

Aerfate Haimiti

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Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of South Carolina, 2026 (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 and Teaching Interests

Research: Public Finance, Industrial Organization, International Trade

Teaching: Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Public Finance, Industrial Organization, International Trade, Urban Economics, Data Analytics, Computational Economics

Publications

- “Learning from 25 Years of Changes in Business Tax Policy”, with Jason DeBacker.
Public Budgeting & Finance, forthcoming.

Working Papers

- “Road Infrastructure and Retail Markets” (under review), **JMP**.
- “Regional Price Indexes and Stimulus Payments Allocation”, reject and resubmit,
Journal of Economic Geography.
- “Uniform Brand Variant Pricing and Cost Pass-Through to Retail Prices” (under review), with Danna Thomas.
- “Mobile Internet Growth and Services 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 2025 (Evaluation: 4.63/5.00)

Fall 2024 (Evaluation: 4.55/5.00)

Spring 2024 (Evaluation: 4.32/5.00)

Spring 2023 (Evaluation: 3.88/5.00)

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, 2025

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

Seminar and Conference Participation

Wofford College, Department of Economics, November 2025

Winthrop University, Department of Economics, September 2025

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, Julia, SAS, EViews

Languages

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)

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Danna Thomas

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William Hauk

Associate Professor
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Paper Abstracts

- “Road Infrastructure and Retail Markets”

Abstract: This paper explores the impact of transportation infrastructure on U.S. retail markets and leverages historical variation in transportation networks. Using detailed scanner data, I examine how interstate highways affect consumer welfare. The analysis shows that interstate highways reduce prices and expenditures on retail goods while improving product quality. They also expand both the supply of unique products in stores and the variety of goods consumers purchase. A one percent increase in highway stocks lowers the CES retail price index by about 0.14 percent. Welfare gains are positive across all income groups but roughly twice as large for higher-income consumers. Accounting for construction and maintenance costs, counterfactual welfare analyses indicate that additional interstate highways enhance 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. Utilizing U.S.–China trade retaliation tariff shocks as the main instrument for input costs, along with time-series variation, we find that (1) cost pass-through for all inputs is identical across all brand variants, and (2) input cost pass-through increases as the share of brand variants containing that input increases.

- “Learning from 25 Years of Changes in Business Tax Policy”, with Jason DeBacker

Abstract: This paper summarizes the significant changes to the taxation of business income in the United States over the last 25 years and how the resulting variation has helped inform research on business taxation. The survey of research on the topic covers investment incentives, international taxation, corporate financial policy, issues with pass-through businesses, compliance, enforcement, and other related topics. The literature shows that bonus depreciation accelerated investment among smaller and constrained firms but delivered modest aggregate gains. Dividend tax cuts influenced payout composition and asset pricing more than overall investment. The rise of pass-through entities shifted income toward high earners with limited real activity. Disclosure initiatives improved transparency yet spurred adaptive avoidance. The TCJA lowered corporate rates and revised international provisions but produced uneven benefits concentrated among shareholders and multinationals. Taken together, the literature highlights both efficiency and distributional trade-offs, showing that the effects of tax reform depend critically on policy design and its interaction with firm behavior.

- “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.)

- “Mobile Internet Growth and Services Trade”, with William Hauk and Mohammad Jakaria

Abstract: This paper studies how internet connectivity, encompassing both overall internet use and mobile broadband access, influences international trade with a particular focus on services. Using data for over 100 countries from 2004 to 2019, a two-stage structural gravity model shows that a 10 percent increase in internet users in the importing country raises bilateral services trade by about 7 percent, with comparable exporter-side effects. The strongest responses occur in telecommunications, information technology, finance, and intellectual property services, while the effects on goods trade are modest. Mobile broadband coverage has similar but somewhat smaller impacts, with 2G-and-higher (2G+) and 3G-and-higher (3G+) networks showing positive and significant elasticities, particularly in bandwidth-intensive sectors. Overall, the findings demonstrate that expanding internet access, both fixed and mobile, lowers trade costs and enhances participation in global markets.