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BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

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Contact

Brandeis University
MS 032, International Business School
415 South St., Waltham MA 02453, USA

Graduate Studies

Ph.D., International Economics & Finance, Brandeis University 2016 – present

References:

Professor George Hall
Brandeis University
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Professor Blake LeBaron
Brandeis University
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Professor Maya Eden
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Previous Graduate and Undergraduate Studies

M.P.P., University of Chicago, The Harris School of Public Policy	2012
B.A., Economics and International Relations, Austin College	2008

Research and Teaching Fields

Primary field: Macroeconomics
Secondary field: International Finance

Research Papers in Progress

"The Currency Hegemon's Optimal Inflation Rate"

Given that US currency is used heavily abroad, how do changes in inflation impact the welfare of domestic and foreign consumers? I formulate a two-country model in which agents face idiosyncratic income risk and thereby hold fiat currency for consumption smoothing. All transactions and savings are done using a single dominant fiat currency. Higher inflation increases the level of seigniorage the domestic country collects from abroad but increases the cost of holding currency for both domestic and foreign agents. Hence, for the domestic currency issuing country, neither a zero-inflation regime nor one targeting Friedman's rule is optimal. The results demonstrate the presence of a seigniorage channel, which can be used to inform the hegemon's inflation target.

"Stagnation and the Global Demand for Housing" with Maya Eden

How will persistently low interest rates affect global housing demand? We study this question in a life-cycle model with financial constraints. A calibration suggests that, in the United States, low interest rates increase housing demand because they reduce the cost of mortgage financing. However, in financially underdeveloped

countries in which down payments are high, low interest rates reduce housing demand, as they make it more costly to save towards a down payment.

"How Sharpe is the Wisdom of the Crowd?"

Does effective crowd wisdom occur in the context of personal investment choices? This study uses Department of Labor 5500 Schedule H portfolio data to compute the portfolio performance of American defined-contribution plans, focusing chiefly on aggregate portfolio diversification and how plan portfolios perform relative to Markowitz's classic efficient frontier. This performance is regressed on group demographic characteristics: does diversity amongst plan participants improve group decision-making?

Other Research and Work

Cavallo, Alberto, Mariana Cal, and Anne Laski. "The U.S. – China Trade War." Harvard Business School Case 719-034, February 2019. [view details](#)

Cavallo, Alberto, Anne Laski, and Florencia Hnilo. "Economic Growth." Harvard Business School Technical Note 719-033, November 2018. [view details](#)

Adam, Christopher S., Jehovaness Aikaeli, and Anne Laski. "Public Investment and Fiscal Reforms." Chap. 10 in *Tanzania: The Path to Prosperity*, edited by Christopher S. Adam, Paul Collier, and Benno Ndulu. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017. [view details](#)

Teaching Experience

Financial Economics (ECON 171A, Instructor)	Summer 2019, 2020, 2021
Transfer Pricing (FIN 247, TA)	Fall 2020, Fall 2021
Field Projects: Global Firms, Trade, and Development (ECON 288, TA)	Spring 2021
Money and Banking (ECON 172B, CA)	Fall 2020
The Global Economy (ECON 28B, CA)	Fall 2020
Senior Thesis Workshop (ECON 99B, TA)	Spring 2020
Advanced Macroeconomics (ECON 304A, TA)	Spring 2019
Introduction to Microeconomics (ECON 10A, Instructor)	Summer 2017, 2018
Macroeconomic Theory (ECON 82B, Instructor)	Summer 2017

Relevant Positions

Research Assistant for Tymon Słoczyński (Brandeis)	Fall- 2017-Spring 2018, Spring 2020
Short-term Economic Consultant, World Bank	Spring 2019
Research Assistant for Alberto Cavallo (HBS)	Fall 2018
Research Assistant for Ben Gomes-Casseres (Brandeis)	Spring 2017
Research Assistant for Nidhiya Menon (Brandeis)	Fall 2016
Country Economist—Liberia and Tanzania, International Growth Centre	2013-2016
Economic Research Analyst, U.S. Department of the Treasury	2012-2013

Fellowships and Awards

Rosenberg Research Grant	2020, 2021
Harris School Dean's Scholarship	2010-2012
Phi Beta Kappa	2008

Other

Programming skills: Stata, Matlab

Languages: English (native), French (intermediate), Spanish (beginner), Swahili (beginner)