

ITS Webinar on Information Problems during the Pandemic, Dr. Joshua Gans

Sponsors: Academic Host – Chalmers University
Corporate Host – TELUS Communications

Length: 60 minutes

Date: **11 May 2021, 9 am ET**

Structure: Single speaker presentation (approx. 45m) followed by Q&A

Abstract: COVID-19 is caused by a virus. The COVID-19 pandemic is caused by a lack of good information. A pandemic is essentially an information problem, and if we solve the information problem, we can defeat the virus. Pandemics may be unpredictable, but they can be planned for.

This webinar will compare pandemic-induced economic crises to past recessions, map the phases of the pandemic economy and the information needed to enable economic recovery, discuss digital communication strategies, and describe the role of telecommunications in supporting testing, contact tracing, and other public health responses.

Speaker: Dr. Joshua Gans

Professor of Strategic Management, Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto

Bio: **Joshua Gans is a Professor of Strategic Management and holder of the Jeffrey S. Skoll Chair of Technical Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto (with a cross appointment in the Department of Economics). Joshua is also Chief Economist of the University of Toronto's Creative Destruction Lab. Prior to 2011, he was the foundation Professor of Management (Information Economics) at the Melbourne Business School, University of Melbourne and prior to that he was at the School of Economics, University of New South Wales. In 2011, Joshua was a visiting researcher at Microsoft Research (New England). Joshua holds a Ph.D. from Stanford University and an honors degree in economics from the University of Queensland. In 2012, Joshua was appointed as a Research Associate of the NBER in the Productivity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program (see [bio](#)).**