Frank (F.J.J.) Leenders

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Citizenship: Dutch
Research Interests: Macroeconomics, Labour Economics

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Toronto	2022 (Expected)
Committee: Gueorgui Kambourov (co-supervisor), Ronald Wolthoff (co-supervisor), Serdar Ozkan	
M.Res in Economics, Tilburg University (no degree), 2014-15	-
M.A in Economics, University of Alberta	2013
M.Sc in Economics, Tilburg University	2012
B.Sc in Economics and Business Economics, Tilburg University	2011

Research

Recall and the Scarring Effects of Job Displacement (Job Market Paper)

Job Displacement Scars over the Earnings Distribution

Occupational Mobility over the Business Cycle

Unemployment Risk and Lifetime Earnings Inequality: The Role of Worker and Firm Heterogeneity (with Serdar Ozkan)

Awards and Grants

Maurice Cody Research Fellowship, University of Toronto	2019
PhD Student Research Grant (Department of Economics), University of Toronto	2019
Award for Excellence in Teaching by Teaching Assistants in Economics, University of Toronto (Department of Economics)	2019
Moira Whalon Prize, Massey College (in the University of Toronto)	2018
University of Toronto Doctoral Fellowship	2015 - 2020
Junior Fellowship, Massey College (in the University of Toronto)	2015 - 2020
CentER Scholarship, Tilburg University	2014 - 2015
Excellence Scholarship, Tilburg University	2012

Professional Experience

Course Instructor 2019

- ECO 208: Macroeconomic Theory (joint with Cory Langlais)

Teaching Assistant 2012; 2015 - present

- ECO 100: Introductory Economics [Undergraduate]
- ECO 102: Principles of Macroeconomics [Undergraduate]
- ECO 208: Macroeconomic Theory [Undergraduate]
- ECO 209: Macroeconomics for Commerce [Undergraduate]
- ECO 345/352: Special Topics: Macroeconomics and the Labour market [Undergraduate]
- ECO 1011: Mathematics and Statistics for PhD and MA Doctoral Stream Students [Graduate]
- ECO 2021/2100: Macroeconomic Theory I (PhD) [Graduate]
- Macroeconomics for Business Administration (Dutch) [Undergraduate]
- ECON 385: Intermediate Macroeconomics II [Undergraduate]

Research Assistant 2015 - present

- Ronald Wolthoff: Literature Review, Data Analysis, Theoretical Analysis
- Serdar Ozkan: Numerical Analysis
- Zachary Mahone: Data Analysis

Conference Presentations

Annual Conference, European Association of Labour Economists (Padua, Online)	2021
PhD - Economics Virtual Seminar (PhD-EVS, Online)	2021
Young Economist Symposium (Princeton, Online)	2021
EEA-ESEM Congress (Copenhagen, Online)	2021
Annual Conference, Canadian Economics Association (Vancouver, Online)	2021
CIREQ Ph.D. Students' Conference (Montreal, Online)	2021
10th Annual Search and Matching Conference (Copenhagen, Online)	2021
Dutch Economist Week (Amsterdam, Online)	2020

Refereeing Experience

Macroeconomic Dynamics

Academic Service

Graduate Department Academic Appeals Committee, Department of Economics, University of Toronto 2019 - 2020

Languages

Dutch (native), English (fluent)
Programming: Stata, Fortran 90/95, MATLAB

References

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Abstracts

Recall and the Scarring Effects of Job Displacement

(Job Market Paper)

Workers who lose their job in mass layoffs, on average, experience a large and persistent decrease in earnings, often referred to as a scarring effect. However, these effects abstract from the fact that many workers who lose their job end up returning to their previous employer (i.e. they are recalled) rather than finding a new job. I contribute to our understanding of the scarring effect of job displacement by exploring how it differs by whether or not workers are recalled to their previous employer. I use administrative employer-employee data from Germany to document these differences. I then develop a job search model that can explain these heterogeneous effects by ex-post recall status, as well as the average scarring effect. I find in the data that earnings losses are larger for individuals who are recalled to their previous employer than for workers who move to a new job, even though recalled workers are re-employed faster. I find that this larger earnings loss for recalled workers is driven by larger employment loss in the short run and by larger wage loss in the long run. Using the calibrated model, I show that an important factor in explaining recalled workers' larger long-term losses is that these workers are more likely to experience repeated job loss.

Job Displacement Scars over the Earnings Distribution

Workers who are displaced from their job experience a well-documented scarring effect: a large and persistent earnings loss on average. However, these average effects mask a substantial amount of heterogeneity among a number of observable dimensions. In this paper, I explore how the scarring effect of job displacement differs by the affected workers' earnings prior to displacement. I use detailed administrative data from Germany to analyze this dimension empirically. I find that earnings losses, relative to pre-displacement earnings, are larger for individuals whose recent earnings situate them at the bottom of the earnings distribution. This seemingly contradicts existing models that can explain the average scarring effect, as these are generally based on the idea of a job ladder, and thus imply that workers at the top of the earnings distribution should suffer from larger (relative) earnings losses. I then propose a model in which displaced workers do not fall off the ladder completely. Rather, the size of their drop is determined by the characteristics of the firm they were laid off from. I show that this setup enables the model to explain larger relative earnings losses at the bottom of the recent earnings distribution.

Occupational Mobility over the Business Cycle

This paper proposes a job search model of occupational mobility in which a worker can change occupations not only when unemployed (as in the existing literature), but also when employed. This extension of the existing literature is motivated by observations from the 2004 and 2008 panels of the SIPP, as well as by existing empirical stylized facts in the literature. Simulations of the calibrated model show that this proposed extended model can replicate a mildly countercyclical occupational mobility rate as well as a countercyclical fraction of occupational switchers going through an unemployment spell, a feature not generated by existing models.

Unemployment Risk and Lifetime Earnings Inequality: The Role of Worker and Firm Heterogeneity

with Serdar Ozkan

Workers differ greatly in the unemployment risk they face and these differences are key for understanding lifetime earnings inequality, especially between bottom- and median- earners. In this paper, we quantify the importance of firm and worker fixed effects in heterogeneity in unemployment risk. For this purpose, we build on Jarosch (2021) and develop a job ladder model featuring two sided heterogeneity. In this model, jobs differ in productivity and unemployment risk, and workers differ in productivity and job ladder risk—job loss and job finding rates. Therefore, workers face different unemployment risk because of their innate differences as well as the different jobs they have. We estimate the model using moments derived from administrative data from the US Social Security Administration. Our preliminary results show that worker effects explain the majority of differences in unemployment risk (and thereby in lifetime earnings) while firm effects explain relatively little.