## Kareem Haggag

Last updated on January 20, 2017

Contact Carnegie Mellon University (773) 710-0773

Information Social and Decision Sciences kareem.haggag@cmu.edu

http://www.kareemhaggag.com Porter Hall, 208-H Pittsburgh, PA 15213 Citizenship: United States

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA ACADEMIC Positions

January 2017 -

Social and Decision Sciences Department

Assistant Professor

Yale University, New Haven, CT July 2016 - December 2016

Innovations for Poverty Action - Financial Inclusion Program

Postdoctoral Fellow

University of Chicago, Booth School of Business, Chicago, IL **EDUCATION** 

> Ph.D. in Economics 2010 - 2016

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

2004 - 2008 B.A. in Economics

Research Interests

Behavioral Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Publications

Learning By Driving: Productivity Improvements by New York City Taxi **Drivers** (with Brian McManus & Giovanni Paci)

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, 2017, 9(1): 70-95.

Abstract: We study learning by doing (LBD) by New York City taxi drivers, who have substantial discretion over their driving strategies and receive compensation closely tied to their success in finding customers. In addition to documenting significant learning by these entrepreneurial agents, we exploit our data's breadth to investigate the factors that contribute to driver improvement across a variety of situations. New drivers lag farther behind experienced drivers when in difficult situations. Drivers benefit from accumulating neighborhood-specific experience, which affects how they search for their next customers.

**Default Tips** (with Giovanni Paci)

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, 2014, 6(3): 1-19

Abstract: We examine the role of defaults in high-frequency, small-scale choices using unique data on over 13 million NYC taxi rides. We exploit a shift in the set of default tip suggestions presented to customers prior to payment, as the base fare changes from below \$15 to above \$15. Using a regression discontinuity design, we show that default suggestions have a large impact on tip amounts. These results are supported by a secondary analysis that uses the quasi-random assignment of customers to different cars to examine default effects on all fares above \$15. Finally, we highlight a potential cost of setting defaults too high, as a higher proportion of customers opt to leave no credit card tip when presented with the higher suggested amounts.

Editors' Choice: Science Magazine, Vol 345(6203)

## WORKING PAPERS

## Attribution Bias in Consumer Choice (with Devin Pope)

Abstract: When judging the value of a good, people may be overly influenced by the state in which they previously consumed it. For example, someone who tries out a new restaurant while very hungry may subsequently rate it as high quality, even if the food is mediocre. We produce a simple framework for this form of attribution bias that embeds a standard model of decision making as a special case. We test for attribution bias across two consumer decisions. First, we conduct an experiment in which we randomly manipulate the thirst of participants prior to consuming a new drink. Second, using data from thousands of amusement park visitors, we explore how pleasant weather during their most recent trip affects their stated likelihood of returning. In both of these domains, we find evidence that people misattribute the influence of a temporary state to a stable quality of the consumption good. We provide evidence against several alternative accounts for our findings and discuss the broader implications of attribution bias in economic decision making.

WORK Innovations for Poverty Action

June 2008 - July 2010

EXPERIENCE

Project Associate

Professional Activities Russell Sage Foundation Summer Institute in Behavioral Economics (2014)

Referee Service: American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic

Review, Economic Journal, Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics,

Management Science

Invited Presentations **2017**: University of Pittsburgh (*scheduled*), Yale University (*scheduled*)

2016: Carnegie Mellon University, Cornell University, Early-Career Behavioral Economics Conference (Bonn, Germany), SITE Experimental Conference (Stanford), University of California - San Diego (Rady), University of Oregon, University of

Tennessee

2013: 9th Annual Whitebox Advisors Graduate Student Conference (Yale SOM)

Fellowships

Agency of Healthcare Research and Quality T32 Training Fellowship

Russell Sage Foundation Small Grant in Behavioral Economics

2013
University of Chicago Booth Ph.D. Fellowship

2010-2015

John List

Department of Economics

University of Chicago

ilist@uchicago.edu

References

Devin Pope
Booth School of Business
University of Chicago
devin.pope@chicagobooth.edu

Marianne Bertrand Richard Thaler

Booth School of Business
University of Chicago

Booth School of Business
University of Chicago

marianne.bertrand@chicagobooth.edu richard.thaler@chicagobooth.edu