

Andrey Fradkin

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EDUCATION	Stanford University, Stanford, California Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Economics; expected graduation date June, 2014	September, 2008 - present
	Duke University, Durham, North Carolina B.S. with High Distinction in Economics and Mathematics w/ minor in Political Science	August, 2004 - May, 2008
DISSERTATION COMMITTEE	Prof. Jon Levin (Primary Advisor) Prof. Liran Einav Prof. Caroline Hoxby Prof. Luigi Pistaferri	
RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS	Primary fields: Industrial Organization, Labor Economics Secondary field: Public Economics	
RELEVANT POSITIONS	2012 - ongoing: Data Scientist, Airbnb Inc. 2009 - 2011: Research Assistant for Douglas Bernheim, Stanford University 2009: Research Assistant for Matthew Harding and Giacomo DeGiorgi, Stanford University	
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Stanford University: 2011 - 2012: Advanced Topics in Econometrics (Prof. DeGiorgi), Introduction to Econometrics (Prof. Harding and Prof. Mahajan), Market Design (Prof. Levin). Duke University: 2007 - 2008: Intermediate Microeconomics (Prof. Yildirim and Prof. Taylor), Financial Markets and Investment (Prof. Eraker), Junior Honors Thesis Seminar (Prof. Tauchen and Prof. Bollerslev).	
SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS	Scholarships: NET Institute Fellowship, Shultz Fellowship Award, George P. Shultz Scholar, Haley-Shaw Fellowship Scholar Awards: Allen Starling Johnson, Jr. Best Undergraduate Thesis in Economics Prize	
WORKING PAPERS	Search Frictions and the Design of Online Marketplaces (Job Market Paper).	

Search occurs in many markets but its importance for economic outcomes has been difficult to quantify because of a lack of data. I use data on browsing, communications, and transactions from Airbnb, a large and growing online marketplace for accommodations, to show that search frictions are important and that appropriate policies can reduce search frictions. Search on Airbnb occurs when potential guests browse the website and send inquiries to hosts about rooms to stay in. Only 15% of inquiries and 48% of searchers that send inquiries transact on Airbnb. I explain matching outcomes with an equilibrium model that includes directed search, limited consideration sets and incomplete information by searchers about which hosts are willing to transact with them. Search frictions in the model combine to reduce transaction probabilities by 20% and host revenue by \$62 per searcher compared to outcomes achievable by a fully informed social planner who maximizes consumer surplus. Policies that change the set of listings searchers consider reduce frictions and improve outcomes but the policies' impact depends on the tightness of the market and the share of utility that observable characteristics explain.

The Welfare Economics of Default Options in 401(k) Plans (with Douglas Bernheim and Igor Popov)

Default contribution rates for 401(k) pension plans powerfully influence workers choices. Potential causes include opt-out costs, procrastination, inattention, and psychological anchoring. We examine the welfare implications of defaults under each theory using the framework for behavioral welfare economics developed by Bernheim and Rangel (2009). We show how the optimal default, the magnitude of the welfare effects, and the degree of normative ambiguity depend on the behavioral model, the scope of the choice domain deemed welfare-relevant, the use of penalties for passive choice, and other 401(k) plan features. In some settings, non-participation emerges as the optimal default, contrary to common wisdom.

The Impact of Unemployment Insurance on Job Search: Evidence from Google Search Data (with Scott Baker)

We use Google search data to construct the first high-frequency, location-specific index of job search activity (JSI). We demonstrate the JSI's validity and study the effect of increased unemployment insurance (UI) on job search activity. We show that individuals on UI search less than individuals who are unemployed and who are not receiving UI. We also find that individuals with 0 to 10 weeks of UI remaining search over two times more than those with more than 10 weeks remaining. We document that the JSI temporarily decreases by up to 4.3% in the 4 weeks after expansions in UI policy. While expansions in unemployment insurance do drive temporary changes in job search, the immediate effects of expansions are unlikely to result in large changes to unemployment rates.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

What is the Consumer Surplus From a New and Growing Marketplace? Evidence from Airbnb

The Effect of Family Insurance on Early Career Outcomes (with Frederic Panier and Ilan Tojerow)

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Fradkin, A. "What is the Consumer Surplus From a New and Growing Marketplace? Evidence from Airbnb". NET Institute Conference, Berkeley, CA. 2013.

Baker, S. and A. Fradkin. "How Responsive is Job Search to Unemployment Insurance?". Econometric Society Meetings, San Diego, CA. 2013.

Baker, S. and A. Fradkin. "What Drives Job Search? Evidence from Google Search Data". Google Economics Group, Mountain View, CA. 2011.

DATA SCIENCE WORK

Search Algorithm Design:

Co-designed a proprietary algorithm that uses discrete choice models to rank the listings displayed to Airbnb searchers. The algorithm creates an ordering according to a listing's perceived quality and probability of converting to a booking after communication.

Search Experimentation Framework:

Co-designed a system that tracks the actions of searchers across the site and over time. The system then aggregates those actions according to the searchers' experimental treatment. The framework is used to evaluate search experiments on the site.

Operations Experiments:

Designed experiments to evaluate the effectiveness of customer support, platform pricing, and a variety of search experiments.

Media:

Co-created the Airbnb Hospitality Index and the Airbnb Global Citizenship Index. This work was covered in Le Monde, El Pais, the Telegraph, and many other media outlets.