Corinne Stephenson

Ph.D. candidate, Boston University

Contact Information

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Education

Ph.D. Boston University, 2025 (expected)

M.S. Barcelona School of Economics, 2018

M.A. University of Chicago, 2014

B.A. Princeton University, 2012

Research and Teaching Fields

Primary: Macroeconomics, Labor Economics

Job Market Paper

"Macroeconomic Consequences of Gender Differences in Job Search Behavior"

Abstract: This paper explores how differences in job search behavior and preferences contribute to the gender wage gap. Using data from the Job Search Supplement of the Survey of Consumer Expectations, I find that women are more likely to search for jobs and do so more intensively than men. Despite differential search inputs, men and women receive a similar number of job offers, implying a lower job offer yield for women. Women's best job offer has lower wages and hours, and fewer fringe benefits. Women are more sensitive to nonwage features of a job, such as commute time, hours worked, and location of a job. Lastly, women are more likely to search only for part-time work and have not worked in recent years. Building on these findings, I develop an on-the-job search model with endogenous search effort. I allow jobs to differ in their wage and amenity value. I incorporate the incidence of children and parental leave into the model, as the empirical facts show this is an important mechanism accounting for differences in search behavior, preferences, and labor force attachment by gender. Through the lens of the model I find that gender differences in amenity valuation can explain close to 20% of the overall gender wage gap.

Working Papers

"What Drives Occupational Wage Inequality in the US: Productivity or Rent Sharing?"

Abstract: Why do some occupations pay increasingly more than others over time? To answer this question, I combine hand-collected historical labor market data with a theory-guided accounting

framework that allows me to decompose occupational wage inequality into two groups of explanations: productivity and rent sharing. In order to implement this decomposition, I use an equilibrium model of search and matching to derive a mapping from unobserved wage markdowns due to search frictions into a set of measurable labor market statistics for each occupation. I find that productivity, as opposed to rent sharing, explains most of the occupational wage inequality, both in the cross section and over time.

"Immigration and Political Extremism: Evidence from the 2015 German Refugee Crisis"
Abstract: This paper studies the 2015 European refugee crisis and its effects on electoral support for Germany's far-right party, Alternative für Deutschland (AfD). To identify the causal effects of refugee presence and address potential endogeneity of refugee's location choice, I exploit a unique feature of the refugee placement process in Germany whereby at the height of the crisis many refugees were housed in military barracks that had been decommissioned prior to the refugee crisis. I find that a one percent increase in the presence of refugees within a district leads to a 3.5 percentage point decline in support for the AfD between the 2013 and 2017 federal elections. I probe potential mechanisms as to why this might be the case and find support for the contact hypothesis, namely that districts in which natives have more interactions with refugees see a larger decline in the support for the AfD.

Work in Progress
"Aging Workforces and the Decline in the Large Firm Wage Premium"
"Gender Bias in the Labor Market: Evidence from Newspaper Job Ads" with Vikram Dixit
"The Task Approach to Labor Markets in the Presence of Search Frictions" with Nils Lehr

Publications
"Trends in U.S.Wage Inequality: Revising the Revisionists. A Replication Study of Autor, Katz, and Kearney (The Review of Economics and Statistics, 2008)" *Journal of Comments and Replications in Economics* Vol 3(2024-4)

Research Experience
Natalia Ramondo (Boston University), Fall 2020-Spring 2022
Tarek Hassan (Boston University), Nick Bloom (Stanford University), Josh Lerner (Harvard Business School), Spring & Summer 2020
Steve Davis (University of Chicago, Booth School of Business), 2013-2014

Teaching Assistant Experience
Labor Economics and Labor Market Institutions (PhD field course), Harvard University
Introduction to Economic Dynamics (Master's), Boston University
International Finance (Master's), Boston University
Entrepreneurial Economics (MBA), Boston University
Personal Finance (Undergraduate), Harvard University
Intermediate Mathematical Macroeconomics (Undergraduate), Boston University
Intermediate Macroeconomics (Undergraduate), Boston University

Fellowships, Grants, and Honors

Philadelphia Federal Reserve, Mentoring & Advancing PhDs Program, Fall 2024

Boston University, Abdala Fieldwork Research Grant ($6,000), Summer 2024

Boston Federal Reserve, Dissertation Fellowship, Spring 2024

University of Chicago, Price Theory Summer Camp, Summer 2022

NBER Doctoral Student Workshop on Economics of Artificial Intelligence, Fall 2021

Boston University, Institute for Economic Development Data Grant ($4,000), Summer 2020

Boston University, Graduate Fellowship, 2018–2024

University of Chicago, Tuition Scholarship, 2013–2014

Post-Graduation Fellowship in Senegal, Princeton in Africa, 2012–2013

Princeton University, Office of the Dean of the College Research Grant ($3,000), 2012

Paper Presentations

Boston University macro workshop (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024), Midwest Economics Association (2022), Boston Federal Reserve (July 2024), Philadelphia Federal Reserve (September 2024), Bentley University (December 2024)

Policy Experience

International Monetary Fund, Strategy and Policy Review Department, 2016–2017

The World Bank, Development Economics Research Group, 2014–2015

U.N. World Food Programme, West Africa Bureau, 2012–2013

University and Departmental Service

Co-Chair of BU Women in Economics (WEorg), 2021–2023

Co-Organizer of Macro Student Workshop, Boston University, 2020–2021

Fellow, Writing Center, Princeton University, 2009–2012

Peer Academic Adviser, Princeton University, 2011–2012

Programming

MATLAB, Python, Stata

Other

English (native), French (fluent), Spanish (proficient)

Citizenship: U.S. citizen

Married; 1 son