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PLACEMENT DIRECTORS

Prof. Francisco Alvarez-Cuadrado francisco.alvarez-cuadrado@mcgill.ca (514) 398-8804
Prof. Rui Castro rui.castro@mcgill.ca (514) 398-1226

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, McGill University, expected May 2023
M.S. Applied Economics & Mathematics (minor), University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 2015
M.A. International Political Economy, Renmin University of China, 2013
B.A. Economics, Ningbo University, China, 2011

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary: Macroeconomics
Secondary: Econometrics

DISSERTATION

Essays on Economic Growth and Heterogeneity
Committee: Prof. Rui Castro (Chair), Prof. Markus Poschke, Prof. Francisco Alvarez-Cuadrado

JOB MARKET PAPER

"Skill Costs and the Rise of Firm-level Productivity Dispersion"

Firm-level productivity dispersion has increased dramatically in the US since the 1980s. I examine the contribution of rising skilled wages for this phenomenon, given that skilled labor is a key input for technological innovation and adoption. My hypothesis is that, to the extent that the skilled labor input required for innovating does not fully scale with current firm-level productivity, less productive firms will be particularly affected by higher skilled wages and will therefore innovate relatively less compared to high productivity firms. My contribution is twofold. First, using firm-level data from Compustat, I find that one third of the observed increase in productivity dispersion since the 1980s can be attributed to differential productivity growth between low- vs high-productivity incumbents, leading to a decline in the rate of productivity convergence. I also find that the channel of rising skill costs is responsible for the near entirety of this decline in convergence. Second, I build a simple version of Hopenhayn's industry equilibrium model to illustrate the link between higher technological innovation costs and the rate of productivity convergence. In the calibrated model, I find that the observed increase in the skill premium generates over 75% of the observed decline in the rate of productivity convergence.

OTHER RESEARCH PAPERS

Working Papers

"Measuring the Economic Costs of China's Zero-COVID Policy from Outer Space," with Regis Kouassi (Université de Montréal)

Work in Progress

"Gender Difference in Early Career Geographic Mobility"

"Informal Employment and Stagnant Agricultural Productivity Growth in Africa", with Fan Yang (McGill)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

Macroeconomic Policy (undergraduate), McGill University, 2018 fall-winter, 2022 winter
Micro Analysis and Application, (undergraduate), McGill University, 2021 summer
Adv Economic Theory (honors undergraduate), McGill University, 2020, 2021 winter
Micro/Macro Theory (graduate), McGill University, 2019, 2020 fall
Macro Analysis and Application, (undergraduate), McGill University, 2020 summer
Macroeconomic Theory (undergraduate), McGill University, 2018 winter
Macroeconomic Theory (undergraduate), McGill University, 2017 fall
Financial Modeling (undergraduate), University of Minnesota, 2014

RESEARCH AND RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Market Risk Analyst, Cargill Inc., Shanghai & Singapore, October 2015 - August 2017
Research Assistant, Prof. William Lazarus, University of Minnesota, 2014

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2019-2022 FQRSC Doctoral Research Scholarship
2017-2022 McGill Graduate Fellowship
2018 IHSP Grad Intern Award
2013 China National Scholarship

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

2022: Canadian Economic Association, 17th CIREQ PhD Students' Conference
2021: CIREQ Lunch Seminar at McGill

LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese (native), English (fluent), French (Beginner)

COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS

Python, R, Matlab, Stata

REFERENCES

Prof. Rui Castro	McGill University	rui.castro@mcgill.ca (514) 398-1226
Prof. Markus Poschke	McGill University	markus.poschke@mcgill.ca (514) 398-1233
Prof. Francisco Alvarez-Cuadrado	McGill University	francisco.alvarez-cuadrado@mcgill.ca (514) 398-8804