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Personal

Chinese Citizen (F1 Visa, US; OWP-expected, Canada).

Education

2015-2021(exp) University of Rochester, Department of Economics
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Committee: Yan Bai (co-advisor), Narayana Kocherlakota (co-advisor), Mark Bils, Ronni Pavan

2014-2015 Yeshiva University, Department of Economics
M.S. in Quantitative Economics

2010-2014 Zhejiang University, School of Economics & Chu Kochen Honors College
B.A. in Economics

Interests

Substantive: Macroeconomics, Monetary Economics, Financial Economics, Urban Economics

Methodology: Computational Methods, Time Series Econometrics

Research

Working Paper

Lumpy Investment, Uncertainty, and Monetary Policy [Link]
(**Job Market Paper**)

Migration, Housing Constraints, and Inequality: A Quantitative Analysis of China [Link]
(with Zibin Huang) *under review*

Lumpy Debt, Monetary Policy, and Investment [Link]
(with Minjie Deng)

Work in Progress

Place-based Land Allocation Policy and Spatial Misallocation: Evidence from China
(with Libin Han, Zibin Huang, Ming Lu, Li Zhang)

What Do Alibaba Data Tell Us about Quality Growth in China?
(with Mark Bils, Zibin Huang, Tianchen Song)

Discussions

Entrepreneurship, Financial Frictions, and the Market for Firms, by Rafael Guntin and Federico Kochen [Slides]

Conference & Seminar Presentations

2021 Jan	ASSA/AEA Annual Meetings, Virtual
2020 Oct	Urban Economics Association Meeting, Virtual
2020 Oct	PhD-EVS Economics Virtual Seminar, Virtual
2020 Aug	Young Economist Society (China), Virtual
2020 Aug	Young Economists Symposium (UPenn), Virtual
2020 Aug	European Economic Association 30th Annual Congress, Virtual
2020 Aug	Econometric Society 12th World Congress, Virtual
2020 Aug	Chinese Economists Society NA Conference, Virtual
2020 Jul	CERDI et al. Joint Junior Webinar on The Economics of Migration
2019 Dec	River Campus Libraries (General Audience), University of Rochester
2019 Oct	Economic Graduate Students Conference, Washington University in St. Louis
2018 Mar	W. Allen Wallis Institute Seminar, University of Rochester

Fellowships, Scholarships, & Awards

2020-2021	Dean's Post-Field Research Dissertation Fellowship, University of Rochester
2019 Fall	River Campus Library Dataset Grant, University of Rochester
2019 Fall	Conference Travel Grant, University of Rochester
2019	Alibaba *Huoshui* Scholar, Alibaba Group
2017-2018	W. Allen Wallis Institute Fellowship (researcher in residence), University of Rochester
2017 Spring	PEPR Grant, W. Allen Wallis Institute, University of Rochester
2016-2017	Summer Research Grant (×2), University of Rochester
2015-2020	Graduate Fellowship and Tuition Scholarship (17-18 exempt), University of Rochester
2014-2015	Graduate Fellowship, Yeshiva University

Teaching

Instructor, Department of Economics, University of Rochester

2019 Summer	ECO 108 Principal of Economics

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Rochester

2019 Spring	ECO 476 Macroeconomics II (Econ Ph.D)
2018 Fall	ECO 209 Intermediate Macroeconomics
2018-2020	ECO 233 Applied Econometrics (×3)
2017 Fall	ECO 268 Economics of Globalization

Teaching Assistant, Simon Business School, University of Rochester

2020 Fall	STR401 Managerial Economics (EMBA)
2020 Spring	STR422 Game Theory for Managers (EMBA)
2019-2021	GBA 463 Economics & Marketing Strategy (MSBA) (×3)
2019 Summer	GBA 464 Programming for Analytics (MSBA)
2018-2019	FIN 413 Corporate Finance (MBA & MSF) (×2)

Teaching Assistant, Yeshiva University

2015 Spring	ECO 1101 Intermediate Microeconomics
2014 Fall	ECO 1010 Principles of Economics

External Academic Training

2017 Summer	Summer School on New Structural Economics, Peking University
2020 Summer	Lectures on Urban Economics, Urban Economics Association
2020 Summer	SAIF-CAFR Financial Research Summer Camp, Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Others

Languages: English (fluent), Chinese (native)

Computer Skills: Julia (Computing), Stata (Data), R (Visualization), Python, MATLAB, Linux, LaTeX

Seminar Organizer: Graduate Student Chinese Economy Workshop (GSCE)

References

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Abstracts

Lumpy Investment, Uncertainty, and Monetary Policy

(Job Market Paper)

I study the impact of fluctuations in firm-level uncertainty on the effectiveness of monetary policy when investment is lumpy. I first document empirically that high uncertainty hinders firms' investment responses to monetary stimulus, especially at the extensive margin (changes in the number of firms choosing between (dis)investing or staying inactive). I then develop a heterogeneous firm New Keynesian model with random fixed costs and partial irreversibility of capital adjustment. These adjustment costs create a sizable extensive margin of investment which is more sensitive to changes in the interest rate and firm-level uncertainty than the intensive margin. Hence, monetary policy works primarily through the extensive margin of investment. Upon an uncertainty shock, firms tend to stay inactive at the extensive margin, so monetary stimulus can hardly motivate investment at the extensive margin. As a result, the effectiveness of monetary policy is reduced. I then parameterize the model. I find that its quantitative implications for both monetary policy and uncertainty are primarily shaped by the specifications of capital adjustment costs. Unlike much of the prior literature, I use the dynamic moments of investment to identify this key model element. Based on this parameterization, I show that an aggregate shock to firm-level uncertainty estimated by Bloom et al.(2018) reduces the effectiveness of monetary stimulus on investment by half. This reduction is about 85% of what I find in the data. Therefore, the effect of monetary policy depends on lumpy investment and time-varying uncertainty.

Migration, Housing Constraints, and Inequality: A Quantitative Analysis of China

(with Zibin Huang)

We investigate the role of migration and housing constraints in determining income inequality within and across Chinese cities. Combining microdata and a spatial equilibrium model, we quantify the impact of the massive spatial reallocation of workers and the rapid growth of housing costs on the national income distribution. We first show several stylized facts detailing the strong positive correlation between migration inflows, housing costs, and imputed income inequality among Chinese cities. We then build a spatial equilibrium model featuring workers with heterogeneous skills, housing constraints, and heterogeneous returns from housing ownership to explain these facts. Our quantitative results indicate that the reductions in migration costs and the disproportionate growth in productivity

across cities and skills result in the observed massive migration flows. Combining with the tight land supply policy in big cities, the expansion of the housing demand causes the rapid growth of housing costs and enlarges the inequality between local housing owners and migrants. The counterfactual analysis shows that if we redistribute land supply increment by migrant flow and increase land supply toward cities with more migrants, we could lower the within-city income inequality by 14% and the national income inequality by 18%. Meanwhile, we can simultaneously encourage more migration into higher productivity cities.

Lumpy Debt, Monetary Policy, and Investment

(with Minjie Deng)

We study how financial heterogeneity determines firm-level investment responses to monetary policy shocks. In Compustat, a significant amount of firms hold almost zero debt, and among the firms who hold debt, both the amount and the maturity of debt vary greatly. We refer to these financial heterogeneity characteristics as *lumpy debt*. We first document that *lumpy debt* significantly affects the responses of firm investment to monetary policy shocks: firms who hold debt, hold more debt, and hold more long-term debt, are less responsive to monetary policy shocks. We then develop a heterogeneous firm model with investment, long-term and short-term debt, and default risk to interpret these facts. In the model, firms with higher leverage or more long-term debt are less responsive to monetary policy shocks because their marginal cost of external finance is high. The effect of monetary policy on aggregate investment, therefore, depends on the distribution of firm financial positions.

Place-based Land Allocation Policy and Spatial Misallocation: Evidence from China

(with Libin Han, Zibin Huang, Ming Lu, and Li Zhang)

We study how place-based land allocation policy creates spatial misallocation. Combining microdata and a spatial equilibrium model, we quantify the impact of place-based land allocation policy on spatial misallocation. Using a border regression discontinuity design on China's inland favoring urban land quota system since 2003, we first show empirical facts detailing the spatial misallocation of land prices and firm-level TFP created by the place-based land allocation policy. We then build a spatial equilibrium model featuring worker mobility, heterogeneous skills, housing ownership inequality, residential and commercial floor space constraints, and agglomeration effects. We use Census-level individual survey to solve the model results for each Chinese city and provide a unique two-stage estimation of the agglomeration parameters. In the model, spatial misallocation are created from three sources on top of limitations from natural capacity and migration costs: 1).inefficient land allocation across cities; 2).inefficient land allocation between residence and commerce; 3).reduced agglomeration effects. Counterfactuals that lower land allocation distortion across/within cities ease spatial misallocation as well as improve national productivity.

What Do Alibaba Data Tell Us about Quality Growth in China?

(with Mark Bils, Zibin Huang, and Tianchen Song)

Does the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation for consumer durables reflect quality growth or inflation? This well-known question lies at the core of evaluating inflation and quality growth over time, which are essential for macroeconomics. In this project, we try to account for quality growth in measuring inflation. As we know, households can substitute for low-quality goods with high-quality ones. If we do not account for quality changes when calculating the inflation, it can lead to an overestimation of the "pure" price increase. The problem is even more severe in developing countries with fast economic growth. In this study, we participate in the Huoshui Research Plan in Alibaba Group and get detailed sales data for different brands and models of mobile phones in different regions. We first measure quality growth and how much it contributes to the mobile phone's overall price growth. In the next step, we want to use data set with a broad category of commodities from Alibaba and quantify the quality and price growth for China's whole retailing market.