

Blog Symposium Announcement: Is Amazon's Appetite Bottomless? The Whole Foods
Merger After One Year

August 27, 2018

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Truth on the Market is pleased to announce its next blog symposium:

Is Amazon's Appetite Bottomless?

The Whole Foods Merger After One Year

August 28, 2018

One year ago tomorrow the Amazon/Whole Foods merger [closed](#), following its [approval by the FTC](#). The merger was something of a flashpoint in the growing populist antitrust movement, raising some interesting questions — and a host of objections from a number of [scholars](#), [advocates](#), [journalists](#), [antitrust experts](#), and [others](#) who voiced a range of possible problematic outcomes.

Under settled antitrust law — evolved over the last century-plus — the vertical merger between Amazon and Whole Foods was largely uncontroversial. But the size and scope of Amazon's operation and ambition has given some pause. And despite the apparent inapplicability of antitrust law to the array of populist concerns about large tech companies, [advocates nonetheless contend](#) that antitrust should be altered to deal with new threats posed by companies like Amazon.

For something of a primer on the antitrust debate surrounding Amazon, listen to ICLE's Geoffrey Manne and Open Markets' Lina Khan on [Season 2 Episode 1](#) of Briefly, a podcast produced by the University of Chicago Law Review.

Beginning tomorrow, August 28, [Truth on the Market](#) and the [International Center for Law & Economics](#) will host a blog symposium discussing the impact of the merger.

One year on, we asked antitrust scholars and other experts to consider:

- What has been the significance of the Amazon/Whole Foods merger?
- How has the merger affected various markets and the participants within them (e.g., grocery stores, food delivery services, online retailers, workers, grocery suppliers, etc.)?
- What, if anything, does the merger and its aftermath tell us about current antitrust

doctrine and our understanding of platform markets?

- Has a year of experience borne out any of the objections to the merger?
- Have the market changes since the merger undermined or reinforced the populist antitrust arguments regarding this or other conduct?

As in the past (see examples of previous TOTM blog symposia [here](#)), we've lined up an outstanding and diverse group of scholars to discuss these issues.

Participants

- [Robert D. Atkinson](#), President, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation
- [Dirk Auer](#), Research Fellow, Liege Competition and Innovation Institute
- [Jarod M. Bona](#), CEO & Attorney, BonaLaw PC, and [The Antitrust Attorney Blog](#)
- [Eric Fruits](#), Chief Economist, International Center for Law & Economics
- [Steve Horwitz](#), Distinguished Professor of Free Enterprise, Ball State University
- [Justin \(Gus\) Hurwitz](#), Associate Professor of Law & Co-Director of Space, Cyber, and Telecom Law Program, Nebraska College of Law; Director of Law & Economics Programs, International Center for Law & Economics
- [Steven Levitsky](#), Attorney, BonaLaw PC, and [The Antitrust Attorney Blog](#)
- [Geoffrey A. Manne](#), President & Founder, International Center for Law & Economics
- [Will Rinehart](#), Director of Technology and Innovation Policy, American Action Forum
- [Christopher L. Sagers](#), Distinguished Professor of Law, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law
- [Hal Singer](#), Principal, Economists Incorporated; Adjunct professor, Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business
- [Kristian Stout](#), Associate Director of Innovation Policy, International Center for Law & Economics

The symposium posts will be collected [here](#). We hope you'll join us!

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