ABDOLLAH FARHOODI

610 S Prairie, Champaign, IL 61820

217-819-7584 ⋄ farhood2@illinois.edu

EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign   *2014— May 2020 (Expected)*
Ph.D. Economics
Committee: Dan Bernhardt (Chair)
Sharif University of Technology, Iran   *2012*
M.Sc. Economics
University of Tehran, Iran   *2009*
B.Sc. Electrical Engineering (Control)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Industrial Organizations, Urban Economics, Welfare Economics, Big Data Analysis

JOB MARKET PAPER

Welfare Estimation in Peer-to-Peer Markets with Heterogeneous Agents: the Case of Airbnb

Abstract: This paper studies welfare estimation in peer-to-peer markets with heterogeneous agents by using micro-data for Airbnb rentals in Chicago from August 2014 to April 2017. The highly dynamic, decentralized structure, along with great heterogeneity among agents in peer-to-peer markets present challenges for classic aggregated methods to estimate supply and demand for welfare analysis. To account for this heterogeneity, this paper first estimates a non-parametric hedonic model of listings' prices as a function of their time, location, and attributes; and then recovers consumer taste parameters by using a parametric assumption about utility functions and first-order maximization conditions (following Bajari and Benkard (2005)). The paper calculates agent-level producer surpluses through estimations of the causal relationship between prices and the probability that a given listing is booked. This relationship is estimated by applying instrumental generalized random forest (GRF). The findings show estimated average welfare gains of roughly $1.50 for each dollar spent in Chicago, with gains higher in more expensive neighborhoods, and in more recent months of the data.

WORKING PAPERS

Introducing a Micro-Founded Index of Consumption Welfare: A Big Data Approach

Using Big Data to Estimate the Effect of Regulation in Peer-to-Peer Markets: the Case of Airbnb (with Peter Christensen)

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

International Monetary Fund   *Summer–2018*
Fund Internship Program

University of Illinois   *2015–2018*
Research Assistant to Dan Bernhardt, Yufeng Wu, and Jorge Lemus

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor:	University of Illinois
Applied Machine Learning in Economics	*Spring 2019 – Fall 2019*
Teacher Assistant: (Undergraduate Level)	University of Illinois
Introduction to Micro Economics	2016–2018
Intermediate Micro Economics	2014–2015
Teacher Assistant: (Graduate Level)	Sharif University of Technology, Iran
Game Theory	2012
Econometrics I	2010, 2011
Micro Economics II	2010

SOFTWARE AND COMPUTER SKILLS

Proficiant: R, Python, MATLAB, STATA, Microsoft Office, Excel, LaTeX

Intermediate: SQL, Mathematica, C++, ArcGIS, SAS

FELLOWSHIP AND AWARDS

University of Illinois Summer Research Fellowship	Summer 2018
University of Illinois Summer Research Fellowship	Summer 2015
University of Illinois Economics Department Fellowship	Fall, Spring 2014
Awarded in the "List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students"	2016–2018 (6 Semesters)

REFERENCES

Dan Bernhardt   danber@illinois.edu