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Placement Director: Professor Ufuk Akcigit, uakcigit@uchicago.edu, (773) 702-0433

Graduate Student Coordinator: Robert Herbst, fherbst@uchicago.edu, (773) 834-1972

Education

The University of Chicago, 2012 to present.

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics.

Job Market Paper: “The Mechanics of Regional Growth: Evidence from a Large-Scale Skill Resettlement Program”.

Expected Completion Date: June 2018.

Washington University in St. Louis, 2012.

A.B., *summa cum laude*, Economics with Distinction, Mathematics with Distinction, minor in Computer Science.

References:

Professor Jonathan Dingel

Chicago Booth School of Business

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Professor Veronica Guerrieri

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Professor Steven J. Davis

Chicago Booth School of Business

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Teaching and Research Fields

Growth and Development, Urban Economics, Economic Geography, Applied Macroeconomics.

Publications

“Optimal Beliefs in the Long Run: An Overlapping Generations Perspective”, *Economics Letters*, 117(2), (2012): 525-527.

Research Papers

“The Mechanics of Regional Growth: Evidence from a Large-Scale Skill Resettlement Program”. (Job Market Paper)

China compulsorily relocated millions of educated youth from urban to rural areas during the late 1960s and 1970s. About two million sent-down youth permanently settled in those rural areas. I study the effects of the Down to the Countryside Movement on regional economic outcomes in subsequent decades. An exogenous increase in the high-skilled population resulted in faster regional population growth, but had no effect on regional productivity growth. The null effect on productivity growth accompanying the increase in population growth is due to the absence of capital investments in rural areas by the government. I provide evidence that the growth effects worked through the arrival of more migrants, an increase in educational attainment, and shifts in the employment structure towards skill-intensive sectors.

“On the Price Spread of Benchmark Crude Oils: A Spatial Price Equilibrium Model” (with Max S. Bennett).

Benchmark crude oils that are almost identical in physical composition exhibited dramatic divergence in prices in the recent decade, a phenomenon that rarely occurred in earlier decades. This paper develops a rational expectations two-period model of spatial price equilibrium, and departs from standard models by assuming an increasing marginal cost curve of transportation. We econometrically validate our model using a dataset that covers an extended time period. We demonstrate that this simple two-period model is sufficient to characterize key observed behaviors of the crude oil markets. The model allows us to determine the underlying causes of the unique phenomenon of the widening and subsequent narrowing of crude oil price spreads over the past decade. We find that the widening of the Brent-WTI spread from 2011 to 2013 was due to a positive supply shock in the Midwest that was constrained by insufficient transportation infrastructure, and that its subsequent narrowing from 2013 was primarily due to a structural decrease in the marginal cost of transportation out of Midwest to the rest of the U.S.

Work in Progress

“Creating a Land of Opportunity? The Aggregate and Distributional Effects of Local Human Capital Shocks”.

Human capital shocks may have persistent effects on local economic outcomes. This provides potential opportunities for place-based policies to generate self-sustaining long-run gains. I build a dynamic spatial equilibrium model that captures the impact and propagation of local human capital shocks. Local human capital shocks directly alter the skill compositions in affected regions. A counterfactual analysis based on the model, therefore, is able to characterize post-shock transitional dynamics of the economy. I calibrate the model’s parameters using data from several historical episodes. Then, I run simulations for the United States to evaluate the aggregate and distributional effects of local human capital shocks.

Teaching Experience

Economics of Education, TA for Derek A. Neal (winter 2016).
Introduction to International Economics, TA for Felix Tintelnot (winter 2016).
Game Theory and Economic Applications, TA for Yukio Koriyama (summer 2015).
Urban Economics, TA for George S. Tolley and Kathryn Ierulli (spring 2015).

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships

Theodore W. and Esther Schultz Economics Fellowship (2017-2018).
François Furet Travel Grant, France Chicago Center (2017).
Division of the Social Sciences Full Fellowship, The University of Chicago (2012-2017).
Hyman P. Minsky Prize for Excellence in Economics, Washington University in St. Louis (2012).
Center for Research in Economics and Strategy Fellowship, Olin Business School (2011).

Professional Activities

Conference Presentations:

Urban Economics Association Meeting (Vancouver), Econometric Society Asian Meeting (The Chinese University of Hong Kong), Econometric Society European Meeting (Lisbon), Midwest Macroeconomics Meetings (Louisiana State University), WEAI Annual Conference (San Diego).

Research Experience:

Research assistant for Jonathan Dingel, 2015-2016.

Refereeing:

Journal of Political Economy.