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Graduate Administrator: Ian Johnson

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**Education**

Ph.D. in Economics, New York University, 2019-2026 (expected)  
B.A. in Economics and B.S. in Mathematics, University of Chicago, 2011-2017

**References**

Professor Sydney Ludvigson  
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**Teaching and Research Fields**

Primary Fields: Macroeconomics, Asset Pricing

Secondary Fields: Behavioral Finance, Labor Economics

**Job Market Paper**

[“Belief Distortions, Asset Prices, and Unemployment Fluctuations”](#)

This paper studies the dynamics of asset prices and unemployment when expectations deviate from a rational benchmark. Using machine learning forecasts as a benchmark for objective beliefs, I quantify distortions in survey forecasts of firms' future cash flows. Survey forecasts overreact to cash flow news, while machine forecasts do not. These belief distortions explain over 60% of the variation in hiring at both the aggregate and firm levels. Following positive idiosyncratic shocks to their cash flows, firms with distorted beliefs overhire relative to firms with objective beliefs, while their stock returns initially overshoot and subsequently reverse. A search model in which firms learn about cash flows with fading memory reproduces not only the overreaction in beliefs but also the resulting volatility in asset valuations and unemployment. Distorted beliefs that raise asset valuations also raise the value firms attach to new hires, leading stock prices and hiring to move together.

## **Research Papers**

### [“The Prestakes of Stock Market Investing”](#)

(with Francesco Bianchi, Sydney Ludvigson, and Sai Ma),  
*NBER Working Paper* No. 34420, 2025

### [“Inflation and Labor Markets: A Bottom-Up View”](#)

(with Sophia Chen, Deniz Igan, and Prachi Mishra),  
*IMF Working Paper* No. 220, 2024

### [“Divergence in Post-Pandemic Earnings Growth: Evidence from Micro Data”](#)

(with Sophia Chen),  
*IMF Working Paper* No. 222, 2024

### [“Zombies on the Brink: Evidence from Japan on the Reversal of Monetary Policy Effectiveness”](#)

(with Gee Hee Hong and Deniz Igan),  
*BIS Working Paper* No. 987, 2022

## **Publications**

### [“Small and Vulnerable: Small Firm Productivity in the Great Productivity Slowdown”](#)

(with Sophia Chen),  
*Journal of Financial Economics*, 2023, 147(1): 49-74

### [“Demand Conditions and Worker Safety: Evidence from Price Shocks in Mining”](#)

(with Kerwin Kofi Charles, Matthew Johnson, and Melvin Stephens, Jr.),  
*Journal of Labor Economics*, 2022, 40:1, 47-94

### [“Media Sentiment and International Asset Prices”](#)

(with Samuel Fraiberger, Damien Puy, and Romain Ranciere),  
*Journal of International Economics*, 2021, 133(C): 103526

### [“Can Social Media Reliably Estimate Unemployment?”](#)

(with Samuel Fraiberger, Nir Grinberg, Boris Sobol, and Manuel Tonneau),  
*PNAS Nexus*, Forthcoming 2025

### [“280 Characters to Employment: Using Twitter to Quantify Job Vacancies”](#)

(with Boris Sobol, Manuel Tonneau, Samuel Fraiberger, and Nir Grinberg), *Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media*, 2024, 18(1), 1477-1489

## **Teaching Experience**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 2021-2023 | Applied Statistics & Econometrics I-II (Master's), New York University, Teaching Assistant for Professors Banani Nandi, Bruce McNevin, and Elena Goldman |
| 2020      | Intermediate Macroeconomics (Undergraduate), New York University, Teaching Assistant for Professor Jess Benhabib   |

## **Research Experience and Other Employment**

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|-----------|--|
| 2022-2025 | New York University, Research Assistant for Professors Sydney Ludvigson, Francesco Bianchi, and Sai Ma           |
| 2021-2023 | New York University, Research Assistant for Professor Shan Ge  |
| 2020-2021 | World Bank, Research Assistant for Samuel Fraiberger   |
| 2017-2019 | International Monetary Fund (IMF), Research Department, Macro-Financial Division, Research Analyst Program (RAP) |
| 2016-2019 | The University of Chicago, Research Assistant for Professors Kerwin Charles and Matthew Johnson                  |

- 2016            The University of Chicago, Research Assistant for Professor Derek Neal  
2015            Woodrow Wilson Center, Research Assistant for Professors Steven Lagerfeld,  
                  Edward Schumacher-Matos, and Martina Viarengo  
2013-2015      Republic of Korea Army, Capital Corps, Sergeant

### **Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships**

- 2025            Excellence Award, Korea-America Economic Association Job Market Conference  
2019-2024      New York University, Henry M. McCracken Fellowship

### **Seminars and Presentations**

- 2026            American Finance Association Annual Meeting (Scheduled)  
2025            RCEA International Conference in Economics, Econometrics, and Finance;  
                  Behavioural Finance Working Group;  
                  International Conference on Empirical Economics;  
                  13th World Congress of the Econometric Society;  
                  Southern Economic Association  
2022            8th International Conference on Computational Social Science, University of Chicago  
2021            24th Central Bank Macroeconomic Modeling Workshop, Bank of Chile  
2021            52nd Money Macro and Finance Annual Conference, University of Cambridge  
2020            IMF Asia and Pacific Department Virtual Seminar  
2019            IMF Macro-Financial Division Research Seminar

**Refereeing:** American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, IMF Economic Review, Journal of International Money and Finance, Journal of Economic Studies, North American Journal of Economics and Finance

**Programming:** Python (TensorFlow, PyTorch), R, MATLAB, Stata, Spark, SQL