Matthew D'Urso

Email durso.18@osu.eduThe Ohio State UniversityPhone +1 (718) 309-4459304 Arps Hall, 1945 N. High St.Website sites.google.com/view/mattdursoColumbus, OH 43210

Education

Ph.D. Economics, The Ohio State University	(expected) 2025
Committee: Julia Thomas (chair), Aubhik Khan, Kyle Dempsey	
M.A. Economics, The Ohio State University	2020
M.A. Economics, The University of Texas at Austin	2019
B.A. Economics, Binghamton University	2017
B.A. Psychology, Binghamton University	2017

Job Market Paper

Debt Relief Policy for Heterogeneous Firms

Abstract: I study the stabilization effects of firm-specific debt relief in a DSGE model calibrated to U.S. data, including the skewed size distribution of firms. Firms face persistent idiosyncratic risk and financial frictions that give rise to an endogenous distribution over capital, debt, productivity, and age, while leading to capital misallocation and life-cycle effects. I model financial frictions by assuming collateralized borrowing. A shock to firms' access to credit exacerbates present misallocation, leading to a crisis similar to the Great Recession. This creates a role for policy: government borrows on behalf of financially constrained firms and provides debt relief, allowing firms to invest more. Policy that targets firms with the highest levels of excess return to investment improves aggregates the most, reducing the drop in output from 2.25 percent below steady state to 1 percent, a reduction of over 50 percent. Understanding that this is not a readily observable policy target, I consider firm size and age as alternative targets. The model is well-suited for this, as it produces an age-size distribution matching U.S. data. Contrary to motivation for policy aimed at small firms, I find that policy that targets medium size firms outperforms these other targets in dampening a recession, though they all fall short of the excess return policy. However, as the government borrows to pay for policy, the eventual increase in taxes to pay the debt slows the final stages of the recovery.

Working Papers

Stabilization vs Inequality: A Trade-off to Debt Relief?

Invited Presentations

2024 Midwest Macroeconomic Meetings, Purdue University

2023 Institute for Studies on Economics and Employment; Midwest Macroeconomic

Meetings, Clemson University

Research Assistance

2024 National Science Foundation Award Number: 1949489. PI: Julia Thomas, Co-PI:

Aubhik Khan. Business Cycles, Uncertain Growth & the Distribution of Production

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships

2023 Diversity, Intercultural & Community Engagement Certification, Ohio State

University

2022, 2021 Economics Department Graduate Teaching Award, Ohio State University

University Fellowship, Ohio State University
 Merit Scholarship, University of Texas at Austin

Teaching Experience

Instructor:

Su23 Principles of Macroeconomics, Ohio State University
Su22, Au20 Principles of Microeconomics, Ohio State University

Sp22, Au21, Su21 Current Economic Issues in the United States, Ohio State University

Teaching Assistant:

Au24, Au23 Honors Intermediate Macroeconomics, Ohio State University

Au23, Sp23, Au22, Principles of Microeconomics, Ohio State University, Binghamton University

Sp21, Au16

Sp24, Sp16 Principles of Macroeconomics, Ohio State University, Binghamton University

Sp15 Introduction to Italian, Binghamton University

Languages

English (native), Italian (CEFR B1)

MATLAB, Stata, LATEX

References

Professor Julia Thomas Professor Aubhik Khan Professor Kyle Dempsey
Ohio State University Ohio State University
+1 (614) 247-0094 +1 (614) 247-0097 +1 (614) 292-4198
thomas.2108@osu.edu mail@aubhik-khan.net dempsey.164@osu.edu