Aerfate Haimiti

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Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of South Carolina, 2025 (expected)

M.S. Economics, University of Nebraska at Omaha, 2020

M.A. Economics, University of New Hampshire, 2018

B.A. Actuarial Science, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, 2017

Research Interests

Public Finance, Industrial Organization, Macroeconomics

Working Papers

- "Regional Price Indexes and Stimulus Payments Allocation" (under review)
- "Road Infrastructure and Retail Markets" (under review), **JMP**
- "Uniform Brand Variant Pricing and Cost Pass-Through to Retail Prices" (under review), with Danna Thomas
- "Learning from 25 Years of Changes in Business Tax Policy", with Jason DeBacker
- "Internet Infrastructure and Patterns of Trade", with William Hauk and Mohammad Jakaria

Selected Works in Progress

- "Tax Multipliers in a DSGE Model", with Jason DeBacker and Richard W. Evans
- "Optimal Allocation of Trade Adjustment Assistance"
- "Fiscal Policy and Local Imperfect Competition"
- "Cost of Living, Fiscal Transfers, and Consumption"

Teaching Experience

Instructor

Department of Economics, University of South Carolina

Introduction to Economics
  Spring 2023 (Evaluation: 3.88/5.00)
  Spring 2024 (Evaluation: 4.32/5.00)
  Fall 2024 (Evaluation: 4.55/5.00)
  Spring 2025 (Evaluation: 4.63/5.00)

Teaching Assistant

Department of Economics, University of South Carolina

International Trade (Undergraduate): Fall 2020, 2021; Spring 2021
Introduction to Econometrics (Undergraduate): Fall 2020, 2023, 2025; Spring 2021, 2022
Labor Economics and Labor Markets (Graduate): Fall 2021, 2022, 2025
Applied Econometrics (Graduate): Spring 2022; Fall 2023, 2024
Quantitative Methods I (Undergraduate, Graduate): Fall 2024
Principles of Macroeconomics: Spring 2025
Managerial Economics (PMBA): Summer 2021

Research Work Experience

Research Assistant

Department of Economics, University of South Carolina: Summer 2021, 2022, 2024; Fall 2022, 2023, 2025; Spring 2022, 2023, 2024

Department of Economics, University of Nebraska at Omaha: Fall 2018 - Spring 2020

Seminar and Conference Participation

Winthrop University, Department of Economics, September 2025 (upcoming)
Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings, November 2024
University of South Carolina, Department of Economics, October 2024
University of South Carolina, Department of Economics, April 2024
University of South Carolina, Department of Economics, March 2023
Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings, November 2021

Professional Service and Activities

Conference Discussant

Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings, November 2024

Computer Skills

Python, Stata, MATLAB, R, SAS, EViews

Language

English, Uyghur (native), Chinese

Other Work Experience

Resident Assistant

Residence Life, University of Nebraska-Lincoln: August, 2014 - May, 2017

- Fostered community development by organizing events and activities.
- Enforced housing policies.
- Provided personal assistance and direction to resources on campus.

References

Jason DeBacker (Chair)
Associate Professor
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University of South Carolina
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Danna Thomas
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William Hauk
Associate Professor
Department of Economics
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Working Paper Abstracts

- "Road Infrastructure and Retail Markets"

  Abstract: This paper explores the impacts of transportation infrastructure on U.S. retail markets. The identification strategy relies on variations in historical transportation infrastructure. Using detailed scanner data, I examine the effects of U.S. interstate highways on various aspects of consumer welfare. First, the findings indicate that interstate highways reduce prices and expenditures on retail goods and improve the quality of goods purchased by consumers. Second, interstate highways not only increase the supply of unique products in stores but also the variety of products purchased by consumers. Finally, the analysis reveals that interstate highways reduce the retail price index for both low and high-income consumers. Accounting for the costs of construction and maintenance, counterfactual analyses show that constructing additional interstate highways enhances consumer welfare.

- "Regional Price Indexes and Stimulus Payments Allocation"

  Abstract: In this paper, I develop regional and income group-specific price indexes by estimating demand functions derived from a model of consumer choice with non-homothetic preferences, using detailed barcode-level and household survey data. To illustrate the impact of cost-of-living differences across U.S. households on the real effects of the federal tax and transfer system, the paper examines a counterfactual policy that adjusts the 2020 stimulus payments based on these regional and household group-specific price indexes. The results reveal significant variation in the real impact of the stimulus payments. For instance, to achieve the same real impact, the nominal value of a stimulus payment to a household in California would need to be approximately two and a half times higher than the payment to a household with the same income in Arkansas.

- "Uniform Brand Variant Pricing and Cost Pass-Through to Retail Prices", with Danna Thomas

  Abstract: We show that price uniformity is prevalent within stores and across products of the same brand, termed uniform brand variant pricing. We then study how this impacts input cost pass-through by developing a simple theoretical framework that we use to inform empirical pass-through models. We find that (1) cost pass-through for all inputs is identical across all brand variants, (2) cost pass-through for inputs contained in all brand variants is higher than cost pass-through for inputs used in only a subset of brand variants, and (3) input cost pass-through increases as the share of brand variants containing that input increases.

- "Tax Multipliers in a DSGE Model", with Jason DeBacker and Richard W. Evans

  Abstract: Consumption taxes have long been favored by tax economists for their relative efficiency compared with taxes on capital and labor. This paper examines the stabilization properties of tax cuts within a DSGE framework. In addition to consumption taxes, the model incorporates other tax instruments, including investment tax credits and changes to expensing and depreciation policies. We provide the first quantitative insights into the size of the multipliers associated with tax cuts that directly target consumption and investment. (Preliminary. Project status: expanding the model.)