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Citizenship: United States of America

Current Appointment: Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow, European University Institute, 2017-Present

Graduate Studies:

University of Pennsylvania, 2012 to 2018

Thesis Title: "Essays on Wage Inequality using the Search Framework"

Thesis Committee and References:

Professor Iourii Manovskii (Advisor)
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Masters Level Work:

MSc Economics, London School of Economics, Distinction/Merit, 2010-2012

Undergraduate Studies:

BSc Foreign Service (International Economics), Georgetown University, 2006-2010

Visiting Student, Economics, Pembroke College, Oxford University, 2008-2009

Research Fields:

Macro and Labor Economics, Applied Econometrics

Teaching Experience:

Fall	2018	Graduate Macro Topics with Search, European University Institute, Instructor
Spring	2017	Econometrics, University of Pennsylvania, Teaching Assistant
Fall	2016	Econometrics, University of Pennsylvania, Teaching Assistant
Summer	2016	Econometrics, University of Pennsylvania, Instructor
Spring	2016	Econometrics, University of Pennsylvania, Teaching Assistant
Fall	2015	Statistics for Economists, University of Pennsylvania, Instructor
Spring	2015	Econometrics, University of Pennsylvania, Teaching Assistant
Fall	2014	Statistics for Economists, University of Pennsylvania, Instructor
Spring	2014	Statistics for Economists, University of Pennsylvania, Teaching Assistant
Fall	2013	Economics for Business Students, University of Pennsylvania, Teaching Assistant
Summer	2012	Econometrics, London School of Economics, Teaching Assistant
Spring	2008	Macroeconomic Principles, Georgetown University, Teaching Assistant
Fall	2007	Microeconomic Principles, Georgetown University, Teaching Assistant

Research Experience:

2015	International Monetary Fund, FIP Intern
2014	Revenue Management Solutions, Intern
2013-2015	University of Pennsylvania, Research Assistant to Professor Iouri Manovskii
2011-2012	Centre for Economic Performance, Research Assistant to Dr. Brian Bell and Professor Stephen Machin
2010	National Security Institute, Consultant on Arabic Media
2007-2010	Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Doyle Fellow and Research Assistant

Conference Presentations:

2016	CIREQ Montreal, SED Toulouse
2014	IAB Nuremberg

Refereed:

Macroeconomic Dynamics
Journal of European Economic Association

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2017	Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship (Declined)
2016	Hiram C. Haney Fellowship Award in Economics, University of Pennsylvania
2012	William Fontaine Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
2006	Ron Brown Scholarship (Selective National Scholarship for African Americans)

Publications:

Ali Alich, Kory Kantenga, and Juan Solé (2016). "Income Polarization in the United States." IMF Working Papers 16/121. International Monetary Fund.

Research Papers:

“The Effect of Job-Polarizing Skill Demands on the US Wage Structure” [**Job Market Paper**]

I present a quantitative model which accounts for changes in occupational wages, occupational employment shares, and the overall wage distribution. The model replicates numerous aspects of US cross-sectional data observed across decades from 1979 to 2010, notably job and wage polarization. In the model, changes in production complementarities are crucial but insufficient to replicate the occupational and wage changes observed. The distribution of worker skills, sorting, and the distribution of skill demands also all play important roles in shaping the occupational and wage distributions. I use the model's estimated skill demands to evaluate prominent explanations offered in the literature for changes in skill demands. I find that industry-specific trends, technological progress, and import competition from China account for up to 57% of these changes. I also find that information and communications technology spurred demand for jobs requiring interpersonal and social skills in the 1990s. This development appears far more pivotal in accounting for skill demand changes than the automation of routine jobs concentrated in the manufacturing and construction sectors.

“Sorting and Wage Inequality”

We measure the roles of the permanent component of worker and firm productivities, complementarities between them, search frictions, and equilibrium sorting in driving German wage dispersion. We do this using a standard assortative matching model with on-the-job search. The model is identified and estimated using matched employer-employee data on wages and labor market transitions without imposing parametric restrictions on the production technology. The model's fit to the wage data is comparable to prominent wage regressions with additive worker and firm fixed effects that use many more degrees of freedom. Moreover, we propose a direct test that rejects the restrictions underlying the additive specification. We use the model to decompose the rise in German wage dispersion between the 1990s and the 2000s. We find that changes in the production function and the induced changes in equilibrium sorting patterns account for virtually all the rise in the observed wage dispersion. Search frictions are an important determinant of the level of wage dispersion but have had little impact on its rise over time.

Work in Progress:

“HIV and Risky Sexual Behavior: Evaluating the Equilibrium Impact of ART and PrEP,” with Kurt Mitman

“Evaluating the Local Economic Impact of Criminal Justice Reforms”