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Doctoral Studies

PhD, Economics, Expected completion June 2019

Sciences Po Paris, Department of Economics

Dissertation: "Matching Models and Search Theory: Applications to the Economics of the Family"

References

Professor Jean-Marc Robin (main advisor)

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Professor Alfred Galichon

New York University

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Professor Pierre-André Chiappori

Columbia University

1009A International Affairs Building

420 West 118th Street

New York, NY 10027, USA

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Past Education and Visiting Positions

Alliance Visiting Scholar, Columbia University, Fall 2017

Visiting Scholar, National University of Singapore, Summer 2016

Master of Economics, Sciences Po Paris & École Polytechnique, *Summa cum Laude*, 2015

Undergraduate Exchange Program, University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2013

Bachelor in Economics and Social Sciences (CLES), Bocconi University, *Summa cum Laude*, 2013

Research Fields

Primary field: Labor Economics

Secondary fields: Family Economics, Matching

Teaching

Market Design for Entrepreneurs, Master of Economics at Sciences Po Paris, Teaching Assistant for Eduardo Perez–Richet, 2017

Graduate Microeconomics 3, Master of Economics at Sciences Po Paris, Teaching Assistant for Eduardo Perez–Richet, 2016

Microeconomics for Public Policy, Master of Economics and Public Policy, Sciences Po Paris, Teaching Assistant for Joan Monras and Jérôme Mathis, 2016

Introduction to Calculus, Undergraduate Program at Sciences Po Paris (Reims Campus), Lecturer, 2015

Personal Information

Citizenship: Italian

Languages: Italian (native), English (fluent), French (fluent), German (beginner)

Job-Market Paper

o **The Changing Wage Distribution and the Decline of Marriage**
  Downloadable here

  In the last forty years, the share of married adults has declined in the United States. At the same time, the structure of labor market earnings has greatly changed, both in its cross-sectional distribution and in terms of life-cycle dynamics. In this paper, I provide a quantitative assessment of the impact of changes in the wage structure on the decline of marriage. I estimate a novel equilibrium model of the marriage market characterized by search frictions, endogenous divorce, aging, and wage mobility. I find that changes in the wage distribution as a whole can account for about 35% of the decline in the share of married adults between the 1970s and the 2000s, and partly explain why the decline has been stronger among the low educated. I show that changes in positional wage inequality matter far more than changes in wage mobility: increased inequality among men and a shrinking gender wage gap have caused the gains of marriage to shift from household specialization to the possibility of joining efforts on the labor market.

Working Papers

o **Likes Attract Likes? A Structural Comparison of Homogamy Across Same-Sex and Different-Sex Households**, with Alfred Galichon and Marion Goussé.
  Status: R&R at the Journal of Political Economy (2nd round)
  Downloadable here

  In this paper, we extend Gary Becker's empirical analysis of the marriage market to same-sex couples. While willing to marry with their likes, straight men and women may need to marry "up" or "down" due to asymmetries in the distributions of male and female characteristics. Yet, on the same-sex marriage market, individuals look for partners within the same population: Becker's theory would boldly predict that they will choose a partner with nearly identical characteristics. However, previous empirical research has shown that same-sex couples are actually less assortative: this suggests that gay men and lesbians may have very different preferences than the rest of the population. We build an equilibrium model of same-sex marriage market which allows for straightforward identification of the gains to marriage. We estimate the model with ACS data on California and show that Positive Assortative Mating (PAM) is weaker among same-sex than among different-sex couples with respect to both age and race. PAM with respect to education is instead strongest among female same-sex couples, and not significantly different when comparing male same-sex and married different-sex couples. Limiting the sample to childless couples

reveals that most differences across markets may be driven by childrearing.

o **The Role of Evolving Marital Preferences in Growing Income Inequality**, with Simon Weber
Status: R&R Journal of Population Economics (2nd round)
Available Downloadable here

In this paper, we describe mating patterns in the United States from 1964 to 2017 and measure the impact of changes in marital preferences on between-household income inequality. We rely on the recent literature on the econometrics of matching models to estimate complementarity parameters of the household production function. Our structural approach allows to measure sorting on multiple dimensions and to effectively disentangle changes in marital preferences and in demographics, addressing concerns that affect results from existing literature. We answer the following questions: *has assortativeness increased over time? Along which dimensions? To which extent the shifts in marital preferences can explain inequality trends?* We find that, after controlling for other observables, assortative mating on education has become stronger. Moreover, if mating patterns had not changed since 1971, the 2017 Gini coefficient between married households would be lower by 6%. We conclude that about 20% of the increase in between-household inequality is due to changes in marital preferences. Increased assortativeness on education positively contributes to the inequality rise, but only modestly.

Work in Progress

o **The Hong Kong Marriage Market in the Past Three Decades**, with So Yoon Ahn and Danyan Zha

Since the handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997, cross-border marriages between Hong Kong and mainland China have become more common. In 2006, more than 45% marriages registered in Hong Kong were between Hong Kong residents and Mainland Chinese, and most of them were between Hong-Kong grooms with Mainland Chinese brides. Interestingly, in recent years, the number of couples of the opposite type - Hong Kong brides and Mainland Chinese grooms - is also increasing. Since 1997, the characteristics of the Chinese population on the Mainland have greatly changed: the population growth, the sex ratio, and the share of college graduates have been evolving fast. Our research uses recently developed structural methods in the estimation of matching models in order to rationalize the patterns of cross-border marriages over time. We work with data from the Hong Kong Census and the Marital Registry. Thanks to this approach, we aim to recover the evolution of the cost of cross-border marriages over time, to analyze the comparative statics with respect to characteristic distribution changes, and to discuss the implications of immigration policies. In particular, we are interested in the marriage market spillovers of a more lenient immigration policy toward skilled individuals moving to Hong Kong.

Past Research Positions

Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economics Research, Research Assistant for Arnaud Dupuy, 2015
Sciences Po Paris, Full-Time Research Assistant for Alfred Galichon, 2014

Awards, Grants and Fellowships

Emerging Scholar, HCEO Working Group at the University of Chicago, member of the Family Inequality network, since 2018
Alliance Doctoral Mobility Grant, Columbia University and Sciences Po Paris, 2017
Mobility Scholarship for Doctoral Exchange, Sciences Po Paris, 2016
Full Doctoral Scholarship, Sciences Po Paris, 2015–2018
Research award for outstanding internship report, École Polytechnique, 2014

Conferences and Seminars

2018: Sciences Po Paris; Meetings of Society of the Economics of the HOusehold (SEHO), Paris School of Economics; European Society of Population Economics (ESPE) Annual Conference, University of Antwerp; Human Capital and Economic Opportunity (HCEO) Spring Workshop, Catholic University of Leuven (invited); Annual Congress of the European Economic Association (EEA), University of Cologne

2017: Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Evaluation of Public Policies (LIEPP); Sciences Po Paris; Royal Economic Society Symposium of Junior Researchers, University of Bristol; Université Catholique de Louvain; Columbia University

Refereeing

Economic Theory, Review of the Economics of the Household

Computer skills

Julia, Matlab, R, Python, Stata, Latex