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Education

University of Chicago , Ph.D. Economics	2019–2025 (<i>expected</i>)
Indiana University , B.S. Mathematics, B.A. Economics	2015–2019

References

Professor Greg Kaplan (Chair) University of Chicago Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics gkaplan@uchicago.edu (773) 834-9405	Professor Christina Patterson University of Chicago Booth School of Business christina.patterson@chicagobooth.edu (617) 794-0521
Professor Erik Hurst University of Chicago Booth School of Business erik.hurst@chicagobooth.edu (773) 834-4073	

Research and Teaching Fields

Primary: Macro, Labor
Secondary: Spatial

Job Market Paper

The Dynamics of Firm Size and Skill Composition: Theory and Evidence from Australia

Abstract: I examine the relationship between firm size and skill composition, using microdata from Australian workers and firms between 2011 and 2019. Larger firms have more skilled workers, but as firms grow, they shift toward employing more low-skilled labor. To explain these patterns, I develop a model that distinguishes total factor productivity (TFP) from skill-biased productivity (SBP), in which firms choose their scale and workforce composition. I validate the model by analyzing the effects of a payroll tax policy change in South Australia, and find that firms responded by adjusting both their scale and skill mix. I use a quantitative model of the Australian labor market to explore the implications of shifts in aggregate skill composition on the distributions of firm size and earnings inequality. I find that an 11 percentage point increase in the educated share of the workforce causes skill premia to decrease

within all firms. Despite this, the aggregate skill premium increases, because firms which employ higher shares of high-skilled workers raise the level of earnings more for all their workers. The increase in the educated share also leads to employment gains of 3% in the largest firms, and an aggregate reallocation of 1% of workers to the largest firms. The results highlight how accounting for employment composition decisions by firms is crucial for understanding observed patterns of worker skill distribution and earnings across firms.

Works in Progress

Mortality and Income Inequality: *I ask why the United States has higher GDP per capita than Great Britain, but lower life expectancy. I propose a theory of mortality risk depending on income, and aggregate productivity depending on population size. I derive the stationary population size, life expectancy, and income per capita in closed form. When aggregate productivity depends positively on population size, this feedback increases the equilibrium population size. As the productivity distribution becomes more dispersed, life expectancy falls and income per capita rises, and these effects are more pronounced the more convex is the mapping from income to mortality risk. Under the assumption that mortality risk is more convex in income in the United States than Great Britain, aggregate time trends in life expectancy and income inequality are in accord with the model's predictions.*

Urban development dynamics and zoning (with Jordan Rosenthal-Kay): *How do local housing markets interact across space and time? To answer this question, we develop a tractable dynamic spatial equilibrium model with continuous space and time and computable transition dynamics. Our model features fixed housing developers that build housing subject to adjustment costs, and interact in a spatial equilibrium generated by freely mobile households. The spatial equilibrium is key, because it reduces the dimensionality of the problem: rather than solving for the price at every location at every instant (an $N \times T$ dimensional problem), we only need to solve for the common household utility at each instant (a T dimensional problem). We show numerically that following a demand shock, housing adjustment paths may be nonmonotonic, as short-run demand increases may induce some developers to overshoot their long-run housing supply. In ongoing work, we apply our model to study how zoning restrictions affect the dynamics following local housing demand shocks in San Francisco. We infer de facto zoning restrictions using bunching in the building height distribution over different zoning classifications, and use our estimates of latent zoning parameters to quantify the model.*

Tractable Dynamics in Models of Location Choice: *I lay out a dynamic model of location choice wherein the arrival of moving opportunities is random, and provide analytic results concerning equilibrium dynamics. The stationary distribution is isomorphic to standard static quantitative spatial models, and therefore can be calibrated similarly. I also show that in the baseline case of constant elasticity externalities across space, the transition path following a permanent change in fundamentals is efficient in the decentralized economy. Finally, I motivate the baseline model's potential usefulness going forward by considering a few extensions which maintain tractability while addressing more complex economic mechanisms.*

Awards, Scholarships, and Grants

Marshall Field Fellowship, Theodore Schultz Economics Fellowship	2024–2025
Becker Friedman Institute Data Acquisition Grant (\$1,500)	2024
Urban Doctorial Fellow, Mansueto Institute, University of Chicago	2022–2023
Lee Prize (top score on Macro Core Exam), Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics	2020

Teaching Experience

Introductory Statistics (Executive MBA)	TA for Prof. Russell	<i>Winter 2023</i>
Mathematical Methods in Economics (graduate)	Instructor	<i>Fall 2022</i>
Introductory Statistics (graduate)	TA for Prof. Russell	<i>Fall 2022</i>
Theory of Income I (graduate)	TA for Prof. Stokey	<i>Fall 2021</i>
Mathematical Methods in Economics (graduate)	Instructor	<i>Fall 2021</i>
Empirical Analysis II (graduate)	TA for Profs. Hansen and Sargent	<i>Winter 2021</i>
Theory of Income I (graduate)	TA for Prof. Stokey	<i>Fall 2020</i>
Honors Intermediate Macro (undergraduate)	TA for Prof. Buler	<i>Spring 2019</i>
Principles of Micro (undergraduate)	TA for Prof. Graf	<i>Fall 2018</i>
Intermediate Micro (undergraduate)	TA for Prof. Kaganovich	<i>Spring 2018</i>
Honors Intermediate Micro (undergraduate)	TA for Prof. Walker	<i>Fall 2017</i>
Principles of Macro (undergraduate)	TA for Prof. Graf	<i>Spring 2017</i>
Finite Mathematics	Grader	<i>Spring 2017</i>
Principles of Micro (undergraduate)	TA for Prof. Graf	<i>Fall 2016</i>
Finite Mathematics (undergraduate)	TA	<i>Fall 2016</i>

Research Experience and Other Employment

Visiting Scholar, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago	<i>2024</i>
Research Assistant for Prof. Kaplan (UChicago) and Prof. Violante (Princeton)	<i>2021–2022</i>
Project Intern, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve	<i>2018</i>

Additional Information

Citizenship	United States
Programming Skills	Julia, Matlab, R
Languages	English (Native), Spanish (Novice), American Sign Language (Novice)