

Evdokia V. Nikolova

CONTACT INFORMATION University of Texas at Austin
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Room: UTA 7.212 Austin, TX 78701, USA
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PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS **University of Texas at Austin** Austin, TX
Assistant Professor Jan. 2014–present
Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering.

Texas A&M University College Station, TX
Assistant Professor 2011–2014
Department of Computer Science & Engineering.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge, MA
Postdoctoral Associate 2009–2011
Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science.

EDUCATION **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, 2009
Advisor: Prof. David Karger. (GPA 5.0/5.0)
Thesis: *Strategic Algorithms*.

Cambridge University, Cambridge, United Kingdom.
Master in Mathematics (C.A.S.M. with Distinction), 2003
Advisor: Prof. Frank Kelly. Thesis: *Duality of the Gradient Method and Lyapunov Functions in the context of Internet Congestion Control*.

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

- M.S. in Computer Science, 2002
- B.A. in Applied Mathematics with Economics, 2002

GRANTS & AWARDS

- ◇ NSF CCF CAREER: Algorithms for Risk Mitigation in Networks. Award date 05/15/2014.
- ◇ NSF CCF 1331863: Collaborative Research: CyberSEES: Coupon Incentive-based Risk Aware Demand Response in Smart Grid. Award date 10/01/2013.
- ◇ NSF CCF 1216103: ICES: Small: Risk Aversion in Algorithmic Game Theory and Mechanism Design. Award date 08/01/2012.
- ◇ Google Faculty Research Award, 2013.
- ◇ Doctoral Fellowship in the Mathematical Sciences, American Foundation for Bulgaria (2006-2007)
- ◇ Presidential Fellowship, MIT (2003-2004)
- ◇ Herchel Smith Harvard Fellowship for 1 year study at Cambridge University, England (2002-2003)
- ◇ John Harvard and Elizabeth Cary Agassiz Scholarship, Harvard University (1998-2002)
- ◇ Flora Burt Fellowship, Harvard University (for travel in Argentina) (Aug-Sep. 2001)
- ◇ Detur Book Prize, Harvard University (1999)
- ◇ Third place, Euclid Mathematical Contest, British Columbia, Canada (1997)
- ◇ Fifth place nationwide, Bulgarian National Mathematics Olympiad (1996)
- ◇ First place, Journal "Matematika" national tournament, Bulgaria (1991)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	<p>IBM Research <i>Visiting Professor</i> Worked on different projects in risk analysis and transportation.</p> <p>Google Research <i>Research Intern</i> Analyzed sponsored search auctions.</p> <p>Yahoo! Research <i>Research Intern</i> Analyzed prediction markets.</p> <p>Mitsubishi Electric Research Labs <i>Research Intern</i> Developed models and algorithms for optimal routing in stochastic networks.</p> <p>National Bureau of Economics Research <i>Research Assistant</i> Researched optimal consumer behavior.</p>	<p>Dublin, Ireland Summer 2012</p> <p>New York, NY Summer 2007</p> <p>New York, NY Summer 2006</p> <p>Cambridge, MA Summer 2004, 2005</p> <p>Cambridge, MA 1999-2001</p>
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REFEREED
JOURNAL &
CONFERENCE
PUBLICATIONS

- Georgios Piliouras, Evdokia Nikolova and Jeff S. Shamma. Risk Sensitivity of Price of Anarchy under Uncertainty. Accepted to appear in the *ACM Transactions of Economics and Computation*, 2016.
- Thanasis Lianas, Evdokia Nikolova, Nicolas E. Stier Moses. Asymptotically tight bounds for inefficiency in risk-averse selfish routing. In *Proceedings of the 25th International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI'16)*, New York, NY, USA, July 9-15, 2016.
- G. Yang, E. Nikolova. Approximation Algorithms for Route Planning with Nonlinear Objectives. In *Proceedings of the Thirtieth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI'16)*. Phoenix, Arizona, February 12-17, 2016.
- S. Basu, T. Lianas, E. Nikolova. New Complexity Results and Algorithms for the Minimum Tollbooth Problem. In *Proceedings of the 2015 Conference on Web and Internet Economics (WINE'15)*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, December 9-12, 2015.
- E. Nikolova, N. Stier-Moses. The Burden of Risk Aversion in Mean-Risk Selfish Routing. In *Proceedings of the Sixteenth ACM Conference on Economics and Computation (ACM EC)*, Portland, OR, June 15-19, 2015.
- D. Hoy, E. Nikolova. Approximately Optimal Risk-averse Routing Policies via Adaptive Discretization. In *Proceedings of the Twenty-Ninth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-15)*. Austin, TX, January 25-30, 2015.
- E. Nikolova, N. Stier-Moses. A Mean-Risk Model for the Traffic Assignment Problem with Stochastic Travel Times. *Operations Research*, 62:2, 366-382, 2014.
- G. Piliouras, E. Nikolova and J. S. Shamma. Risk Sensitivity of Price of Anarchy under Uncertainty. In *Proceedings of the 14th ACM Conference on Electronic Commerce (ACM EC)*, 2013.
- J. Y. Yu and E. Nikolova. Sample Complexity of Risk-averse Bandit-arm Selection. In *Proceedings of the International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI)*, 2013.
- A. Botea, E. Nikolova, M. Berlingerio. Multi-Modal Journey Planning in the Presence of Uncertainty. In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Automated Planning and Scheduling (ICAPS)*, 2013.
- H. Chenji, L. Smith, R. Stoleru, E. Nikolova. Raven: Energy Aware QoS Control for DRNs. In *IEEE 9th International Conference on Wireless and Mobile Computing, Networking and Communications (WiMob)*, 2013.
- S. Lim, C. Sommer, E. Nikolova, and D. Rus. Practical Route Planning Under Delay Uncertainty: Stochastic Shortest Path Queries. In *RSS - Robotics: Science and Systems VIII*, 2012.

- E. Nikolova and N. Stier-Moses. Stochastic Selfish Routing. In *Proceedings of the Fourth Symposium on Algorithmic Game Theory (SAGT '11)*, Salerno, Lecture Notes in Computer Science, Springer, Berlin, 2011.
- E. Nikolova, Approximation Algorithms for Reliable Stochastic Combinatorial Optimization. In *Proceedings of 13th Intl. Workshop on Approximation Algorithms for Combinatorial Optimization Problems (APPROX)*, 2010.
- E. Nikolova. High-performance heuristics for optimization in stochastic traffic engineering problems. In *Proceedings of the Seventh International Conference on Large-Scale Scientific Computing (LSSC)*, 2009.
- J. Feldman, S. Muthukrishnan, E. Nikolova, M. Pal. A Truthful Mechanism for Offline Ad Slot Scheduling. In *Proceedings of the First International Symposium on Algorithmic Game Theory (SAGT)*, 2008.
- A. Hall, E. Nikolova, and C. Papadimitriou. Incentive-Compatible Interdomain Routing with Linear Utilities. *Internet Mathematics*, Volume 5, Number 4 (2008), 395-410. Conference version: In *Proceedings of the 3rd International Workshop On Internet And Network Economics (WINE)*, 2007.
- E. Nikolova and D. Karger. Route Planning under Uncertainty: the Canadian Traveler Problem. In *Proceedings of the Twenty-Third Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, 2008.
- J. Kelner and E. Nikolova. On the Hardness and Smoothed Complexity of Quasi-concave Minimization. In *Proceedings of 48th Annual IEEE Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science (FOCS)*, 2007.
- Y. Chen, L. Fortnow, E. Nikolova and D. Pennock. Betting on Permutations. In *Proceedings of the Eighth ACM Conference on Electronic Commerce (ACM EC)*, 2007.
- E. Nikolova and R. Sami. A Strategic Model for Information Markets. In *Proceedings of the Eighth ACM Conference on Electronic Commerce (ACM EC)*, 2007.
- E. Nikolova, M. Brand, and D. Karger. Optimal Route Planning under Uncertainty. In *Proceedings of 2006 International Conference on Automated Planning & Scheduling (ICAPS)*, 2006.
- E. Nikolova, J. Kelner, M. Brand, M. Mitzenmacher. Stochastic Shortest Paths via Quasi-convex Maximization. In *Proceedings of 2006 European Symposium of Algorithms (ESA)*, 2006.
- N. Immorlica, D. Karger, E. Nikolova, and R. Sami. First-Price Path Auctions. In *Proceedings of ACM Conference on Electronic Commerce (ACM EC)*: 203-212, 2005.
- D. Karger and E. Nikolova. On the Expected Overpayment of VCG Mechanisms in Large Networks. Invited paper in *Conference on Decision and Control (CDC)*, 2006. Brief Announcement in *PODC 2005*: 126. Accepted presentation to *DIMACS Workshop on Computational Issues in Auction Design*, October 2004.
- Y. Chen, L. Fortnow, E. Nikolova, and D. Pennock. Combinatorial betting. *ACM SIGecom Exchanges*, 7(1), December 2007. Invited Survey.

- INVITED TALKS
- ◇ June 28, 2016: "Algorithms for risk mitigation in networks," Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing, Berkeley, CA.
 - ◇ October 29, 2015: "Algorithms for risk-averse routing," Google Research, Mountain View, CA.
 - ◇ October 2, 2015: "The burden of risk aversion in mean-risk selfish routing," Theory seminar, Department of Computer Science, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA.
 - ◇ September 29, 2015: "Algorithms and algorithmic game theory for risk mitigation in networks," Simons Institute, Berkeley, CA.
 - ◇ August 28, 2015: "The burden of risk aversion in mean-risk selfish routing," Transportation Seminar, EECS Department, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.
 - ◇ May 27, 2015: "Approximation algorithms for offline risk-averse combinatorial optimization," The University of Chile, Santiago, Chile.
 - ◇ April 17, 2015: "The burden of risk aversion in mean-risk selfish routing," Algorithms Seminar, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

- ◇ March 18, 2015: "The burden of risk aversion in mean-risk selfish routing," The University of Chile, Santiago, Chile.
- ◇ February 5, 2015: "The burden of risk aversion in mean-risk selfish routing," Conference on Information Theory and Applications (ITA) 2015, San Diego, CA.
- ◇ January 20, 2015: "The burden of risk aversion in mean-risk selfish routing," Technical University of Munich, Munich, Germany.
- ◇ January 15, 2015: "The burden of risk aversion in mean-risk selfish routing," Combinatorial Optimization and Graph Algorithms (COGA) Seminar, Technical University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany.
- ◇ December 3, 2014: "The burden of risk aversion in mean-risk selfish routing," Random Structures Seminar, Dept. of Mathematics, UT Austin, Austin, TX.
- ◇ July 31, 2014: "Approximation algorithms for risk-averse combinatorial optimization," 7th workshop on Flexible Network Design, Lugano, Switzerland.
- ◇ July 2, 2014: "Approximation algorithms for risk-averse combinatorial optimization," London School of Economics, London, U.K.
- ◇ January 31, 2014: "Risk-mitigation in route planning," ORIE Seminar, UT Austin, Austin, TX.
- ◇ January 22, 2014: "Risk-mitigation in route planning," **Keynote talk** at Workshop on Eco-friendly mobility, Zurich, Switzerland.
- ◇ June 5, 2013: "Risk in network routing," IBM-Almaden, San Jose, CA.
- ◇ April 19, 2013: "Risk in network games," University of Maryland-College Park.
- ◇ April 1, 2013: "Risk in network routing games," UT Austin, Austin, TX.
- ◇ March 26, 2013: "Risk in network games," Transportation seminar, Dept. of Civil Engineering, Texas A&M University, Austin, TX.
- ◇ March 20, 2013: "Risk in routing and games," UNICAMP, Campinas, Brazil, March 2013.
- ◇ March 8, 2013: "Risk in routing and games," University of Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- ◇ October 2012: "Risk in network games," Texas Economic Theory Day, Dallas, TX.
- ◇ July 2012: "Risk in network routing," IBM Research, Dublin, Ireland.
- ◇ July 2012: "Introduction to network congestion games," Summer School on Algorithmic Game Theory, Samos, Greece.
- ◇ July 2012: "Risk in network games," Summer School on Algorithmic Game Theory, Samos, Greece.
- ◇ March 2012: "Risk in network games," Rice University, Dept. of Economics, Houston, TX.
- ◇ February 2012: "Risk in network games," Texas A&M University, Dept. of Economics, College Station, TX.
- ◇ April 2012: "Algorithms for Risk-averse Combinatorial Optimization," UT Austin, Austin, TX.
- ◇ April 2012: "Algorithms for Risk-averse Combinatorial Optimization," Rice University, Dept. of Computational and Applied Math., Houston, TX.
- ◇ February 2011: "Algorithms for Risk-averse Combinatorial Optimization," Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA.
- ◇ February 2011: "Algorithms for Risk-averse Combinatorial Optimization," Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.
- ◇ February 2011: "Algorithms for Risk-averse Combinatorial Optimization," Georgetown University, Washington, DC.
- ◇ March 2011: "Algorithms for Risk-averse Combinatorial Optimization," EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland.
- ◇ March 2011: "Algorithms for Risk-averse Combinatorial Optimization," ETH, Zurich, Switzerland.

- ◇ March 2011: “Design & Computation in Prediction Markets,” ETH, Zurich, Switzerland.
- ◇ March 2011: “Algorithms for Risk-averse Combinatorial Optimization,” IBM, Zurich, Switzerland.
- ◇ March 2011: “Algorithms for Risk-averse Combinatorial Optimization,” Google, Zurich, Switzerland.
- ◇ April 2010: “From Stochastic Shortest paths to Quasi-concave Minimization,” Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA.
- ◇ July 2009: “Design & Computation in Prediction Markets,” University of Girona, Girona, Spain.
- ◇ May 2009: “From Stochastic Shortest paths to Quasi-concave Minimization,” State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY.
- ◇ April 2009: “Design & Computation in Prediction Markets,” Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.
- ◇ February, 2009: “Strategic algorithms,” Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA.
- ◇ July 2008: “Design & Computation in Prediction Markets,” GAMES–Third World Congress of the Game Theory Society, Chicago, IL.
- ◇ March, 2008: “Strategic algorithms,” Duke University, Durham, NC.
- ◇ January, 2008: “Strategic algorithms,” Microsoft Research, Seattle, WA.
- ◇ December 2007: “From Stochastic Shortest paths to Quasi-concave Minimization,” Stanford University Algorithms Seminar, Stanford, CA.
- ◇ December 2007: “Design & Computation in Prediction Markets,” Microsoft Research, Mountain View, CA.
- ◇ December 2007: “From Stochastic Shortest paths to Quasi-concave Minimization,” IBM Almaden, San Jose, CA.
- ◇ November 2007: “Design & Computation in Prediction Markets,” Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA.
- ◇ November 2007: “From Stochastic Shortest paths to Quasi-concave Minimization,” University of Wisconsin-Madison Theory Colloquium, Madison, WI.
- ◇ October 2007: “Design & Computation in Prediction Markets,” Dartmouth University, Computer Science Colloquium, Hanover, NH.
- ◇ October 2007: “From Stochastic Shortest paths to Quasi-concave Minimization,” Dartmouth University CS Theory Colloquium, Hanover, NH.
- ◇ October 2007: “From Stochastic Shortest paths to Quasi-concave Minimization,” Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute CS Theory Colloquium, Troy, NY.
- ◇ December 2006: “From Stochastic Shortest paths to Quasi-concave Minimization,” MIT Algorithms and Complexity Seminar, Cambridge, MA.
- ◇ December 2006: “From Stochastic Shortest paths to Quasi-concave Minimization,” University of California, San Diego. Seminar on Theory and Algorithms Research.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- ◇ **Program Committees:** European Symposium of Algorithms (ESA) 2017, Conference on Web and Internet Economics (WINE) 2015; ACM Conference on Economics and Computation (EC) 2014, 2013, 2012, 2010; Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) 2017, 2016, 2013; International World Wide Web Conference (WWW) 2012.
- ◇ **Workshop Co-organizer:** Workshop on “Real-Time Decision Making”, Jun. 27—Jul. 1, 2016, Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing, Berkeley CA. Winedale workshop, Winedale, TX, Oct. 17, 2014 with theme “Algorithmic Game Theory”. “Workshop on Risk Aversion in Algorithmic Game Theory and Mechanism Design” as part of ACM Conference on Electronic Commerce (EC), Valencia, Spain, June 7, 2012.
- ◇ **Invited session organizer:** International Symposium on Mathematical Programming (ISMP)—July 2015, August 2012, August 2009; INFORMS Buenos Aires, Argentina, June 2010.

- ◇ **Grant Reviewer:** NSF Panelist (April 2015, January 2014, April 2012); NSF STC (Science and Technology Centers) Competition, October 2012; FONDECYT (NSF equivalent in Chile), November 2011.
- ◇ **Paper Reviewer for:**
 - Journals:** SIAM Journal of Computing, Theoretical Computer Science, Algorithmica, ACM Transactions on Economics and Computation (TEAC), Journal of Autonomous Agents and Multi-Agent Systems (JAAMAS), Operations Research, Operations Research Letters, Mathematical Programming, Mathematics of Operations Research, Transportation Science, IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control.
 - Conferences:** ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing (STOC), ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms (SODA), ACM Conference on Economics and Computation (EC), Conference on Web and Internet Economics (WINE), International Symposium on Algorithmic Game Theory (SAGT), International Colloquium on Automata, Languages and Programming (ICALP), International Symposium on Theoretical Aspects of Computer Science (STACS), ACM Symposium on Parallel Algorithms and Architectures (SPAA), Conference on Decision and Control (CDC), MIT Oxygen Student Conference.

OUTREACH

- ◇ **Edison Lecture Series:** Co-taught lecture “Computing for Green” to over 1,000 middle-school and high-school students at UT Austin on Feb.11-12, 2016 (together with Deji Akinwande and Alex Dimakis).
- ◇ **Camp Texas:** Spoke to pre-freshmen coming to UT Austin about research, college life and various other topics. Camp Balcones Springs, Texas, August 17, 2014; August 18, 2015; August 16, 2016.

TEACHING & MENTORING

Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing Berkeley, CA

- ◇ (Reading group) Mechanism Design for the Smart Grid (Fall 2015)

University of Texas at Austin Austin, TX

- ◇ (Graduate course) EE 381V: Advanced Algorithms (Spring 2015, Spring 2017)
- ◇ (Undergraduate course) EE 360C: Algorithms (Fall 2014, Fall 2016)
- ◇ (Graduate course) EE 381V: Game Theory (Spring 2014)

Texas A&M University College Station, TX

- ◇ (Undergraduate course) CSCE 411H: Design and Analysis of Algorithms (Spring 2013)
- ◇ (Graduate course) CSCE 629: Analysis of Algorithms (Fall 2012)
- ◇ (Graduate course) CSCE 689: Special Topics in Algorithmic Game Theory (Spring 2012, Fall 2013)
- ◇ (Graduate course) CSCE 689: Special Topics in Stochastic and Risk-averse Optimization (Fall 2011)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge, MA

- ◇ *Guest Lecturer* on potential games, course “Game Theory and Mechanism Design.” (Spring 2006)
- ◇ *Teaching Assistant* for “Game Theory and Mechanism Design.” (Spring 2005)

Harvard University Cambridge, MA

- ◇ *Teaching Fellow* for CS 124, “Introduction to Data Structures and Algorithms.” (Spring 2002).
- ◇ *Teaching Assistant* for Math E-9, “Functions and Graphs.” (Spring 2001, Fall 2002).
- ◇ *Tutor* for Calculus, Linear Algebra, Economics, Probability Theory and Statistics (1999-2002).

Research Science Institute (RSI)

Cambridge, MA

[in collaboration with MIT to promote research among talented high school students worldwide]

Research Mentor to:

- ◇ Yifei Chen for his paper "Overpayment in Strategyproof Payment Schemes." (Summer 2004)
- ◇ Fatima-Ezzahra Izma for her paper "Independent Sets in Special Types of Graphs." (Summer 2005)

PATENTS AND
APPLICATIONS

- E. Nikolova, M. Brand, M. Mitzenmacher. *Method for finding optimal paths using a stochastic network model*, US Patent No. 7,573,866. Filed: Aug. 30, 2006. Issued: Aug. 11, 2009.
- E. Nikolova, M. Brand. Method for finding minimal cost paths under uncertainty. U.S. Application. Pub No. US20080025222. Filed: 07/26/2006. Published: 01/31/2008.
- Y. Chen, E. Nikolova, D. Pennock. System and method for permutation betting. U.S. Application. Pub No. 20080220855. Published: 9/11/2008.
- J. Feldman, S. Muthukrishnan, M. Pal, Evdokia V. Nikolova. Content Item Slot Scheduling. U.S. Application. Pub No. 20100049644. Published: 2/25/2010.