and Strategy  
PhD, University of California, Berkeley  
Research interests: business strategy organization, choice and performance, corporate survival, new institutional economics, intellectual capital management, management of innovation and technology, and leadership

Lamar Pierce  
Beverly and James Hance Professor of Strategy;  
Editor-in-Chief, Organization Science  
PhD, University of California, Berkeley  
Research interests: business strategy and public policy, fraud and corruption, ethics, incentives in organizations

Oren Reshef  
Assistant Professor of Strategy  
PhD, University of California - Berkeley  
Research interests: competitive strategy and business economics, digital economy and platform strategy, innovation and social inequality

Ulya Tsolmon  
Assistant Professor of Strategy  
PhD, Duke University  
Research interests: managerial labor markets, governance of multi-unit firms, strategic human capital, innovation strategy

Hugh Wu  
Assistant Professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship  
PhD, Stanford University  
Research interests: business strategy, personnel and organizational economics, strategic human capital, field experiments

Minyuan Zhao  
Associate Professor of Strategy  
PhD, New York University  
Research interests: interactions between firm strategy and external environment in a global context