

Aaron Cooke
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380 Daleville Rd #32
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Personal Information: DOB: May 23, 1990. Citizenship: United States

Education:

The University of Connecticut, 2013 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Expected Completion Date: May 2018

B.A. in Economics, Westmont College, 2011

References:

Professor Kai Zhao (Chair)
University of Connecticut
<mailto:kai.zhao@uconn.edu>

Professor Hyun Lee
University of Connecticut
hyun.lee2@uconn.edu

Professor Francis Ahking
University of Connecticut
francis.ahking@uconn.edu

Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary fields: Macroeconomics, Inequality, Taxation
Secondary fields: Computational Economics, Business Cycle

Teaching Experience:

Fall 2017	Econ 2500W Economic Writing and Research, Instructor of Record
Summer 2017	Econ 2101W Economic History of Europe, Instructor of Record
Spring 2017	Econ 2500W Economic Writing and Research, Instructor of Record
Fall 2016	Econ 2500W Economic Writing and Research, Instructor of Record
Spring 2016	Econ 2202 Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory, Instructor of Record
Fall 2015	Econ 2202 Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory, Instructor of Record
Summer 2015	Econ 2202 Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory, Instructor of Record
Spring 2015	Econ 1201H Honors Principles of Microeconomics, Instructor of Record
Fall 2014	Econ 1202 Principles of Macroeconomics, T.A.
Spring 2014	Econ 1201 Principles of Microeconomics, T.A.
Fall 2013	Econ 1202 Principles of Macroeconomics, T.A.

Other Employment:

2011-2013 Application Specialist, Valuation, Modelling and Forecasting team, Yardi Systems

Presentations

2018	ASSA Meeting (D.C.)
2017	UConn Macro Seminar Series, Spring Mid-west Macro Meeting (LSU)
2016	UConn Labor Seminar Series, UConn Conflict Seminar Series,

Honors and Awards

2017	Timothy A. and Beverly C Holt Fellowship
2016	Abraham Ribicoff Fellowship
2014	Economic Department Graduate Fellowship
2011	Westmont Economics Essay Contest: First Place
2009	Golden Eagle Student Athlete of the Year

Research Papers:

“Houses Divided: A Model of Intergenerational Transfers, Differential Fertility and Wealth Inequality” (With Kai Zhao and Hyun Lee)

(Job Market Paper)

Abstract: This paper contributes to the existing literature by studying the impact on wealth inequality from life-cycle savings, intergenerational transfers, and fertility differences between the rich and the poor. We find that bequests have a significant impact on the level of wealth inequality and that the fertility difference between the rich and the poor amplifies the effect of bequests.

“Taxing the Dead: an analysis of intergenerational transfers and levies”

Abstract: The contribution of this paper is to analyze the impact of differing methods of taxing intergenerational transfers, in the context of a dynamic general equilibrium overlapping generations model with differential fertility. This paper is the first to consider the impact of switching from an estate to inheritance tax in the presence of differential fertility, and the fallout such a switch would have upon inequality and welfare.

“Those Who Can: Teacher Quality and the Labor Market”

Abstract: The central question of this paper is what impact labor market conditions have on marginal entrance to the teaching profession, and what ramifications this has on ultimate instructor quality. This paper's hypothesis is that in times of economic distress and high private sector unemployment, like the recent recession, the expected quality of individuals who are hired for teaching jobs increases.

“Killing for Profit: a model of intrastate conflict”

Abstract: The main question this paper attempts to answer is: would rational actors engage in violent behavior, and if so, why? At the core of this approach to conflict is the understanding that violence happens or does not happen as a result of two opposing forces. First is the additional economic power that a conflict group can obtain through violence. Second is the asset destruction caused by intrastate violence.

“Not All Micro-Loans Were Created Equal: The Effect of Supply Chain Location on Micro-Lending”

(Published 2011 in *The American Economist*)

Abstract: The positive effects of micro-loans on the impoverished has become veritable gospel to economic development professionals. Pioneered by Muhammed Yunus in the 1970s, the concept of making small loans to groups of poor entrepreneurs has become a mainstream tool of development and poverty reduction agents around the globe. However, little research has been done at this time into the microeconomic mechanics of small scale finance, especially the different outcomes of the loan depending on what sector of the economy the debtor is engaged in. A simulation designed to pursue further understanding of this subject, and conducted in partnership with Opportunity International, a micro-finance NGO, and the Westmont Investment Club, reveals whether different outcomes of a micro-loan were caused by a debtor's location in the production chain.

Research Papers in Progress

“Bearing with Equanimity: a empirical analysis of expected bequests and saving using the Social Security ‘notch’”

Proficient in Fortran, Stata, Python