

Francis Guiton

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Canadian

Research Interests:

Industrial Organization, Business Economics, Applied Econometrics

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Toronto 2024 (Expected)

Committee: Victor Aguirregabiria (supervisor), Heski Bar-Isaac,
Avi Goldfarb

M.A in Economics, McGill University 2018

Committee: Laura Lasio (supervisor)

B.Com. in Economics, McGill University 2016

RESEARCH

Managerial Incentives, Common Ownership, and Within-Firm Competition in Retail Chains (Job Market Paper)

Decentralized Decision-Making in Retail Chains: Evidence from Inventory Management with Victor Aguirregabiria [Under Journal Review]

AWARDS AND GRANTS

University of Toronto Doctoral Fellowship 2018 - 2024

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant 2018 - present

- ECO 310, ECO 380: Industrial Organization
- ECO 404: Managerial Economics
- ECO 460: Financial Risk Management
- ECO 374: Forecasting and Time Series
- ECO 220: Applied Econometrics
- ECO 105, ECO 200, ECO 202, ECO 313: Microeconomics and Macroeconomics

Research Assistant

2017 - 2021

- Victor Aguirregabiria (University of Toronto): Advanced programming and numerical analysis
- Jim Goldman (University of Toronto): Data collection and cleaning
- Francesca Carrieri (McGill University): Data analysis

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (* ATTENDED BY COAUTHOR)

Annual Conference of the European Association for Research in Industrial Economics (Rome)	2023
Annual Conference of the International Association for Applied Econometrics (Oslo)	2023
Annual Conference of the Canadian Economics Association (Winnipeg)	2023
Access to Cash and Financial Services Workshop (Ottawa)	2023
Annual Conference of the Canadian Economics Association (Ottawa)	2022
International Industrial Organization Conference (Boston)*	2022
Conference to Honor John Rust (Washington)*	2022
Annual Conference of the European Association for Research in Industrial Economics (Bergen)	2021

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Training Coordinator for Teaching Assistants, Department of Economics	2021
Co-President, Graduate Economics Union	2019 - 2020

LANGUAGES

French (native), English (native)
Programming: MATLAB, Stata, R

REFERENCES

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Abstracts

Managerial Incentives, Common Ownership, and Within-Firm Competition in Retail Chains

(Job Market Paper)

Managerial incentives designed to reward individual performance can decrease the degree of common ownership, leading to a misalignment of objectives between the organization and its managers. This paper examines this trade-off in the context of a large Canadian retail chain, in which store managers receive performance-based incentives for overseeing the inventory management of their store. Using a revealed preference approach, the estimation of a game of product assortment decisions shows that the degree of common ownership varies significantly across store managers in the retail chain. Particularly, results indicate that a larger store size and a closer proximity to rivals are associated with lower degrees of common ownership, creating an avenue for within-firm competition. Counterfactual experiments reveal that competitive interactions imply a substantial profit loss for the organization, particularly within denser clusters of stores, but that the impact on consumer surplus is ambiguous. Incentives that align the degree of common ownership across managers – for instance, by enhancing the role of district managers – are explored, and are found to mitigate these cannibalization effects.

Decentralized Decision-Making in Retail Chains: Evidence from Inventory Management

with Victor Aguirregabiria [Under Journal Review]

This paper investigates the impact of decentralizing inventory decision-making in multi-establishment firms using data from a large retail chain. Analyzing two years of daily data, we find significant heterogeneity among the inventory decisions made by 634 store managers. By estimating a dynamic structural model, we reveal substantial heterogeneity in managers' perceived costs. Moreover, we observe a correlation between the variance of these perceptions and managers' education and experience. Counterfactual experiments show that centralized inventory management reduces costs by eliminating the impact of managers' skill heterogeneity. However, these benefits are offset by the negative impact of delayed demand information.