DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
PLACEMENT CANDIDATES
2015-2016
November 3, 2015

Dear Colleague:

The following materials provide a roster of the University of Chicago Ph.D. candidates in Economics who are on the job market this year, including fields of specialization, and references. More detailed information about these candidates, including CVs, job market papers, and other research is available on the Economics Department website at:

http://economics.uchicago.edu/graduate/candidates.shtml

All of these candidates plan to attend the American Economic Association Meetings in San Francisco, in January 2016. To arrange interviews with them, please contact candidates directly.

Please feel free to contact me by email or telephone if you have any questions about these candidates.

Sincerely,


Derek Neal
Professor
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Primary and Secondary Fields

The fields identified are those adopted by the AEA through the Journal of Economic Literature’s (JEL) Classification Codes. Most applicants have identified specific fields in their CVs.

Mathematical and Quantitative Methods

Primary field: Alexander MacKay, Daniel Danxia Xie, Yang Xu

Secondary field: Philip Barrett, Martin Beraja, Gunnar Heins, Hyun Lee, Ignacia Mercadal

Microeconomics

Primary field: Alexander MacKay, Anushree Subramaniam, Raluca Ursu, Daniel Danxia Xie, Yang Xu

Secondary field: Kentaro Asai, Ignacia Mercadal, Sihoon Nahm

Macroeconomics and Monetary Economics

Primary field: Jonathan Adams, Philip Barrett, Martin Beraja, Hyun Lee, Sara Moreira, N. Aaron Pancost, Ippei Shibata, Daniel Danxia Xie

Secondary field: Gunnar Heins,

International Economics

Primary field: Gunnar Heins, Sihoon Nahm

Secondary field: Martin Beraja, Daniel Danxia Xie

Financial Economics

Primary field: Kentaro Asai, N. Aaron Pancost, Daniel Danxia Xie

Public Economics

Primary field: Daniel Tannenbaum, Daniel Danxia Xie

Secondary field: Yang Xu

Health, Education, and Welfare

Primary field: Anushree Subramaniam
Labor and Demographic Economics

**Primary field:** Ippei Shibata, Daniel Tannenbaum

**Secondary field:** Sara Moreira, Daniel Danxia Xie

Law and Economics

**Secondary field:** Daniel Danxia Xie

Industrial Organization

**Primary field:** Kentaro Asai, Gunnar Heins, Alexander MacKay, Ignacia Mercadal, Raluca Ursu, Yang Xu

**Secondary field:** Sara Moreira, Sihoon Nahm

Business Administration and Business Economics; Marketing; Accounting

**Secondary field:** Daniel Danxia Xie

Economic History

**Secondary field:** Daniel Danxia Xie

Economic Development, Technical Change, and Growth

**Primary field:** Jonathan Adams, Hyun Lee

**Secondary field:** Sihoon Nahm, N. Aaron Pancost, Daniel Danxia Xie

Economic Systems

**Secondary field:** Kentaro Asai

Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics; Environmental and Ecological Economics

**Primary field:** Ignacia Mercadal
Office Contact Information
5757 S. University Ave – Saieh Hall
Chicago, IL 60637
Cell phone: 651-271-1776

Home Contact Information
40 E. 9th St, #1103
Chicago, IL 60605

Undergraduate Studies:
B.A., Economics, University of Michigan, 2009

Graduate Studies:
The University of Chicago, Fall 2010 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: “Transitions in Long Run Economic Growth”
Expected Completion Date: June 2016

References:
Professor Brent Neiman
Univ. of Chicago Booth School of Business
Brent.Neiman@chicagobooth.edu

Professor Loukas Karabarbounis
Univ. of Chicago Booth School of Business
Loukas.Karabarbounis@chicagobooth.edu

Professor Robert Lucas
Univ. of Chicago
rclucas@uchicago.edu

Professor Harald Uhlig
Univ. of Chicago
huhlig@uchicago.edu

Teaching and Research Fields:
Growth, Macroeconomics, Inequality

Teaching Experience:
Spring 2013 International Trade and Growth (PhD Field), Teaching Assistant for Professor Robert Lucas

Spring 2013 Elements of Economic Analysis III (Undergraduate Intro to Macro.), Teaching Assistant for Chanont Banternghansa

Fall, 2012 Applied Macroeconomics I (PhD Field), Teaching Assistant for Professors Erik Hurst and Steve Davis

Spring, 2012 Empirical Analysis III (PhD Core), Teaching Assistant for Professors Derek Neal and Ali Hortacsu
Research Experience and Other Employment:

2009-2010        Brookings Institution, Research Assistant
2008-2009        Office of Tax Policy Research, University of Michigan, Research Assistant

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2015-2016        Theodore W. and Esther Shultz Fellowship
2013-2015        Social Sciences Fellowship
2011-2012        Rosen Memorial Fellowship
2011            Lee Prize for best Price Theory Core

Professional Activities:

Conference Presentations: SED Annual Meeting 2014

Referee for: Journal of Political Economy

Job Market Paper:

“Urbanization, Long-Run Growth, and the Demographic Transition”

Advanced economies undergo three transitions during their development: 1. They transition from a rural to an urban economy. 2. They transition from low income growth to high income growth. 3. Their demographics transition from initially high fertility and mortality rates to low modern levels. The timings of these transitions are correlated in the historical development of most advanced economies. I unify complementary theories of the transitions into a nonlinear model of endogenous long run economic and demographic change. The model reproduces the timing and magnitude of the transitions. Because the model captures the interactions between all three transitions, it is able to predict three additional empirical patterns: a declining urban-rural wage gap, a declining rural-urban family size ratio, and most surprisingly, that early urbanization slows development.

Research Papers in Progress:

“Labor Shares and Income Inequality” (Joint with Loukas Karabarbounis and Brent Neiman)

“Growth and the Rise and Fall of Warfare”

“Decreasing Returns to R&D and Declining Growth Rates”
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Home Contact Information
233 E. Wacker Dr. #2106
Chicago, IL 60601

Personal Information: Date of birth: September 9, 1985

Education
The University of Chicago, 2011 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: “Political Connections and Financial Stability”
Expected Completion Date: June 2016
B.A with Honors in Economics, The University of Chicago, Sigma Xi, 2007

References:
Professor Ali Hortaçsu
University of Chicago
Phone: (773) 702-5841 Email: hortacsu@uchicago.edu

Professor Gregor Matvos
Univ. of Chicago Booth School of Business
Phone: (773) 834-3188 Email: gregor.matvos@chicagobooth.edu

Professor Zhiguo He
Univ. of Chicago Booth School of Business
Phone: (773) 834-3769 Email: zhiguo.he@chicagobooth.edu

Fields:
Corporate Finance, Industrial Organization, Political Economy, Behavioral Economics

Teaching Experience:
Spring, 2015 Money and Banking, Univ. of Chicago, TA, Guest Lecturer
Winter, 2014 Industrial Organization II (Ph.D.), Univ. of Chicago, TA for Prof. Hortaçsu

Research Experience and Other Employment:
2014 IMF Monetary and Capital Markets Department, Summer Intern
2012 – 2013 The University of Chicago, Research Assistant for Professor Hortaçsu
2006 – 2007 The University of Chicago, Research Assistant for Professor Heckman

Professional Activities:
Referee Service: Journal of Banking and Finance
Selected Academic Presentations: 10th Annual Economic Graduate Student Conference
(Washington Univ. in St. Louis), IFABS 2015 Oxford Conference (Univ. of Oxford Said), French Finance Association (ESSEC), Wisdom Research Forum (Univ. of Chicago)

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:
2013 – 2015  Univ. of Chicago Graduate Fellowship, IFABS Young Researcher’s Travel Grant, Univ. of Chicago Travel Grant, Univ. of Chicago Summer Grant
2011 – 2012  Japan IMF Scholarship, Monk Prize

Publications:

Research Papers:
“Political Connections and Financial Stability” (Job Market Paper)
The extant literature suggests that political connections can increase bank risk-taking ex-ante and work as financial safety net ex-post like deposit insurance. It is ultimately an empirical question whether political connections raise banks' risks. Using the data set of lobbying activities by US financial institutions, this paper shows that lobbying activities reduce banks' risks under the presence of government bailouts. From an event study, I find that lobbying banks experienced larger drops in their credit default swap (CDS) spreads after major bailout announcements in 2008. This result implies that creditors tend to believe lower likelihood of default for lobbying banks under the presence of bailouts. Taking into account the importance of agents' beliefs about the likelihood of default, I develop a quantitative model of corporate risk-taking and credit risk that can generate multiple equilibria, in which lobbying affects the cost of risk-taking (fundamental channel) and serves as an equilibrium selection device by raising the anticipated amount of financial support during financial crises (equilibrium selection channel). According to the estimated model, one standard deviation increase in log lobbying expenses raises default probability by 5 percentage point and decreases asset return volatility by 4 percentage point through the fundamental channel, while it decreases default probability by 7 percentage point and asset return volatility by 5 percentage point through the equilibrium selection channel. In total, lobbying is negatively associated with banks' risks under the presence of bailout policies.

“Designing a Banking System to Eliminate the Potential for Catastrophe”

“Is Capping Executive Bonuses Useful?” under review

“Trading Experience Modulates Anterior Insula to Reduce the Endowment Effect” (with Lester Tong, Karen Ye, John List, Howard Nusbaum, and Ali Hortaçsu)  submitted

Research Papers in Progress:
“Revolving Door and Procurement Auction Outcomes” (with Kei Kawai and Jun Nakabayashi)
Office Contact Information
1126 E. 59th Street - Saieh Hall for Economics
Chicago, IL 60637
(773) 584-5237

Education
The University of Chicago 2010 - present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: “Reputation and sovereign default”
Expected Completion Date: June 2015

London School of Economics and Political Science 2008
M.Sc., Econometrics and Mathematical Economics
(with Distinction)

University of Oxford, New College 2005
B.A., Mathematics (First class honors)

References
Professor Fernando Alvarez (co-chair)
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f-alvarez1@uchicago.edu
(773) 702-8191

Professor Lars Peter Hansen (co-chair)
Department of Economics
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lhansen@uchicago.edu
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Dr. Mark Wright
Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
230 S. LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60604
mwright@frbchi.org
(312) 322-5705

Teaching and Research Fields
Primary fields: Macroeconomics, Monetary economics, Sovereign default
Secondary fields: Computational economics
**Teaching Experience**

- **Spring 2014 & Winter 2015**: Practical Computing for Economists, Instructor/coordinator, (Graduate student colloquium)
- **Fall 2014**: Theory of Income I, TA (Alvarez, PhD)
- **Winter 2014**: Monetary Economics, TA (Alvarez, PhD)
- **Spring 2013**: Theory of Income II, TA (Shimer, PhD)
- **Winter 2013**: Numerical Methods, TA (Judd, PhD)
- **Fall 2012**: Theory of Income I, TA (Stokey, PhD)
- **Winter 2012**: Money & Banking, TA (Uhlig, BA)
- **Winter 2012**: Theory of Income II, TA (Stokey, PhD)
- **Fall 2011**: Empirical Analysis I, TA (Shaikh/Uhlig, PhD)

**Research Experience and Other Employment**

- **2013-2015**: Research Assistant for Fernando Alvarez
- **2013**: Research Assistant for Lars Hansen
- **2008-2010**: Economist, Bank of England

**Professional Activities**

- **Referee:** JME (twice)

**Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships**

- **2015**: Economics Department Morgenthau Fellowship, Bradley Fellowship, MFM Dissertation Support
- **2012-2013**: Roswell Hartson & Mary McKeon Whitman Scholarship
- **2012**: Best core TA award (as voted by 1st year PhD students), Lee prize for best macro field exam
- **2011**: Sherwin Rosen Fellowship

**Research Papers**

- **“Sovereign Default, Spreads, and Reputation”** (Job Market Paper)
  
  I present a model of sovereign default where the government's preference for default is time-varying and persistent. When the government has private information about its type then default is a meaningful signal of government type. As a result, the threat of lost reputation means that the government is often able to sustain debt levels close to those which would arise under commitment. I then show that this model matches an empirical regularity that other models miss: that spreads are persistently elevated once a government returns to capital markets post-default, even after accounting for observable determinants of default. Information asymmetry is a key driver of this result. In contrast, the complete information model makes counter-factually low predictions for spreads.

- **“Approximating a threshold signaling process”** (in progress)

  See website for abstract
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Personal Information: Born August 10th, 1984. Argentine (F-1 visa).

Education
Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Economics, University of Chicago. 2010 to 2016 (expected)

Job market paper: “A Semi-Structural Methodology for Policy Counterfactuals and an Application to Fiscal Unions”

References:
Professor Erik Hurst (co-chair)
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Erik.Hurst@chicagobooth.edu

Professor Fernando Alvarez (co-chair)
University of Chicago
+1-773-702-8490
f-alvarez1@uchicago.edu

Professor Veronica Guerrieri
Univ. of Chicago Booth School of Business
+1-773-834-7834
Veronica.Guerrieri@chicagobooth.edu

Previous education:

Teaching and Research Fields:
Primary fields: Macroeconomics and Monetary Economics
Secondary fields: International Economics, Mathematical and Quantitative Methods

Teaching Experience:
Spring 2013    Graduate Ph.D. field class: Financial Markets and the Macroeconomy, University of Chicago, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Veronica Guerrieri
Winter 2012    Graduate Ph.D. core class: Theory of Income II, University of Chicago, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Nancy Stokey
Fall 2011      Graduate Ph.D. core class: Theory of Income I, University of Chicago, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Fernando Alvarez
Spring 2009    Graduate M.A. class: Macroeconomics, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Emilio Espino
Winter 2008    Undergraduate class: International Macroeconomics, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Andres Neumeyer
and 2009
In many cases dispersion across states by 25 percent in 2010, and (ii) the average magnitude of price changes is symmetric for price increases and decreases with Erik Hurst and Juan Ospina.

"From Hyperinflation to Stable Prices: Argentina’s Evidence on Menu Cost Models” with Fernando Alvarez, Martin Gonzalez Rozada and Pablo Andres Neumeyer.

We review and extend comparative statics analysis results about how inflation changes price setting behavior in a model with fixed costs of changing prices in which firms face real idiosyncratic shocks. These results are confronted with their empirical counterparts using the micro data underlying Argentina's consumer price index for 1988-1997, when inflation rates ranged from almost 200% per month to less than zero. We find empirical support for several theoretical predictions: (i) the steady state frequency of price changes is unresponsive to inflation for low inflation rates, while its elasticity with respect to inflation is between 1/2 and 2/3 as inflation becomes large; (ii) the frequency of price increases is unresponsive to inflation and equal to the frequency of price decreases for small inflation rates, while the frequency of price decreases converges to zero as inflation increases; (iii) the average magnitude of price changes is symmetric for price increases and decreases at low inflation rates; while for high rates of inflation the magnitude of price increases is increasing with the inflation rate (for price decreases is less clear so in the data); (iv) the steady state dispersion of relative prices is unresponsive to inflation for low rates while it is an increasing function of inflation for high rates of inflation; and (v) the variability of the frequency of price changes across goods diminishes as inflation grows. Our findings in (i) confirm and extend the cross-country evidence available in the literature.

"Regional Heterogeneity and Monetary Policy” with Andreas Fuster, Erik Hurst and Joe Vavra.

"Zero Lower Bound Depressions”

"A Brief Note on Disinflation in a Menu Cost Model”

"Skill Misallocation"
Office Contact Information
1126 E. 59th Street – Saieh Hall for Economics
Chicago, IL 60637
Phone: 773-983-4899

Personal Information:
Date of birth: 09/05/1984
Citizenship: German

Education
The University of Chicago, 2010 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: “Essays in International Trade”
Expected Completion Date: June 2016

M.Sc., Economics, University of Chicago, 2011
Diplom, Economics, University of Cologne, Germany, 2010

References:
Professor Ralph Ossa
Univ. of Chicago Booth School of Business
773-702-8907, ralph.ossa@chicagobooth.edu

Professor Ali Hortacsu
University of Chicago
773-834-1482, hortacsu@uchicago.edu

Professor Felix Tintelnot
University of Chicago
773-702-4862, tintelnot@uchicago.edu

Professor Jonathan Dingel
Univ. of Chicago Booth School of Business
773-834-5458, jdingel@chicagobooth.edu

Teaching and Research Fields:
Primary fields: International Trade, Industrial Organization

Secondary fields: Macroeconomics, Computational Economics

Teaching Experience:
Fall, 2014 Elements of Economic Analysis 4, University of Chicago, College Lecturer
Spring, 2013 Elements of Economic Analysis 4, University of Chicago, Teaching Assistant
Winter, 2013 Pay and Performance, University of Chicago, Teaching Assistant
Fall, 2012 Elements of Economic Analysis 1, University of Chicago, Teaching Assistant
Fall, 2011 Elements of Economic Analysis 1, University of Chicago, Teaching Assistant
Winter, 2009 Descriptive and Economic Statistics, University of Cologne, Teaching Assistant
Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2010 - 2015  University of Chicago Social Sciences Fellowship
2015 - 2016  The Reid Fellowship

Research Papers:

“Endogenous Vertical Differentiation, Variety, and the Unequal Gains from Trade” (Job Market Paper)

How unequal are the gains from trade? In this paper, I argue that the answer depends crucially on how much exporters vertically differentiate in response to foreign competition and study the consequences of international trade on welfare of consumers across the income distribution under endogenous vertical differentiation on the supply side. I develop a structural model in which consumer demand for higher-quality goods is non-homothetic in income and firms endogenously choose the quality of their products. The model can be brought to the data using random coefficients demand estimation techniques and I infer demand and supply parameters for 7,000 highly disaggregated products. I find that competition and market structure strongly influence the quality decisions of firms and therefore affect the measured income elasticity of the products they produce. International trade reduces inequality in consumer welfare, but the effect is overstated by 36% when supply side responses are not taken into account.

Research Paper(s) in Progress:

“Chinese Import Competition and the Electoral Consequences of International Trade”

This paper studies the effect of Chinese import competition on U.S. elections and roll call voting in the U.S. House and Senate over the last 25 years. I use exogenous regional variation in exposure to foreign competition to quantify to which extent international trade can affect political outcomes. I find that incumbents in U.S. areas with higher job losses in response to Chinese competition were punished by the electorate, but less so if they were member of the Democratic Party. I also find a slight shift towards the left in roll call votes, as measured by DW NOMINATE scores.

“A Rcpp Code for the Estimation of Discrete Choice Random Coefficients Models of Consumer Demand”
Office Contact Information
5757 S. University Ave – Saieh Hall
Chicago, IL 60637
Phone: (857) 998-1994


Education:
The University of Chicago, 2008 to present (On Leave: Sep 2010 to Sep 2012)
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: “Essays in Applied Macroeconomics”
Expected Completion Date: June 2016

M.A. in Economics, University of Chicago, 2009
A.B. in Economics, Harvard University, Magna Cum Laude, 2008

References:
Professor Robert E. Lucas, Jr. (Chair) University of Chicago
relucas@uchicago.edu
Professor Nancy Stokey
University of Chicago
nstokey@uchicago.edu
Professor Robert Shimer
University of Chicago
robert.shimer@gmail.com
Professor Joseph Vavra
Univ. of Chicago Booth School of Business
Joseph.Vavra@chicagobooth.edu

Teaching and Research Fields:
Primary fields: Macroeconomics, Growth and Development
Secondary fields: Computational Economics, Finance (Teaching)

Teaching Experience:
Fall 2014 Introduction to Finance (Undergraduate), Lecturer
Winter 2014 Introduction to Finance (Undergraduate), T.A. for Gilbert Park
Winter 2013 Introduction to Finance (Undergraduate), T.A. for Gilbert Park
Fall 2012 Intermediate Macro 2 (Undergraduate), T.A. for Marshall Steinbaum
Winter 2010 Theory of Income II (Macro Core, Ph.D.), T.A. for Prof. Nancy Stokey

Research Experience and Other Employment:
2010 University of Chicago, R.A. for Prof. Erik Hurst
2010-2012 Republic of Korea Army, Korean Augmentation to the United States Army
United States Forces Korea J2 (Intelligence) Exercise Branch, NCOIC
Summer 2005 Samsung Economic Research Institute, Intern

Presentations
2015 Western Economic Association Annual Conference (Honolulu, HI), Capital Theory Working Group (University of Chicago), Economic Graduate Student
Conference (Washington University in St. Louis), Fall Midwest Macro Meeting (University of Rochester, Scheduled)

Honors and Awards
- 2015-2016: Francis William Immasche Dissertation Fellowship
- 2012-2015: Samsung Scholarship (Ph.D.)
- 2008-2010: Samsung Scholarship (Ph.D.)
- 2004-2008: Samsung Scholarship (Undergraduate)

Research Papers:
“Quantitative Impact of Reducing Barriers to Skilled Labor Immigration: The Case of the US H-1B Visa” (Job Market Paper)
Abstract: I examine how increasing the number of H-1B visas issued to skilled immigrants would impact the US economy. Established in 1990, the H-1B visa has been the largest US visa program for temporary skilled labor immigration into the United States. Nevertheless, over the past decade, its annual quota of 65,000 visas has been significantly less than the actual number of applicants. Using a two-country model with heterogeneous agents, I study the short-run and the long-run impact of permanently doubling the H-1B visa quota on the skill distribution, wages, output, and welfare in the United States and the source countries. I find that the United States experiences a 0.79% gain in output per capita in the long-run once the economy completes transitioning to its new steady state. However, this aggregate gain hides wide heterogeneity in the effects on wages and welfare both across and within skill groups and age cohorts. In addition, I show that models that ignore return migration underestimate the average skill of an immigrant skilled worker, but overestimate the long-run increase in immigrant stock in response to reducing barriers to labor mobility. Because the latter effect dominates the former, I find that models with no return migration overestimate the changes in welfare by more than sixfold for certain cohorts compared to the benchmark model.

“Economic Impact Evaluation of Highway Improvements in Republic of Georgia Using Robust Quasi-experimental Design and Geographic Information System Data” (with John Felkner and Benjamin Linkow)
Abstract: We present the results of a rigorous quasi-experimental design economic impact evaluation of the more the US $200 million improvement of approximately 220 km of highway in the Republic of Georgia by the Millennium Challenge Corporation, constructed between 2008 and 2010. Three evaluation methods were implemented: a treatment-control difference-in-difference, a dose-response continuous treatment approach that estimated project impacts across geography, and a matched difference-in-difference using Propensity Score Matching (PSM). It is found that the road improvements increased the volume of traffic by an average of 44.2 vehicles per day (4.2%), while the average speed increased by 13.6 km/h (24.4%). The project also led to a 26.9% increase in the number of industrial facilities near the project roads. The study contributes to the literature by presenting the results of rigorous quasi-experimental design methodology that further utilizes highly accurate GIS data to improve the precision and allow for the estimation of impacts across geography.

Research Papers in Progress
“Quantitative Impact of Increased Inflow of Syrian Refugees into the European Union”

“A Macroeconomic Model of Bank Size and Leverage” (with BongGeun Choi)

“Who Benefits from the Small Business Loan Guarantee Expansions?: An Incidence Analysis of the U.S. Small Business Administration’s 7(a) Loan Program Regime Change (2009-2011)” (with BongGeun Choi)

“Racial Heterogeneity and Household Donation Patterns within the U.S.”
Graduate Education
The University of Chicago, 2010 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: “Costs and Contract Duration”
Expected Completion Date: June 2016

References:
Professor Ali Hortaçsu (Chair) University of Chicago
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Professor Brent Hickman
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Professor Casey Mulligan
University of Chicago
c-mulligan@uchicago.edu
Professor Chad Syverson
Univ. of Chicago Booth School of Business
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Undergraduate Education
B.A., Economics, University of Virginia, 2009

Teaching and Research Fields
Industrial Organization, Econometrics, Microeconomics

Teaching Experience
Winter 2014 Honors Econometrics, University of Chicago, Lecturer
Spring 2013 Econometrics A, University of Chicago, Lecturer
Winter 2013 Ph.D. Applied Econometrics, U of C, Teaching Assistant for Robert LaLonde
Autumn 2012 Ph.D. Applied Econometrics, U of C, Teaching Assistant for Dan Black
Autumn 2012 M.B.A. Advanced Micro, U of C, Teaching Assistant for Kevin Murphy
Spring 2012 Ph.D. Macroeconomics, U of C, Teaching Assistant for Casey Mulligan
Autumn 2011 M.B.A. Advanced Micro, U of C, Teaching Assistant for Kevin Murphy

Research Experience and Other Employment
2013 Export Chicago Montenegro, Lead Economist and Project Manager
2012 Economic Analysis Group of the Antitrust Division, DOJ, Research Intern
2009-2010 Applied Predictive Technologies, Business Consultant

Conference Presentations and Invited Seminars
2015 Econometric Society World Congress
Workshop in Applications of Economics, University of Chicago
CEPR-JIE School on Applied Industrial Organization
Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships

2015-2016  Markovitz Dissertation Fellowship, Social Science Division, Univ. of Chicago
2010-2015  Social Sciences Fellowship, University of Chicago
2011-2012  Munk Fellowship, Department of Economics, University of Chicago
2011       Lee Prize in Economics for the highest score on the Quantitative Core Exam

Publications


Research Papers

“The Structure of Costs and the Duration of Supplier Relationships” (Job Market Paper)

The duration of a supply relationship depends on two types of costs: (i) the transaction cost of switching suppliers and (ii) the cost of being matched to an inefficient supplier when the relationship lasts too long. I develop a model of optimal contract duration that captures this tradeoff, and I provide conditions under which key components of the underlying cost structure are identified. Latent transaction costs are identified even when the exact supplier selection mechanism is unknown. For a typical procurement good, I estimate the model and find that transaction costs are a significant portion of total costs. I conduct a counterfactual analysis of two common contracting frictions: a maximum contract duration and an integer constraint restricting contracts to yearly increments. The estimates suggest that the cap on maximum duration is close to the optimal policy, but the integer constraint is costly. A policy that allowed more flexible monthly-increment contracts would reduce total costs by 2 percent.


This study is the first to estimate the empirical effects of minimum resale price maintenance (RPM) across a broad variety of products. We analyze conflicting theories using an exogenous state-level law change resulting from the 2007 Leegin Supreme Court decision. In states where RPM contracts are treated under the more relaxed rule-of-reason standard, prices increased. Through a series of tests, we find little support for the broad application of any particular theory.

Research in Progress

“Contracts as a Barrier to Entry: Evidence from a Newly Deregulated Market”

In a newly deregulated market for retail electricity, suppliers charge a discount when bidding on two-year contracts compared to one-year contracts. The discount anticipates entry in the market; for each supplier that enters in the next year, bidders increase the discount by 1 percent. The market experiences a two-year expansion phase followed by a two-year maturation phase in which unsuccessful firms exit. As the number of suppliers falls, firms no longer offer a discount on the two-year contract; instead, they charge a premium. The observed pricing behavior is consistent with using long-term contracts to discourage entry, as in Aghion and Bolton (1987).

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Personal Information: Chilean

Education
The University of Chicago, 2010 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: “The role of financial traders in electricity markets”
Expected Completion Date: June 2016

Master, Economics, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, cum laude, 2008
M. Sc., Economics, Tilburg University, cum laude, 2008
B.S., Economics and Business, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, 2008

References:
Professor Ali Hortaçsu
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Professor Michael Greenstone
University of Chicago
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Professor Brent Hickman
University of Chicago
773-702-3877, hickmanbr@uchicago.edu

Professor John Birge
Univ. of Chicago Booth School of Business
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Teaching and Research Fields:
Primary fields: Energy and Environmental Economics, Industrial Organization
Secondary fields: Computational Economics

Teaching Experience:
2014-15 Game Theory (MBA), Chicago Booth, TA for Emir Kamenica
2012 Econometrics B, UChicago, TA for Ali Hortaçsu and Anthony Cookson
2012 Environmental and Agricultural Policy, UChicago, TA for Sabina Shaikh
2011 Microeconomics (ECON 200), UChicago, TA for Kathryn Ierulli
2009-10 Introduction to Microeconomics, PUC Chile, Lecturer

Research Experience and Other Employment:
2011 - 2015 University of Chicago, Research Assistant for Ali Hortaçsu
2009-10 PUC Chile, Associate Researcher
**Professional Experience**

Conferences  

**Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:**

- 2015-16  
The Margaret G. Reid Memorial Fellowship, UChicago
- 2015-16  
Energy Policy Institute at Chicago (EPIC) Dissertation Award, UChicago
- 2014-15  
Theodore W. and Esther Schultz Economics Fellowship, UChicago
- Summer 2013  
Division of Social Sciences Summer Grant, UChicago
- 2010-14  
Beca Chile, Chilean Government

**Research Papers:**

*"Competition and Arbitrage in Electricity Markets: The role of financial traders"* (Job Market Paper)

In the last decade, many electricity markets have introduced financial speculators to increase efficiency. Their role is subject to an ongoing debate, since financial transactions have also been used to manipulate prices. This paper studies the role of financial players as competitors of the physical producers, taking advantage of a unique dataset on individual firm behavior from the Midwest electricity market. As in many other markets, I observe that generators' market power resulted in a forward premium, i.e. the forward price was consistently above the spot price. The premium persisted because financial trading was subject to high transaction costs that limited arbitrage. These costs were significantly reduced on April 2011 and, as a consequence, financial trading increased, generators exerted less market power, and the forward premium decreased. Interestingly, generators reacted when they learned that transaction costs were going to fall, months before they were actually reduced. I follow a structural approach to show that generators' change of conduct was not a static response to changes in current market conditions, but consistent with a dynamic reaction to financial players’ expected entry. Taking advantage of this regulatory change that exogenously attracted more financial players to the Midwest electricity market, I find that speculators lead to an increase in competition and consumers’ surplus.

*"Limited arbitrage in electricity markets?"* with John Birge, Ali Hortacsu, and Michael Pavlin

As in most commodities markets, deregulated electricity markets allow the participation of purely financial (virtual) traders to enhance informational and productive efficiency. The presence of financial players is expected, among other things, to help eliminate predictable pricing gaps between forward (day-ahead) and spot prices, which may arise in the presence of market power by physical suppliers or buyers. However, we find that the impact of financial players on reducing pricing gaps has been limited. A forward premium persists. We show that financial traders indeed decrease the difference between the spot and forward prices, but arbitrage is limited by three barriers. First, arbitrageurs do not have unlimited access to capital. Trading was reduced during the financial crisis, when capital availability was restricted. The second is regulation, the regulator imposed high charges on some transactions and introduced uncertainty over how charges would be calculated and thus reduced virtual trading. Lastly, large financial players may find it more attractive to use financial bids to improve their position in a related market. We observe that some large financial players appear to be betting in exactly the opposite direction of the pricing gap, sustaining large losses while doing so. We find evidence consistent with participants using forward market bids to affect congestion and thus increase the value of their Financial Transmission Rights (FTR), i.e. these financial players incur losses with one financial instrument to make larger profits with another, introducing artificial congestion to the system.
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Education
The University of Chicago, 2010 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: “Firm Dynamics and the Business Cycle”
Expected Completion Date: June 2016

M.Sc. in Applied Econometrics and Forecasting, ISEG Lisbon School of Management, 2009
B.Sc. in Economics, University of Porto, cum laude, 2005

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Teaching and Research Fields:
Primary fields: Applied Macroeconomics
Secondary fields: Productivity, Firm Dynamics, Entrepreneurship

Teaching Experience:
Spring, 2013      Ph.D. Applied Econometrics, U of C, TA for Professor James Heckman
Winter, 2013      Ph.D. Inequality, U of C, TA for Professor James Heckman
Winter, 2013      Ph.D. Applied Econometrics, U of C, TA for Professor Robert LaLonde
Fall, 2012        Ph.D. Applied Econometrics, U of C, TA for Professor Dan Black
2005             Macroeconomics, University of Porto, Lecturer

Research Experience and Other Employment:
2005-2010        Economic Research Department, Banco de Portugal, Research Economist

Professional Experience:
Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2014-2016  Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Kauffman Dissertation Fellowship
2015-2016  University of Chicago, The Margaret G. Reid Memorial Fellowship
2014-2015  University of Chicago, Theodore W. and Esther Schultz Economics Fellowship
2010-2014  Portuguese Government, PhD Scholarship

Publications:

Research Papers:
“Persistence, Firm Dynamics, and Business Cycles” (Job Market Paper)
This paper examines how the state of the economy when businesses start their operation affects their size and performance over time. Using the Census Bureau’s Longitudinal Business Database, covering the population of non-farm employer establishments, I show that economic conditions at entry have significant consequences for both the number and the size of businesses that enter the market. More importantly, I show that these effects persist through time, i.e. businesses born in bad economic conditions remain relatively smaller even after the initial conditions subside. I present evidence on the potential economic mechanisms driving these empirical patterns. Guided by the empirical results, I build a model of firm dynamics with aggregate shocks and idiosyncratic productivity that formally evaluates the relative importance of the mechanisms that mediate the relation between the conditions of the economy at inception and the short and long-term evolution of the size of businesses. I find that selection at entry and at exit play a major role in explaining the observed patterns. The theory also identifies a causal link between the drop in new businesses at the outset of the 2007–2009 recession and its relatively anemic recovery.

Work in progress:
“Self-Employment and the Business-Cycle”

“The Role of Sectorial Composition in the Evolution of Skill Wage Premium”

“A New State-Industry Dataset of Labor Shares” with Loukas Karabarbounis and Brent Neiman
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Education
The University of Chicago, 2010 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: “Tariff Coordination in Free Trade Agreements and Customs Unions”
Expected Completion Date: June 2015

B.A. in Economics, Seoul National University, 2006

References:
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Teaching and Research Fields
Primary field: International Trade
Secondary fields: Industrial Organization, Economic Development, Microeconomics

Teaching Experience
Fall 2012

Spring 2013 – Price Theory II, III (Graduate Microeconomic Theory), UofC, T.A. for Prof.
Spring 2012 Roger B. Myerson and Philip J. Reny
Spring 2008 Studies in Statistics for Economists(Graduate), SNU, T.A. for Prof. Jae-
Summer 2006 Young Kim
Spring 2006 Mathematical Methodology for graduates, SNU Graduate School of Public
Administration, Lecturer
Spring 2006 Microeconomics, SNU, T.A. for Prof. Wan-Jin Kim
Research Experience and Other Employment

2006-2009  Republic Of Korea Air Force, Seosan, Republic Of Korea, 1st Lieutenant
2006  Seoul National University, R.A. for Prof. Jae-Young Kim

Presentations

2015  Midwest International Trade Meeting, International Trade Working Group
2014  International Trade Working Group, Applied Macroeconomic Theory Working Group
2013  International Trade Working Group
2012  International Macro and Finance Reading group

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships

2015-2016  Theodore W. and Esther Schultz Dissertation Fellowship
2010-2015  Doctoral Study Abroad Scholarship, Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies

Research Papers

“Tariff Coordination in Free Trade Agreements and customs unions” (Job Market Paper)
This paper explains why free trade agreements (FTAs) are more popular than customs unions (CUs), and it identifies the optimal rule in FTAs and CUs to achieve global tariff-free trade. Employing an equilibrium theory of trade agreements with tariff coordination, I demonstrate that two FTA members can keep their external tariff higher than separately decided external tariffs. This “implicit tariff coordination” can benefit each member through trade diversion. In a CU each member country must have a common optimal external tariff and it always incur costs because each country has its own opinion regarding what tariff to impose on each good. The coordination factor accounts for the popularity of the FTA. This paper also compares equilibrium results for both types of trade agreements and each rule. When both an FTA and a CU are possible, global tariff-free trade is achieved from the largest set of demand size and cost asymmetry.

“The Most Favored Nation Principle: Passive Constraint or Active Commitment?”
(with Jeongmeen Suh and Seung-Gyu Sim) (under review)
This paper examines how the welfare implication of the “most-favored-nation” (MFN) principle has changed as trade agreement mode has shifted from the “one-shot-multilateral-trade-agreement” to “sequential-bilateral-trade-agreements.” It demonstrates that under the latter, (i) the importing country strategically takes a cost-efficient country as the first (second) trading partner when the MFN principle is (is not) embedded, and (ii) voluntarily embedding the MFN clause improves both the trade surplus of the importing country and world economy. That the MFN principle is utilized as a commitment device to encourage production by the cost-efficient country causes a reversal of the welfare implication in previous literature.

Research Paper(s) in Progress

“Search Equilibrium with Self-employment and Slow Reallocation”
Education
The University of Chicago, 2011 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: “Do Financial Factors Drive Aggregate Productivity? Evidence from Indian Manufacturing Establishments”
Expected Completion Date: June 2016

Bachelor of Science, Mathematics, University of Maryland College Park, cum laude, 2008
Bachelor of Arts, Economics, University of Maryland College Park, magna cum laude, 2008

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Professor Zhiguo He
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Teaching and Research Fields:
Primary fields: Macroeconomics and Monetary Economics, Financial Economics

Secondary fields: Economic Development

Teaching Experience:
Winter, 2013
Econometrics, Teaching Assistant for Professor Lars Peter Hansen

Fall, 2013
Asset Pricing, Teaching Assistant for Professor John H. Cochrane

Fall, 2014
Investments, Teaching Assistant for Professor Stefano Giglio

Research Experience and Other Employment:
2008-2011
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Research Assistant
Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

- September, 2015: Macro-Financial Modeling Fellowship
- June, 2015: Stevanovich Student Fellowship
- November 2014 – Present: Katherine Dusak Miller PhD Fellowship
- July 2012 – Present: Lee Prize for Best Quantitative Methods Core Exam
- 2011 – Present: National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow

Research Papers:

“Do Financial Factors Drive Aggregate Productivity? Evidence from Indian Manufacturing Establishments” (Job Market Paper)

Numerous countries have implemented financial reforms in the past three decades, but how these reforms affect economic growth has not been established. I develop a novel dynamic equilibrium model with heterogeneous firms and endogenous leverage to isolate the effects of financial liberalization on aggregate productivity. Changes in financial frictions affect aggregate productivity by shifting the allocation of resources across firms, while leaving productivity within firms constant. However, common shocks to productivity also change the allocation of resources across firms, because more-productive firms respond to shocks by changing leverage. I use India, which underwent large scale financial-sector reforms beginning in 1991, as a laboratory to test my model. Using establishment-level micro-data, I quantify the extent to which these financial reforms impacted aggregate manufacturing productivity and find that all the improvements occur in the first five years, with virtually no effects for the next fifteen. My work suggests that other factors besides financial frictions might explain why developing economies lag behind the U.S. in growth and productivity.

“Zero-Coupon Yields and the Cross-Section of Bond Prices”

I estimate a dynamic term-structure model with time-varying risk premia on a panel of Treasury coupon bonds, without relying on an interpolated zero-coupon yield curve or a selection of maturities. I estimate a linearity-generating model in which coupon-bond prices are linear functions of latent factors. I quantify the large deviations between the prices of bonds older and younger than 15 years during the financial crisis. I show that prices of risk estimated from short-horizon vector autoregressions of latent factors lead to biased forecasts of long-horizon holding-period returns; prices of risk estimated on realized holding-period returns lead to better forecasts.
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Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Expected Completion Date: June 2016

MA, Economics, New York University, 2009
BA, Liberal Arts, Soka University of America, 2007

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Professor Steven Davis Univ. of Chicago Booth School of Business
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Professor Loukas Karabarbounis
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Teaching and Research Fields:
Fields: Macroeconomics, Labor Economics

Teaching Experience (University of Chicago):

Fall, 2014 Microeconomics 1: Honors, TA for Victor Lima
Fall, 2014 Econometrics A, TA for Shaikh Azeem
Spring, 2014 Labor Market and Macro (PhD), TA for Rafael Lopes de Melo
Fall, 2013 Microeconomics 1, TA for Alessandra Voena
Winter, 2013-14 Microeconomics 2, TA for Richard Van Wheelden
Spring, 2013 Macroeconomics 1, TA for Rafael Lopes de Melo
Fall, 2012 Topics in Applied Macro, TA for Robert Shimer

Research Experience and Other Employment:
Summer, 2013 International Monetary Fund, Summer Intern at Asia and Pacific Department
2012-2013 U Chicago, Research Assistant for Steven Davis
2012 U Chicago, Research Assistant for Thomas Chaney
2009-2010 Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Research Associate
Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2015-16 The Theodore W. and Esther Schultz Economics Dissertation Fellowship
2015-16 Japan Student Services Organization Dissertation Fellowship
2015 University of Chicago Research Grant
2012-15 University of Chicago Fellowship
2012 Rosen Prize
2010-12 Japan-IMF Scholarship
2007 Makiguchi Graduate Studies Scholarship
2007 Founder’s Award

Research Papers:

This paper proposes a hidden state Markov model (HMM) that incorporates workers' unobserved labor market attachment for the analysis of labor market dynamics. Unlike the previous literature that typically assumes that a worker's labor force status follows a first order Markov process, the HMM allows workers with the same observed labor force status to have different history-dependent transition probabilities. I show that the estimated HMM generates labor market transition probabilities that match those observed in the data, which the first order Markov model (FOM) and its extensions that allow for richer observed heterogeneous states cannot. I use the HMM to study the persistence and dynamics of employment risk across different demographic groups and to compare the dynamics of labor market flows in the Great Recession to those during the 1981 recession.

“Classification Errors in the Analysis of Labor Market Dynamics” (Work in Progress)
This paper revisits classification errors, in which respondents misreport their true labor force status, for the Current Population Survey (CPS). Feng and Hu (2013) show that the US unemployment rates, once corrected for misclassification errors based on a latent variable model, are on average 2.1 percentage points higher than the corresponding reported unemployment rates between 1996 and 2011. I show that their estimated error correction model generates implausible labor market transition probabilities. I then argue that a latent variable approach with the first order Markov model for the true labor force status can restrict the labor market transition probabilities within a plausible range and thus is suited for correcting the classification errors for the flow analysis. I show that the data corrected for the misclassification based on the proposed approach do not substantially change the unemployment rates but change the magnitudes of the contributions of flow probabilities fluctuations to the unemployment rate fluctuations.

Despite its low unemployment rate, the recent shift in the Japanese Beveridge curve indicates increased labor mismatch. This paper quantifies the age, employment-type (full or part-time), and occupational mismatch in the Japanese labor market following Sahin and others (2013). Between April 2000 and April 2013, the age mismatch has steadily declined while the occupational and employment type mismatch has shown a countercyclical pattern, showing a sharp increase during the global financial crisis. Occupational mismatch accounted for approximately 20-40 percent of the recent rise in the unemployment rate in Japan. The magnitude was comparable to that of the U.K. and the U.S.
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Education
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Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: “The Unaccounted Insurance Value of Medical Innovation”
Expected Completion Date: June 2016
BSc., Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2010
BSc., Mathematics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2010

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Professor Steven Levitt Professor Eric Budish
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Teaching and Research Fields:
Primary fields: Applied Microeconomics, Health Economics

Secondary fields: Economics of Innovation, Industrial Organization

Teaching Experience:
Winter, 2015 Environmental Economics, Univ. of Chicago, Teaching Assistant
Winter, 2015 Microeconomics, Univ. of Chicago, Teaching Assistant
Summer, 2014 Microeconomics, Chicago Booth Exec MBA, Teaching Assistant
Fall, 2013 Microeconomics, Chicago Booth MBA, Teaching Assistant
Spring, 2013 Development Economics, Univ. of Chicago, Teaching Assistant
Winter, 2013 Microeconomics, Univ. of Chicago, Teaching Assistant

Research Experience and Other Employment:
Summer, 2009 MIT Sloan School of Management, Researcher
January, 2009 Central Bank of Malaysia, Intern
2007 - 2008 MIT Biomaterials Science and Engineering Lab, Undergraduate Researcher
Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:
2015-2016    Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship
2010-2015    Central Bank of Malaysia Outstanding Merit Scholarship
2010-present Member of Sigma Xi Honor Society
2004         Second out of 420,000 candidates in Malaysian SPM (O-Levels) Examination
2002, 2004   Diploma in Piano Performance (ATCL) and Music Theory (AMusTCL), Trinity College London

Research Papers:
“The Unaccounted Insurance Value of Medical Innovation” (Job Market Paper)
This paper presents a new model for estimating the value of new medical innovation. Contrary to traditional value of life models that only estimate the benefits of a new treatment to individuals who fall sick ex-post, this method also incorporates the value of a new medical innovation from an ex-ante perspective, before susceptible individuals know whether or not they will fall sick. Any risk averse individual who is susceptible to a disease in the future derives value from the existence of a treatment, because risk averse individuals prefer to ‘ insure’ against uncertainty in future survival outcomes. Using a parameterized model, we find that for very rare diseases, where afflicted patient populations are small, but vulnerable patient populations are large, up to 65 percent of the value of the drug is ex-ante insurance value. Using data from The National Cancer Institute SEER database, we find that a significant portion of the value of a cure would accrue to individuals who never develop the disease. Since only sick individuals participate in pharmaceutical market transactions, there will tend to be under-provision of valuable innovation by the private market.

I examine the economic implications of market exclusivity and tax credits provided under the ODA on the innovation of drugs for rare and non-rare diseases (‘orphan drugs’). By examining orphan drug sales data, I find evidence that orphan drug sales are often significantly higher than what we would expect for rare diseases, suggesting large spillovers involved with orphan drug manufacture. Then, I develop a general model to estimate how pharmaceutical firms respond to public incentives when making investments in drug development. Diseases with similar development and treatment mechanisms are seen as linked within a network whereas diseases without common treatment/development mechanisms are seen as unlinked. The model suggests that in the presence of research spillovers (viewed as linkages within the network), ODA incentives can push firms to cluster in certain therapeutic areas. Additional market power granted by ODA exclusivity can also cause pricing distortions in the market. This pattern of clustering might run counter to the Act’s intended purpose to encourage research into a large variety of rare diseases.

“The Unexpected Benefits of Being an Orphan (Drug)”, with Rena Conti & Elad Sharon, 2015
We examine pricing patterns for cancer drugs that have received orphan (rare-disease) status from the FDA versus non-orphan cancer drugs. We find that ‘orphan’ cancer drugs command a price premium of approximately 75 percent compared to ‘non-orphan’ cancer drugs. It is likely that market protections due to the Orphan Drug Act combined with generous insurance coverage enable firms to charge high prices without fear of losing market share.

Non Obstetric Conditions are Leading Cause of Rising Maternal Mortality in the US, 2013
Maternal mortality rates in the US have more than doubled since 2000. This pattern is puzzling as mortality rates have been declining in most other parts of the world. I investigate the causes behind this increased mortality using data from the National Vital Statistics System. I find that maternal deaths due to metabolic, circulatory and respiratory disorders are on the rise and that obesity related disorders are impacting maternal health outcomes. Results are valuable from a public health perspective as they may facilitate the delivery of more targeted interventions to patient populations that are most at risk.

Addiction and Biased Beliefs, 2012
In this behavioral economics paper, I develop a theoretical model illustrating how biased beliefs about how addiction evolves can distort consumption decisions away from the optimum and cause agents to over-consume an addictive good. I develop a framework for qualitatively estimating the effects of biased beliefs using key insights of the Becker and Murphy (1988) rational addiction model and the O’Donoghue Rabin (1999) model. I posit that most agents underestimate how their addiction levels evolve and thus believe that quitting will be easier than it actually is. Biased beliefs cause agents to fail to accurately predict their future utility thereby resulting in consumption decisions in the current period that are inefficient in the long run. Based on insights from the model, I discuss how to design tools for the treatment and prevention of addiction.
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Current Position:
Postdoctoral Scholar, Becker Friedman Institute, University of Chicago, 2014-

Education:
Ph.D., Economics, University of Chicago, 2008-2014
B.A., Economics-Mathematics, Columbia University, 2005

References:
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Professor Matthew Gentzkow
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Professor Marianne Bertrand
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Professor Magne Mogstad
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Research Fields:
Primary fields: Labor, Public, Experimental

Research Experience and Other Employment:
2010-2012 Research assistant to Professor Marianne Bertrand, University of Chicago
2005-2008 Research Associate, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Teaching Experience:
Fall 2015 Principles of Economics (Econ 198), co-Lecturer with John List
Spring 2014, Fall 2011 Intro to Econometrics (Econ 210), Lecturer
Spring 2011 Intro to Econometrics (Econ 210), TA for Brent Hickman
Winter 2011 Intermediate Microeconomics (Econ 201), TA for Sebastian Gay

Professional Activities:
Presentations (including scheduled):

2015: Workshop on Human Potential (Chicago Harris), Family Economics Workshop (Chicago Econ), Chicago Booth Micro Lunch, Society of Labor Economics, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

2014: Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, University of Memphis

2013: Micro Lunch (Chicago Econ), Family Economics Workshop (Chicago Econ)

Honors, Grants, and Fellowships:

2015: Washington Center for Equitable Growth academic grant ($43,000; with Enghin Atalay and Sebastian Sotelo)

2015: Hayek Fund for Scholars, IHS

2013-2014: Margaret G. Reid Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago

2013-2014: Social Sciences Research Grant, University of Chicago

2008-2013: Social Sciences Fellowship, University of Chicago

2008: Honorable Mention, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

Working papers:

“The effect of child support laws on selection into marriage and fertility” (JOB MARKET PAPER)

This paper studies the effect of child support laws on selection into marriage and fertility. I first develop a simple model of dating, fertility, and marriage, in which having a child is accompanied by wages losses for the mother. Individuals face borrowing constraints, and some men cannot credibly commit to future transfers in the event of a child. A child support law forces commitment from these men, requiring the father to make transfers to the mother if the couple has a child and does not marry. The theory has two main predictions: (1) child support crowds out marriage, and (2) women are less likely to abort a pregnancy, since the cost of raising a child as a single mom is reduced. I present direct evidence for these effects using variation in the temporal and spatial rollout of child support laws relative to the timing of pregnancy in the U.S. from 1977 to 1992. I find that “shotgun” marriages, i.e. marriages that occur between pregnancy and birth, are less likely to form under strengthened child support laws, which account for a 6-12 percentage point decline in the probability of marriage following a pregnancy, relative to a base of 39 percent. In addition, I find that the child support rollout reduced the abortion rate by 2-3 per 1000 women aged 15-44, off of a base of 28, representing over 50 percent of the total decline in the abortion rate over this period.

“Does school quality affect neighborhood formation? Evidence from a redistricting reform.” (under review)

This paper studies the effect of school quality on housing construction. I exploit a redistricting reform in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, in which the district redrew a large number of residence-based school assignment zones. Redistricting leads to the abrupt creation of school quality discontinuities along new assignment boundaries. Using a regression discontinuity design along new boundaries, I find relatively minor and insignificant differences in the size and building quality of housing construction before the reform, but once school quality differences go into effect, housing construction on the high test score side of a new boundary is larger and higher quality. This paper provides evidence that school policies act as neighborhood policies, and generate investments in durable goods such as the quality of housing stock.
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Education
The University of Chicago, 2010 to present

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: “A Rush Theory of Financing”
Expected Completion Date: June 2016

Master in Public Policy, Harvard University, 2007
Master, Computer Science, Duke University, 2004

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Research and Teaching Fields:
Primary fields: Macro, Finance, Public, Micro, Theory
Secondary fields: International, Labor, IO, Development, Law&Econ, History

Teaching Experience:
2013, 2014 The Wealth of Nations (Booth MBA Macro), TA for Prof. Chang-Tai Hsieh
Winter 2015 Public Finance, TA for Prof. Casey Mulligan

Research Experience and Other Employment:
[2010-present] Peterson Institute for International Economics, Nonresident Visiting Research Fellow

Publications: (google scholar citations: 130 cites till October 19, 2015)

Conference Presentations:
Econometric Society 2015 World Congress, Montreal; MidWest Macro, Nov 2015, Rochester;
SED 2014 (Society for Economics Dynamics),Toronto; MidWest Macro, Nov 2013, Minneapolis
Research Papers:


This paper proposes a theory of rational "rush" which emphasizes overinvestment in terms of quantity rather than price bubbles. I illustrate an important friction when financing new technology: non-excludability due to imperfect IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) protection. In addition, the new technology (projects) bears significant uncertainty. These new projects are supplied in a limited quantity so investors have a strong motive to capture a lion's share. This preemption motive will distort their incentive for patient learning. Therefore investors "rush in" to finance uncertain new projects massively at a premature stage. Market structure matters for the occurrence of "rush" as well as the scale of inefficiencies. On the other hand, information externalities of learning creates free-rider motive for investors, which offsets the preemption motive to some extent. Thus under-investment is possible under certain circumstances. Better IPR protection can not only help to internalize the benefit but also the potential risks of innovation. Beyond the traditional tradeoff between incentivizing R&D and reducing monopolistic deadweight loss, optimal patent design should also take account of macro-financial stability, i.e. preventing “rush” and mitigating overinvestment. Empirical evidence shows loose IPR protection leads to higher investment level during a technology boom.

“A Model of Endogenous (Growth, Complex Uncertainty, and Regulation)”

Man-made unknowns can grow faster than technological progress. This paper proposes a theory of endogenous regulation induced by technological progress which creates growing Complex Uncertainty. Empirically, regulation has been growing very fast during the last several decades. Among them, regulation on hazards reduction is the major contributor while traditional economic regulation stays stagnant. Beyond endogenous growth, this model takes into consideration that a new technology can bring unexpected hazards to the economy. Even worse, uncertain hazards can also arise from combinational interactions between the new technology and existing technologies as well as environment. Consumers’ concern about the growing uncertainties together with their limited information-processing capacity will raise the threshold of innovation adoption and hinder economic growth over time. Intentional detection by the regulator can relax this constraint for growth by resolving uncertainties and removing hazards. Over long-run growth the information value of resolving technology-induced uncertainties is increasing and more resources should be devoted to detecting, disclosing and removing potential hazards.

“Internal and External Agency Costs and Business Cycle”

This paper characterizes the interaction between internal and external financial frictions. External financial friction can discipline the constrained firms from creating excessive internal agency cost.

“Financial Regulatory Cycles”

I develop a model of Financial Regulatory Cycles driven by imbalanced dynamic allocation of human capital between two sectors: the financial industry and the regulatory authorities.

“A Generalized Fact and Model of Long-Run Economic Growth: Kaldor Fact as a Special Case”

The primary finding of this paper is that labor share follows a nonlinear relationship with real GDP per capita during long-run development, based on a new panel data set for 123 countries (1950-2004).

“A New Theory of Democratization”

This paper proposes a new theory of democratization due to growth-induced complex uncertainties and thus increasing demand for information capacity which contradicts non-democracies’ information control.

Research Papers in Progress

“Empirical Bank Run” (with Kelly Shue)

“A New Classification Method for Exchange Rate Regimes” (with Jeffrey Frankel)

“Two Beckers: 2-Dimensional Matching with Household Production” (with Pierre-André Chiappori)

“Financial and Real Networks” (with Qingqing Chen)
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Education
The University of Chicago, 2009 to present
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George Mason University, 2009
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Teaching and Research Fields:
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Teaching Experience:
Winter, 2015 Public Finance and Policy (B.A.), University of Chicago, Teaching Assistant for Professor Damon Jones

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Research Papers:

“Multiple Hypothesis Testing in Experimental Economics” (with John A. List and Azeem M. Shaikh) (Job Market Paper)

Multiple hypothesis testing has been pervasive in the experimental economics community. Nevertheless, experimental economists have rarely accounted for the multiple testing problem in the literature. If decisions about individual hypotheses are based on unadjusted marginal p-values, experimentalists would be highly likely to undertake a substantially large false discovery risk and draw ungrounded conclusions. In this paper, we consider three most common scenarios that involve multiple hypothesis testing within the field of experimental economics: jointly identifying treatment effects for a set of outcomes, estimating heterogeneous treatment effects through subgroup analysis, and conducting hypothesis testing for multiple treatment conditions. We present a multiple testing procedure under the framework that incorporates the above scenarios. Under weak assumptions, the testing procedure that we construct asymptotically controls the familywise error rate – the probability of even one false rejection. Furthermore, the testing procedure is asymptotically balanced in the sense that all tests contribute equally to error control. We apply our methodology to various plausible hypotheses of interest based on the experiment discussed in Karlan and List (2007) so as to understand the effectiveness of a matching grant on charitable giving. In all the empirical applications, we find that a smaller number of treatment effects are significant when compared to results that do not adjust for multiple testing. We illustrate the improvement in power by comparing our results with those obtained by Bonferroni and Holm. Notably, we also demonstrate that further improvement could be made by exploiting transitivity when there are multiple treatment conditions.