

Shabnam Rahimfallah

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Education

Purdue University Ph.D. in Economics Field: Experimental and Behavioral Economics	West Lafayette, IN, USA <i>Expected May 2028</i>
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University of Tehran M.Sc. in Economics	Tehran, Iran <i>January 2022</i>
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University of Science and Culture B.Sc. in Industrial Engineering	Tehran, Iran <i>July 2015</i>
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Research Interest

Research Areas: Experimental Economics, Behavioral Economics, Reinforcement Learning, Game Theory, Computational Economics

Working Papers

Rational Inattention and Cooperation

I study how cognitive load affects cooperation in the indefinitely repeated Prisoner's Dilemma. I combine simulations of rationally inattentive Q -learning agents with a laboratory experiment that varies cognitive load. Cognitive load reduces cooperation because it pushes people away from complex strategies that depend on past play.

Presented at: Purdue University, 2026

Works in Progress

Money under Cognitive Load <i>A lab experiment testing whether monetary exchange offsets the drop in cooperation caused by cognitive load in a repeated helping game.</i>	<i>Ongoing Research</i>
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Cognitive Load and Strategic Choice in One-Shot Games <i>A lab experiment testing whether high cognitive load reduces reasoning depth, makes people treat similar games alike, or makes their choices less precise.</i>	<i>Ongoing Research</i>
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Teaching Assistant

Purdue University	<i>2025 – Present</i>
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| • Teaching Assistant, Machine Learning (Graduate) | <i>Fall 2026</i> |
| • Instructor, Principles of Economics (Undergraduate) | <i>Spring 2026</i> |
| • Teaching Assistant, Econometrics (Graduate) | <i>Spring 2026</i> |
| • Teaching Assistant, Microeconomics (Undergraduate) | <i>Spring 2026</i> |
| • Teaching Assistant, and Consumer and Producer Theory (Graduate) | <i>Fall 2025</i> |
| • Teaching Assistant, Industrial Organization (Undergraduate) | <i>Spring 2025</i> |

University of Tehran	<i>2020 – 2021</i>
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| • Teaching Assistant for graduate courses in Behavioral Economics, Microeconomics, and Advanced Macroeconomics II. (Graduate) | |
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