

Jane Olmstead-Rumsey

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Economics

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Evanston, IL 60208 Citizenship: United States

Fields Research: Macroeconomics, firm dynamics, labor markets, growth

Teaching: Macroeconomics

Education Ph.D.: Economics, Northwestern University, 2021 (anticipated)

Dissertation: Essays in Macroeconomics and Firm Dynamics

Committee: Matthias Doepke (Chair), Guido Lorenzoni, David Berger, Benjamin Jones

M.A.: Economics, Northwestern University, 2017

B.A.: Economics/International Affairs, George Washington University (GWU), 2013

Fellowships AEA Summer Economics Fellow, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, 2020

Northwestern University Fellowship, 2018-2021

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2015-2018

George Washington University Office of the Vice President of Research Fellowship, 2011

Awards Northwestern Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award, 2019

Distinguished Scholar (top student in GWU Elliott School of International Affairs), 2013

Teaching Experience Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, 2018-2019

Advanced Workshop for Central Bankers Intermediate Macroeconomics (undergraduate) Introduction to Macroeconomics (undergraduate)

Research Experience Research Assistant, Matthias Doepke, Northwestern University, 2019-2020

Research Assistant, Guido Lorenzoni & Luigi Bocola, Northwestern University, 2017-2019 Research Assistant, David Berger & Lorenz Kueng, Northwestern University, 2018

Work Experience Summer Economics Fellow, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, 2020

Research Assistant, Emerging Markets section, Federal Reserve Board of Governors, 2013-2015

Short Term Temporary, Independent Evaluation Group, World Bank, 2013

Presentations 2020: Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Federal Reserve Board of Governors Pre-Job Market

Conference, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis PhD Student Workshop, Bank of Italy/CEPR

labour market workshop

2019: CREI student macro lunch, Midwest Macroeconomics spring meeting, WashU Economics

Graduate Student Conference

Refereeing Journal of International Economics, Journal of Economic Theory, Journal of Public Economics,

Explorations in Economic History, Journal of Banking and Finance

Working Papers "Market Concentration and the Productivity Slowdown," July 2020

Since around 2000, U.S. aggregate productivity growth has slowed and product market concentration has risen. I present new evidence that average patent quality has fallen over the same period, particularly among laggard firms. I develop an endogenous growth model with innovations of heterogeneous quality. Depending on distance to the technology frontier, firms face draws from different innovation quality distributions. Consistent with the data, lowering the expected quality of laggards' innovations generates wider average productivity gaps between leaders and followers in steady state, increased concentration, and slower aggregate productivity growth. In the estimated model, between a quarter and a half of the slowdown is due to firms' endogenous responses to changes in the patent quality distribution. The model's industry structure allows me to explore alternative hypotheses about rising market power or the emergence of superstar firms, but I conclude that declining patent quality provides a better fit for the data.

"This Time It's Different: The Role of Women's Employment in a Pandemic Recession," with Titan Alon, Matthias Doepke, and Michèle Tertilt, NBER WP 27660, August 2020

In recent US recessions, employment losses have been much larger for men than for women. In the current recession caused by the Covid-19 pandemic the opposite is true: unemployment is higher among women. In this paper, we analyze the causes and consequences of this phenomenon. We argue that women experience sharp employment losses in part because women's employment is concentrated in heavily affected sectors such as restaurants, but also because increased childcare needs due to school and daycare closures prevent many women from working. We analyze the repercussions of these facts using a quantitative macroeconomic model featuring heterogeneity in gender, marital status, childcare needs, and human capital. Our quantitative analysis suggests that a pandemic recession will i) feature a strong transmission from employment to aggregate demand due to diminished within-household insurance; ii) result in a widening of the gender wage gap throughout the recovery; iii) contribute to a weakening of gender norms that currently lead to a lopsided distribution of the division of labor in home work and child care.

"Sector-Specific Shocks and the Expenditure Elasticity Channel During the COVID-19 Crisis" with Ana Danieli, May 2020

The COVID-19 economic crisis differs from past recessions in terms of the sectors and occupations that are being hit first. In this paper we propose a model with sectoral and occupational heterogeneity and non-homothetic preferences over sectors. That is, households' consumption bundles depend on income and they cut consumption on high income-elastic sectors when labor income falls. We first document that contact intensive occupations are concentrated in just a few, high-income-elasticity sectors. By contrast, production/manufacturing occupations are distributed widely across sectors. We then compare a COVID-19 type shock affecting service sectors first to a more "standard" recession affecting manufacturing in our model calibrated to match the U.S. economy. Our main result is that the increase in labor income inequality in the COVID-19 recession is one and a half times the increase in a normal recession due to the fact that contact intensive service workers are low income and work mainly in high income-elasticity sectors.

"Country Banks and the Panic of 1825," May 2019

The Panic of 1825 was one of the world's first international financial crises. In this paper, I document how this crisis spread from London banks to England's real economy. England's correspondent banking network propagated trouble in sovereign debt markets to small banks outside of London and ultimately to non-financial firms. Using exogenous variation in town-level exposure to the crisis, I show that bank failures led to a substantial number of bankruptcies among non-financial firms, particularly in non-tradable sectors. These findings highlight the costs of a disruption to the payment system: country bank notes were the primary means of payment during the first industrial revolution.

Jane Olmstead-Rumsey, Page 3

Works in Progress "Historical Measures of Market Concentration" with Amy Handlan

"Startup Exit and the Macroeconomy" with Federico Puglisi

Journal Articles "The Impact of COVID-19 on Gender Equality," with Titan Alon, Matthias Doepke, and Michèle

Tertilt," Covid Economics: Vetted and Real-Time Papers, Issue 4, 62-85, April 2020.

"How Effective are Macroprudential Policies? An Empirical Investigation," with Ozge Akinci,

Journal of Financial Intermediation, vol. 33, January 2018, p. 33-57

Other Publications "The impact of the coronavirus pandemic on gender equality," with Titan Alon, Matthias Doepke,

and Michèle Tertilt," VoxEU, April 2020.

Languages English (native), Spanish (intermediate)