

JASON M. DEBACKER

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Research Interests

Economics of Taxation, Firm Dynamics, Political Economy

Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Texas at Austin	May 2008
<i>Committee Co-Chairs:</i> Roberton C. Williams, III and Russell W. Cooper	
M.S. Economics, University of Texas at Austin	May 2005
B.B.A. MIS, University of Georgia, Honors Program, <i>Magna cum laude</i>	December 2001

Professional Experience

Associate Professor (with tenure), Dept. of Economics, University of South Carolina	2019-Present
Nonresident Fellow, Tax Policy Center	2020-Present
Academic Consultant, Internal Revenue Service, Large Business & International	2018-Present
Principal and Co-Founder, Open Research Group, Inc.	2017-Present
Consultant, The World Bank	2018-2019
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Economics, University of South Carolina	2016-2019
Economist, Open Source Policy Center, American Enterprise Institute	2014-2018
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Economics & Finance, Middle Tennessee State University	2012-2016
Financial Economist, Office of Tax Analysis, U.S. Department of the Treasury	2009-2012
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Georgia	2008-2009
Investment Analyst, Teacher Retirement System of Texas	2007
Research Department Intern, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta	2005-2007

Journal Publications

1. “Tax Noncompliance and Measures of Income Inequality”, *Tax Notes*, 166(7), February 2020, pp. 1103-1118, with Bradley Heim, Anh Tran, and Alex Yuskavage
2. “Macroeconomic Effects of Reducing OASI Benefits: A Comparison of Seven Overlapping Generations Models,”, *National Tax Journal*, 72(4), December 2019, pp. 671-691, with Jaeger Nelson, Kerk Phillips, Seth Benzell, Efraim Berkovich, Robert Carroll, Guillermo Cuevas, John Diamond, Richard W. Evans, Jagadeesh Gokhale, Laurence Kotlikoff, James Mackie, Rachel Moore, Brandon Pecoraro, Brandon Pizzola, Victor Ye, and George Zodrow.
3. “The Impact of State Taxes on Small Businesses: Evidence from the 2012 Kansas Income Tax Reform”, *Journal of Public Economics*, 174(C), 2019, pp. 53-75, with Bradley Heim, Shanthi Ramnath, and Justin Ross,
 - Press: *The Nation*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Slate*, *Vox*, NBC News, *New York Times*, NPR’s *Marketplace*, *Tax Notes*, *State Tax Notes*, *Slate*, *Wichita Eagle*, *The Economist*, *Vox*
4. “Integrating Microsimulation Models of Tax Policy into a DGE Macroeconomic Model”, *Public Finance Review*, 47(2), March 2019, pp. 207-275, with Richard W. Evans and Kerk L. Phillips

5. “Pass-through Entity Responses to Preferential Tax Rates: Evidence on Economic Activity and Owner Compensation in Kansas”, *National Tax Journal*, 71(4), December 2018, pp. 687-706, with Lucas Goodman, Bradley Heim, Shanthi Ramnath, and Justin Ross
6. “The Effects of IRS Audits on EITC Participants”, *National Tax Journal*, 71(3), September 2018, pp. 451-484, with Bradley Heim, Anh Tran, and Alex Yuskavage
7. “Once Bitten, Twice Shy? The Impact of IRS Audits on Filer Behavior”, *Journal of Law and Economics*, 61(1), February 2018, pp. 1-35, with Bradley Heim, Anh Tran, and Alex Yuskavage
 - Press: *Wall Street Journal*, *ProPublica*
8. “Expectations, Education, and Opportunity”, *Journal of Economic Psychology*, 59, April 2017, pp. 29-44, with Wes Routon
9. “Importing Corruption Culture from Overseas: Evidence from Corporate Tax Evasion in the U.S.”, *Journal of Financial Economics*, 117(1), July 2015, pp. 122-138, with Bradley Heim and Anh Tran (previous version circulated as NBER Working Paper #17770)
 - Press: *NPR’s Morning Edition*
10. “The Rise of Partnerships”, *Tax Notes*, 147(13), June 2015, pp. 1563-1575, with Richard Prisinzano
 - Press: *The Economist*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Wall Street Journal, Inc.com*
11. “Legal Enforcement and Corporate Behavior: An Analysis of Corporate Tax Aggressiveness after an Audit”, *Journal of Law and Economics*, 58(2), May 2015, pp. 291-324, with Bradley Heim, Anh Tran, and Alex Yuskavage
12. “Flip-Flopping: Ideological Adjustment Costs in the United States Senate”, *Economic Inquiry*, 53(1), January 2015, pp. 108-128.
13. “Rising Inequality: Transitory or Persistent? New Evidence from a Panel of US Tax Returns”, *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, Spring 2013, pp. 67-122, with Bradley Heim, Vasia Panousi, Shanthi Ramnath, and Ivan Vidangos
 - Press: *Financial Times*, *Forbes*, *Bloomberg*, *Washington Post*, *The New Republic*, *National Review*, *The Tennessean*
14. “Political Parties as a Commitment Technology: Effects of Term Limits on Vote Share”, *Journal of Applied Economics*, XV(2), November 2012, pp. 321-351.
15. “Estimating Supply and Demand for Gasoline Using Tax Data”, *Energy Economics*, 34(1), January 2012, pp. 195-200, with David Coyle and Richard Prisinzano
16. “Political Parties and Political Shirking”, *Public Choice*, 150(3), 2012, pp. 651-670.
17. “Identification of Small Business Owners Using Tax Data”, *Tax Notes*, 132(13), September 2011, pp. 1395-1408, with Matt Knittel, Susan Nelson, John Kitchen, James Pearce, and Richard Prisinzano
 - Press: *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *CNN*, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, *The Hill*, *Tax Notes*, *Tax Insider*
18. “The Price of Pork: The Seniority Trap in the U.S. House”, *Journal of Public Economics*, 95(1-2), February, 2011, pp. 63-78

Other Publications

19. “An Analysis of Joe Biden’s Tax Proposals”, *AEI Economic Perspectives*, June 15, 2020, pp. 1-10, with Richard W. Evans and Kyle Pomerleau
20. “Effective Tax Rates on Business Investment Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act”, *AEI Economic Perspectives*, May 22, 2018, pp. 1-7, with Roy Kashner
21. “Would a Limitation on Bad Debt Write-Offs Discourage High-Risk Loans?”, *Proceedings of the National Tax Association 103rd Annual Conference on Taxation* (2010), with Matthew Knittel
22. “Temporary and Permanent Book-Tax Differences: Complements or Substitutes?”, *IRS Research Bulletin: Proceedings of the 2010 IRS Research Conference*, pp. 21-45, with Jennifer Blouin and Stephanie Sikes
23. “It’s Who You Are and What You Do: Explaining the IT Industry Wage Premium,” Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta *Economic Review*, Quarter 3, 2005, pp. 37-45, with Julie L. Hotchkiss, Melinda M. Pitts, and John C. Robertson

Working Papers

1. “Capital Taxes with Real and Financial Frictions”, revisions requested, *Macroeconomic Dynamics*
 2. “The Distributional Effects of Redistributive Tax Policy”, with Richard W. Evans, Evan Magnusson, Kerk L. Phillips, Shanthi Ramnath, and Isaac Swift, revisions requested, *Quantitative Economics*
 3. “A Culture of Despair? Inequality and Opportunity”, with Wes Routon, submitted
 4. “A Risky Venture: Income Dynamics in Non-corporate Businesses” with Vasia Panousi and Shanthi Ramnath, submitted
 5. “Growing old gracefully: Fiscal policy for aging society”, with Richard W. Evans, Jonathan Pycroft, and Magdalena Zachlod-Jelec
 6. “Seeking Professional Advice: The Role of Preparers in Tax Compliance”, with Bradley Heim, Anh Tran, and Alex Yuskavage
 7. “Estimating the Hourly Earnings Processes of Top Earners”, with Shanthi Ramnath
 8. “The Determinants of Radio Mergers”, with Adam Rennhoff and Michael Roach
 9. “Cash Flow Taxes, Investment, and Corporate Financial Policy”
 10. “Methodology to Identify Small Businesses and Their Owners”, with Matt Knittel, Susan Nelson, John Kitchen, James Pearce, and Richard Prisinzano, Office of Tax Analysis, Technical Paper 4, April 2011
- Press: *New York Times*

Works in Progress

- “The Network Effects of Audits”, with Bradley Heim, Anh Tran, Melissa Vigil, and Alex Yuskavage
- “Tax Multipliers in a DSGE Model”, with Richard W. Evans
- “The Role of Audits and Disclosure in Corporate Tax Positions”, with John McClelland
- “Law Enforcement and Corporate Illegal Activity: An Analysis of Tax Evasion in the U.S.”, with Bradley Heim, Anh Tran, and Alex Yuskavage
- “Firm Dynamics and Organizational Form”

Fellowships, Honors, and Awards

MTSU Faculty Research and Creative Activity Committee Research Grant	2016
E.W. “Wink” Midgett Distinguished Research Award (college-wide)	2015
MTSU LT&ITC Academy of Teaching Excellence, Faculty Fellow	2013-2014
MTSU Faculty Research and Creative Activity Committee Research Grant	2014
Jones College of Business Research Grant	2013
Special Act Award, U.S. Department of the Treasury	2011
Bruce D. Smith Memorial Graduate Scholarship	2007
Hale Fellowship, Department of Economics, University of Texas	2007
ASPECTS Certificate in Lecturing, University of Texas	2006
Honors Program Student, University of Georgia	1998-2001
HOPE Scholarship, University of Georgia	1998-2001

Conference Presentations

“Tax Noncompliance and Measures of Income Inequality”	
National Tax Association Spring Symposium, Virtual Meeting	May 2020
“Why Do People Want to Pay Tax? The Effect of Public Spending on Tax Compliance”	
National Tax Association 112th Annual Conference, Tampa, FL	November 2019
“A Macroeconomic Model for Dynamic Tax Scoring”	
CBO OLG Symposium, Washington, DC	December 2018
Hoover Institution Summer 2016 ICE Workshop, Palo Alto, CA	July 2016
BYU Computational Public Economics Conference, Park City, UT	December 2015
National Tax Association 108th Annual Conference, Boston, MA	November 2015
22nd International Symposium on Mathematical Programming, Pittsburg, PA	July 2015
“Seeking Professional Advice: The Role of Preparers in Tax Compliance”	
National Tax Association 111th Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA	November 2018

“A Culture of Despair? Inequality and Opportunity” South Carolina Applied Micro Day, Charlotte, NC	May 2018
“Cash Flow Taxes, Investment, and Corporate Financial Policy” National Tax Association 110th Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA	November 2017
“The Effects of IRS Audits on EITC Participants” Workshop on Empirical Analysis of Tax Compliance, Oslo, Norway	May 2018
National Tax Association 110th Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA	November 2017
“The Determinants of Radio Mergers” Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL	November 2017
“The Impact of State Taxes on Small Businesses: Evidence from the 2012 Kansas Income Tax Reform” South Carolina Applied Micro Day, Charleston, SC	May 2017
National Tax Association 108th Annual Conference, Boston, MA	November 2015
“Once Bitten, Twice Shy? The Impact of IRS Audits on Filer Behavior” AEA Sessions at the ASSA Meetings, San Francisco, CA	January 2016
Vanderbilt Empirical Applied Microeconomics Festival, Nashville, TN	May 2015
NBER Public Economics Program Meeting, Cambridge, MA	April 2015
National Tax Association 107th Annual Conference on Taxation, Santa Fe, NM	November 2014
“A Risky Venture: Income Dynamics in Non-corporate Businesses” NBER Summer Institute EFACR Group, Cambridge, MA	July 2014
“The Impact of Legal Enforcement: An Analysis of Corporate Tax Aggressiveness after an Audit” UNC Tax Symposium, Chapel Hill, NC	January 2013
NBER Public Economics Program Meeting, Cambridge, MA	November 2012
“Importing Corruption Culture from Overseas: Evidence from Corporate Tax Evasion in the U.S.” UNC Tax Symposium, Chapel Hill, NC	January 2012
AEA Sessions at the ASSA Meetings, Chicago, IL	January 2012
NBER: The Causes and Consequences of Corporate Culture, Cambridge, MA	December 2011
Association for Public Economic Theory 12th Annual Conference, Bloomington, IN	June 2011
“Capital Taxes with Real and Financial Frictions” Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings, Atlanta, GA	November 2010
Midwest Macroeconomics Meetings, Bloomington, IN	May 2009
“The Bad Debt Expense and Risky Lending” National Tax Association 103rd Annual Conference on Taxation, Chicago, IL	November 2010
“Flip-Flopping: Ideological Adjustment Costs in the United States Senate” Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.	November 2008
“A Model of Incumbency” (retitled “The Price of Pork”) North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society, Durham, NC	June 2007

Seminar Presentations

The World Bank	June 2019
Georgia State University, Department of Economics	February 2019
University of North Carolina - Greensboro, Department of Economics	November 2018
Tax Economists Forum	December 2016
University of Exeter, Department of Economics	October 2016
Institute for Fiscal Studies	October 2016
University of South Carolina, Department of Economics	September 2016
American Enterprise Institute	July 2016
University of Texas, LBJ School	February 2016
University of South Carolina, Department of Economics	February 2016
University of North Carolina - Charlotte, Department of Economics	January 2016
University of Central Florida, Department of Economics	January 2016
George Mason University, SPGIA	February 2015
Clemson University, Department of Economics	January 2015
Brigham Young University, Department of Economics	October 2012
Amherst College, Department of Economics	February 2012

Middle Tennessee State University, Department of Economics and Finance	January 2012
Treasury Department, Office of Tax Analysis	October 2011
Georgia State University, Department of Risk Management and Insurance	January 2011
Treasury Department, Office of Tax Analysis	October 2010
Treasury Department, Office of Tax Analysis	February 2009
Sam Houston State University, Department of Economics	January 2009
University of Georgia, Department of Economics	October 2008
Joint Committee on Taxation	January 2008
Sam Houston State University, Department of Economics	November 2007
University of Texas at Austin, Department of Economics	September 2007

Other Presentations

“Dynamic tax modeling with the new OG-USA web application”	
PSL Meetup , American Enterprise Institute	April 2020
“The Cost of Capital Calculator: A Model for Computing Effective Tax Rates on Investment”	
PSL Meetup , American Enterprise Institute	April 2019
“Introducing the Open Source Policy Center: Making Tax Policy Transparent, Accessible, and Collaborative”	
American Enterprise Institute	April 2016
Russell Senate Office Building	April 2016
“OSPC Dynamic Scoring Model: An Open Source Model for Dynamic Revenue Estimates.”	
American Enterprise Institute	April 2015
Joint Committee on Taxation	April 2015
PwC	April 2015
Congressional Budget Office	April 2015
“Corporate Taxation - Economics and Policy”	
Visiting Scholar Program Undergraduate Lecture, BYU	October 2012

Teaching

Short Courses	
Calibration in OG Models, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, India	August 2019
Dynamic Programming, Open Source Macro Lab, University of Chicago	June 2018
OG Models for Fiscal Policy Analysis, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, India	April-May 2018
Firm Dynamics, Open Source Macro Lab, University of Chicago	July 2017
OG Models for Fiscal Policy Analysis, European Commission JRC, Seville, Spain	May-June 2017
Assistant Professor, University of South Carolina	2016-Present
Computational Methods for Economists (PhD)	Fall 2017, Fall 2019
Fall 2019 Evaluation: 4.9/5.0	
Fall 2017 Evaluation: 4.6/5.0	
Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory	Spring 2017-2019, Fall 2018-2019
Fall 2019 Evaluation: 4.3/5.0 (Section A), 4.7/5.0 (Section B)	
Spring 2019 Evaluation: 4.2/5.0 (Section A), 4.5/5.0 (Section B)	
Fall 2018 Evaluation: 4.0/5.0	
Spring 2018 Evaluation: 4.3/5.0	
Spring 2017 Evaluation: 4.4/5.0	
Principles of Macroeconomics	Fall 2016, 2017
Fall 2017 Evaluation: 4.4/5.0	
Fall 2016 Evaluation: 3.5/5.0 (Section A), 3.8/5.0 (Section B)	
Assistant Professor, Middle Tennessee State University	2012-2016
Microeconomic Theory (Masters)	Spring 2016
Evaluation: 4.6/5.0	
Principles of Macroeconomics (Online)	Summer 2014-2016

Intermediate Macroeconomics	Fall 2013-2015
Evaluation: 3.8/5.0 (2013), 4.0/5.0 (2014), 4.0/5.0 (2015)	
Microeconomics III (PhD)	Spring 2013-2016
Evaluation: 4.8/5.0 (2013), 5.0/5.0 (2014), 4.9/5.0 (2015), 4.5/5.0 (2016)	
Macroeconomics I (PhD)	Fall 2012-2015
Evaluation: 4.2/5.0 (2012), 4.1/5.0 (2013), 3.5/5.0 (2014), 4.5/5.0 (2015)	
Seminar on Public Finance (Masters)	Spring 2013-2014
Evaluation: 4.9/5.0 (2013), 4.8/5.0 (2014)	
Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Georgia	2008-2009
Intermediate Macroeconomics	Spring 2009
Evaluation: 3.9/5.0 (Section A), 4.3/5.0 (Section B)	
Principles of Macroeconomics (Honors)	Fall 2008
Evaluation: 3.5/5.0 (Section A), 3.8/5.0 (Section B)	

Professional Service and Activities

Discussant, National Tax Association 112th Annual Conference	November 2019
Leadership Council Member, Policy Simulation Library	March 2019-Present
Outside Expert, IRS NRP Redesign Working Group	Summer 2019
Discussant, National Tax Association 111th Annual Conference	November 2018
Participant, Tax Policy Center Business Tax Modeling Roundtable	October 2018
Outside Reviewer, Congressional Budget Office	December 2017
Session Chair, Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings	November 2017
Discussant, Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings	November 2017
Discussant, National Tax Association 110th Annual Conference	November 2017
Participant, Tax Policy Center Administrative Data Roundtable	August 2017
Discussant (2 sessions), National Tax Association 109th Annual Conference	November 2016
Session organizer and moderator, National Tax Association Spring Symposium	May 2016
Conference co-organizer, BYU Computational Public Economics Conference	December 2015
Discussant, Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings	November 2010
Discussant, Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings	November 2008
Participant, Atlanta Fed's Public Affairs Symposium Roundtable	November 2008
Institute for Humane Studies, Social Change Workshop	June 2005
Referee service:	

The Accounting Review, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Journal of Political Science, Applied Economics Letters, The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy, The B.E. Journal of Theoretical Economics, Contemporary Accounting Research, Energy Economics, European Accounting Review, European Journal of Political Economy, Industrial Relations, International Tax and Public Finance, Journal of Accounting and Public Policy, Journal of Applied Economics, Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics, Journal of Accounting Research, Journal of Corporate Finance, Journal of Macroeconomics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Socio-Economics, Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, National Tax Journal, Political Behavior, Public Choice, Quantitative Economics, The Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, The Reviews of Financial Studies

Software Development

Cost-of-Capital-Calculator: [source code](#), [web application](#)
OG-USA: [source code](#), [web application](#)
OG-India: [source code](#)
Open CGE: [source code](#)

Departmental Activities and Service

University of South Carolina	
Gamecock Economic Society Presentation, “The Economics of Taxation”	February 2020
DMSB Data Analytics Task Force	August 2019-Present
Economics Seminar Director	August 2018-Present
Faculty Senate	September 2016-2019
Economics Recruiting Committee	August 2018-2019
Rising Scholars Program Mentor	August 2018-Present
Economics PhD Committee	September 2017-August 2018
MA Economics Committee	September 2016-August 2017
Economics Assessment Committee	September 2016-August 2018
SC Econ Day Presentation, “The Economics of Taxation”	March 2017
Honors Thesis Supervisor	2017-2018
Research Mentor, Undergraduate Research and Scholars Program, South Carolina Honors College	2017-2018
Middle Tennessee State University	
Organizer of Department Research Seminar Series	August 2015-May 2016
Economics Club Presentation, “The Economics of Taxation and Tax Policy”	April 2015
Economics Club Presentation, “Income Inequality”	March 2014
Organizer of Economics Club Guest Speaker Series	May 2014-May 2016
Economics Graduate Curriculum Committee (chair)	August 2014-May 2016
Economics PhD Steering Committee	August 2012-May 2016
Economics Undergraduate Curriculum Committee	August 2012-May 2014
Office of Tax Analysis, U.S. Department of the Treasury	
Organizer of OTA Brown Bag Series	October 2010-July 2012
University of Georgia	
Advisor, 6 Senior Theses on Public Economics and Macroeconomics	Fall 2008-Spring 2009
Panelist, “The Economic Policies of the Presidential Candidates”, The Economics Society of UGA	October 2008

Graduate Student Supervision

University of South Carolina	
Zehra Valencia : committee chair (in progress)	
Robert Pettis : committee chair (University of Texas - Arlington)	
Middle Tennessee State University	
Fahad Gill : committee member (West Virginia University Institute of Technology)	
Dustin Rumbaugh: committee member (Belmont University)	