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Personal

Born on October 22, 1984, United Kingdom Citizen.

Research Fields

Wage, Income and Wealth Inequality, Labor Economics, Search and Macro.

Education

Ph.D. Economics, University College London, 2014-2019
Thesis: "Essays on frictional labour markets in the presence of capital skill complementarity"
Primary supervisor: Vincent Sterk, Secondary supervisor: Fabien Postel-Vinay

MRes. Economics, University College London, 2013-2014.

MS.c. Economics, Toulouse School of Economics, 2007-2008.

BA. Economics, University of Cambridge, 2002-2005.

Employment

2019-present	Post-Doctoral Researcher, Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration, University College London;
2017	Research Assistant, University College London, For Attila Lindner;
2008-2013	Senior Economic Adviser: Tax, Labour Market and Welfare Policy, UK Treasury;

References

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Working Papers

(Job Market Paper) Rising Wage Inequality: Technological Change and Search Frictions

This paper examines whether labor market frictions can explain the level and growth of skill premiums in the US. I develop a novel model where skill premiums are driven both by capital skill complementarity and by differences in the search frictions faced by skilled and unskilled workers. The presence of search frictions, and hence monopsonistic power, provides a range of explanations for rising skill premiums not present in competitive models i.e. changes to relative job offer rates, to firm heterogeneity or to bargaining power between skill groups. College graduates enjoy substantially lower job destruction rates and higher job offer rates than non-graduates, which generates the presence of a significant, and relatively stable, skill premium in wages in my model. I also find that bargaining strength, as captured by unionization rates, starts off at similar levels for graduates and non-graduates but declines more severely for non-graduates. This trend explains a substantial portion of the growth in the skill premium in my baseline model.

Minimum Wages in the UK: Searching for Nonlinearities
This paper examines the impact of minimum wages when search frictions are present and firms can substitute away from low skilled workers to both higher skilled workers and to capital. This represents a contribution to the search literature, which typically assumes labour is the only input of production and perfect substitution between labour inputs. I examine whether the model I develop features significant nonlinearities in the impact of the minimum wage on unemployment. I find that the theoretical contribution of this paper, i.e. allowing for search frictions and imperfect substitutability of factor inputs, is quantitatively significant. Specifically, the nonlinear unemployment response in my model is much less pronounced if I use the typical assumptions of the search literature, which imply a considerably more linear response of unemployment to the minimum wage.

Minimum Wages, Risk Aversion and Asset Accumulation
Using a model featuring search frictions and risk averse workers, I find that the workers' ability to self-insure via asset accumulation has an important role in determining the response of consumption inequality to minimum wage increases. Workers increase their savings to self-insure against the increased unemployment risk of higher minimum wage levels. Thus in our baseline model minimum wages achieve reductions in consumption inequality even at relatively high levels that cause unemployment to rise. In a model without savings, increasing the minimum wage level to such levels would increase consumption inequality because increased unemployment risk has a more significant pass-through to consumption.

Seeing Beyond the Trees: Using Machine Learning to Estimate the Impact of Minimum Wages on Labor Market Outcomes

With Doruk Cengiz, Arindrajit Dube, and Attila Lindner. Paper invited for the special issue of the Journal of Labor Economics in honor of Alan Krueger

We assess the effect of the minimum wage on labor market outcomes such as employment, unemployment, and labor force participation for most workers affected by the policy. We build on Card and Krueger (1995)'s predicted probability approach and apply modern machine learning tools to construct demographically-based treatment groups capturing 75% of all minimum wage workers, a major improvement over the literature which has focused on fairly narrow subgroups where the policy has a large bite (e.g. teens). By exploiting 172 prominent minimum wages between 1979 and 2019 we find that there is a very clear increase in average wages of workers in these groups following a minimum wage increase, while there is little evidence of employment loss. We find that the minimum wage has a small negative impact on the unemployment rate, while labor force participation is unaffected. We discuss the implication of these findings through the lens of standard search models.

Teaching Experience

2016	BSc Econ	Industrial Relations;
2015	BSc Econ	Introduction to Economics;
2014	BSc Econ	International Trade;

Conference & Seminar Presentations

2020	UCL, Applied Micro Reading Group;
2019	Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration, Labour Workshop (Milan);
2018	Toulouse School of Economics, ENTER Jamboree; UCL Structural Estimation Workshop; UCL PhD Workshop; UCL Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration Brown Bag
2017	Stockholm School of Economics, ENTER Exchange; UCL PhD Workshop
2016	ZEW, Manheim, Structural Labour Workshop; UCL PhD Workshop

Awards, Grants and Scholarships

2014-2017	UCL, Ricardo Scholarship;
2014	UCL, Teaching Excellence Award;

Skills

Computer:	Julia, Matlab, Stata, LaTeX, Microsoft Office;
Languages:	English (native), French (basic);