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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary Macroeconomics
Secondary Computational Economics, Heterogeneous Agent Macroeconomics, Wealth Inequality,
Consumer Debt, Quantitative Modelling

EDUCATION

2018 – 2023 (expected) **PhD in Economics**, *Vienna Graduate School of Economics, University of Vienna*
Supervisors: Michael Reiter and Alejandro Cuñat
2016 – 2018 **MSc in Political and Empirical Economics**, *University of Graz*
1st place in SOWI-Ranking of best master's students
2013 – 2016 **B.A. in Economics**, *University of Graz*
2014 – 2023 (expected) **BSc in Mathematics**, *University of Vienna and Technical University Graz*
Specialisation: Financial Mathematics
2013 – 2015 **Diploma programme: Law**, *University of Graz (Discontinued)*

REFERENCES

Michael Reiter
Dept. of Economics and Finance
IHS, Vienna
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Alejandro Cuñat
Department of Economics
University of Vienna
alejandro.cunat@univie.ac.at

Monika Gehrig-Merz
Department of Economics,
University of Vienna
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JOB MARKET PAPER

[Quantifying the Effects of Basic Income Programs in the Presence of Automation](#)

The trend towards increasing automation and robotization is a challenge for the labor market, especially for the demand for low skilled labor. Concepts of a Universal Basic Income (UBI) are often brought up as potential reforms to current welfare systems which could provide additional insurance against this trend. I develop a quantitative theory of the labor market where firms endogenously decide on their investment in robots, while workers can insure themselves against the risk of automation induced job-loss by obtaining a college degree. This framework allows for an analysis of the interaction between unconditional transfers and automation and reveals a negative relationship between the generosity of the basic income and the investment in robots. Higher transfers reduce the incentives for obtaining a college degree and the reduced output in the college sector also leads to a fall in profits in the automation sector which discourages investment in robots. Concerning worker welfare, my framework highlights a generational conflict: When comparing stationary equilibria, workers would always prefer being born into an economy without a basic income. However, older cohorts who are already alive during the introduction of the basic income can expect welfare gains during the transition to the new equilibrium.

WORKING PAPERS

"Naïve Consumers and Financial Mistakes" with Florian Exler (University of Vienna)

Financial contracts are complicated and consumers often do not grasp them in their entirety. This may lead to financial mistakes. We develop a quantitative theory of unsecured credit and equilibrium default where borrowers can sign debt contracts that trade off interest rates for penalty fees. These fees make unforeseen financial shocks - such as paying late or borrowing over limit - costly. The economy is populated with sophisticated and naïve borrowers. Naïves face higher financial uncertainty without internalizing this fact. They make financial mistakes as they choose inefficiently high penalty fees. In equilibrium, these fees cross-subsidize interest rates for sophisticates. We use this framework to analyze two unexplored features of the CARD act: transparency requirements and penalty fee limits. More transparency leads to less financial uncertainty for naïve borrowers, while fee limits constrain everyone. Policies reduce financial mistakes and increase the welfare of naïves. The effects on sophisticates, in contrast, are negative: If naïves make fewer mistakes due to clearer language, sophisticates lose cross-subsidization and experience welfare losses. The same holds true in the case of fee limits. When high-fee contracts are banned, expected revenue from naïve fee payments falls and interest rates rise. As a result, sophisticates experience a welfare loss.

"The Distributional Effects of Tax Evasion"

This paper quantifies and discusses the distributional effects of tax evasion. I set up a general equilibrium model with heterogeneous households, who can invest in their own business and pay capital gains taxes on realized gains. However, these capital taxes can be evaded by under-reporting the real tax base, which bears the risk of being detected and having to pay a punishment fee. The model parameters are first calibrated to Scandinavia to exploit the rich estimates on tax evasion for Norway, Sweden and Denmark and is then taken to the US. The benchmark economy exhibits high wealth inequality as reported for the US and leads to a realistic evasion behavior. A counterfactual analysis then shows that if individuals can try to evade some of their tax payments, wealth inequality is higher under a tax regime with positive capital gains taxes. Comparing welfare, however, I find that the socially optimal tax rate is still strictly positive.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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| 2021 - 2023 | Introductory Econometrics (MSc, English), Teaching Assistant to Prof. Nikolaus Hautsch, <i>University of Vienna</i> |
| 2020 – 2021 | Dynamic Macroeconomics with Numerics (MSc, English), Teaching Assistant to Prof. Monika Gehrig-Merz, <i>University of Vienna</i> |
| 2019 – 2021 | Growth and Business Cycles (MSc, English), Teaching Assistant to Prof. Gerhard Sorger, <i>University of Vienna</i> |
| 2016 - 2018 | Tutorial for Econometrics 2 (BA, English/German), Student Assistant, <i>University of Graz</i> |
| 2016 - 2018 | Tutorial for Econometrics 1 (BA, English/German), Student Assistant, <i>University of Graz</i> |

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

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| 2021 – 2023 | Two-year DOC-Fellowship of the Austrian Academy of Science |
| 2021 | Anniversary Fund, Austrian National Bank (project leader: Florian Exler) |

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| 2018 – 2021 | Three-year Fellowship, Vienna Graduate School of Economics |
| 2018 | 1 st place in SOWI-Ranking (best master's students) at the University of Graz |
| 2015 - 2018 | Merit-based scholarships at the University of Graz |
| 2012 | Ferdinand-Tremel-Medal for school thesis about the Great Depression |
| 2009 | 2 nd price at the 40 th Austrian Olympiad in Mathematics |

PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

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| 2022 | Young Economist Conference 2022 hosted by the Chamber of Labour Vienna, QED Jamboree at the University of Vienna, Annual Meeting of the Austrian Economic Association (NOeG meeting, Vienna), Poster-Session at the 2022 Vienna Macro Café at the Institute of Advanced Studies (Vienna), Vienna PhD Workshop at the Central European University |
| 2021 | 2021 Annual Meeting of the Austrian Economic Association (NOeG meeting, Vienna) |
| 2020 | Young Economist Conference 2020 hosted by the Chamber of Labour Vienna |
| 2019 | Poster Session at the Vienna Macroeconomics Workshop (IHS), Vienna |

COMPETENCES

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| Software: | R, Matlab, LaTeX, C++, Kotlin, MS Office |
| Languages: | German (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate), Spanish (elementary) |