John W. Heilbron

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Education

| 2022(e) | Ph.D. in Finance, Booth School of Business Committee: Amir Sufi, Elisabeth Kempf, Scott Nelson, Anthony Zhang |
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| 2020 | M.A. in Economics, University of Chicago |
| 2014 | B.A. in Social Studies, Harvard College Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa Junior Year (top 1% of class) |
| Interests | |
| Research | Household Finance, Public Finance, Real Estate, Urban, Discrimination, Hedonic and Discrete Choice Models, Historical Methods |
| Teaching | Household Finance, Corporate Finance, Price Theory, Applied Micro-economics |

Job Market Paper

• "Credit Constraints and the Valuation of Local Public Amenities." 2021.

I demonstrate that credit constraints may bias price-based (cf. rent-based) hedonic valuations of local public amenities, distorting welfare analysis and potentially causing under-investment in amenities. To measure this bias, I apply the hedonic framework to a problem of mortgage choice in the presence of credit constraints. I use Fannie Mae pricing grids and private mortgage insurance requirements to construct borrower-level mortgage choice menus and estimate the extent of bias among fixed-rate agency loan borrowers. I find evidence of considerable bias, \sim 50pp.

Working Papers

• "The Loan-to-Value Elasticity of Housing Demand: Evidence from Bunching in FHA Borrowing." 2021.

I adapt the bunching framework to measure the loan-to-value elasticity of housing demand. Unlike existing literature, my estimator can identify the effect of credit supply while remaining agnostic about how households form beliefs over future housing returns. I measure a statistically significant elasticity of demand, suggesting that households are credit constrained at the time of home purchase. The elasticity is economically small, ~ 14 -25bp, suggesting that shocks to credit supply drove housing demand largely through the channel of household beliefs.

• "Housing Wealth Management at Retirement." 2019.

I instrument retirement with programmatic Social Security eligibility thresholds and find that retirement makes a household ~ 12 pp more likely to issue any new mortgage debt and ~ 3 pp more likely to extract equity from a home within the following two years. The transaction costs associated with refinancing and the predictability of retirement suggest that households may save excessive funds in housing wealth relative to a rational benchmark.

"Decision-Making by Precedent and the Founding of American Honda (1949-1972)." With Ramon Casadesus-Masanell. 2016.

We review archival documents and conduct a novel oral history to document that Kihachiro Kawashima, President of American Honda from 1959 to 1965, made decisions according to precedent set by his boss and mentor, chief strategist of Honda, Takeo Fujisawa. We argue that decision-making by precedent represents neither 'deliberate' nor 'emergent' strategy because it is characterized by intentions of upper-management that are neither present nor absent but fictive. We propose and define an alternative: 'subjunctive' strategy.

Teaching Experience

| Spring 2021 | 35801: Corporate Finance (TA to Anthony Marciano, 2 EMBA sections) |
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| Spring 2020 | 20410: Corporate Finance (TA to Elisabeth Kempf, 1 Undergrad section) |
| Fall 2019 | 35200: Corporate Finance (TA to Constantine Yannelis, 2 MBA sections) |
| Fall 2018 | 35200: Corporate Finance (TA to Pascal Noel, 3 MBA sections) |

Previous Employment

| 2019 | Research Assistant, Booth School of Business, Prof. Elisabeth Kempf |
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| 2014 – 16 | Research Associate, Harvard Business School, Prof. Ramon Casadesus-Masanell |

Fellowships, Awards, and Honors

| 2021 | Fama-Miller Center Grant: "Credit Constraints and the Valuation of Local Public Amenities" |
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| 2021 | Eugene Fama Ph.D. Fellowship |
| 2020 | Fama-Miller Center Grant: "Credit Market Discrimination and Public School Desegregation" |
| 2020 | Fischer Black Ph.D. Fellowship |
| 2019 | Liew Fama-Miller Fellowship, Best 3rd Year Finance Student Paper |
| 2019 | Fama-Miller Center Grant: "Probation Monitoring and Household Financial Health" |
| 2017 | CRSP Summer Grant |
| 2016-20 | Booth Ph.D. Program Fellowship |

Presentations and Conference Attendance

| 2021 | Booth Finance Seminar*, Sufi Student Working Group*, Booth Finance Student Brownbag*, Chicago Student Applied Micro Lunch*, Booth Household and Corporate Lending Conference, Chicago Household Finance Conference, NBER Summer Institute, Booth Household Finance Summer Reading Group* |
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| 2020 | Sufi Student Working Group*, Booth Finance Student Brownbag*, NYU Research Seminar in Empirical Household Finance, ASSA Annual Meeting |
| 2019 | Yale Summer School in Behavioral Finance, Booth Finance Student Brownbag* |
| 2018 | Booth Finance Student Brownbag* |