Kieran Marray

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Citizenship: Britain, Ireland

Interests Primary: Economics and Econometrics of Networks

Secondary: Machine Learning for Economics

Education PhD Economics, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and Tinbergen Institute 2022-present

Supervised by Dr Michael König, and Prof. Ozan Candogan (University of Chicago).

Thesis: Essays in econometrics of networks.

MPhil Economics and Econometrics, Tinbergen Institute 2020-2022

Major: Econometrics. GPA: 8.42 (summa cum laude).

BA Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, University of Oxford 2016-2019

References

Dr Michael König Prof. Ozan Candogan

School of Business and Economics, Booth School of Business,
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, University of Chicago
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Prof. Gordon Phillips Dr François Lafond

Tuck School of Business INET Oxford

Dartmouth College Manor Road Building, Manor Road,

100 Tuck Hall, Hanover, NH 03755 Oxford OX1 3UQ

 $gordon.m.phillips@tuck.dartmouth.edu \\ francois.lafond@inet.ox.ac.uk$

Employment Predoctoral researcher, Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford 2018-2020

Supervised by Prof. J. Doyne Farmer and Dr François Lafond

Academic Fellow, Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Amsterdam 2022-present

affiliations Visitor, INET Oxford, University of Oxford 2023

Working papers Estimating spillovers from sampled connections

Job market paper, ArXiv pre-print 2410.17154.

Abstract: Empirical researchers often estimate spillover effects by fitting linear or non-linear regression models to sampled network data. We show that common sampling schemes bias these estimates, potentially upwards, and derive biased-corrected estimators that researchers can construct from aggregate network statistics. Our results apply under different assumptions on the relationship between observed and unobserved links, allow researchers to bound true effect sizes, and to determine robustness to mismeasured links. As an application, we estimate the propagation of climate shocks between U.S. public firms from self-reported supply links, building a new dataset of county-level incidence of large climate shocks.

Network rewiring and spatial targeting: optimal disease mitigation

in multilayer networks with Ozan Candogan, Michael König, and Frank Takes.

Resubmission invited, American Economic Review: Insights

Abstract: We study disease spread on a multi-layered social network where susceptible individuals rewire contacts away from infectious to avoid infection. Rewiring complements mitigation policy by allowing more intergroup contact as the rewiring rate increases. We then show how to formulate the planner's problem of targeting lockdowns to prevent disease becoming endemic at minimum cost with rewiring as a semidefinite program that is tractable with many groups and layers. As an application, we compute counterfactual optimal spatially-targeted lockdowns for the Netherlands during Covid-19, building a population-level contact network and estimating the rewiring rate from epidemiological data to do so.

Estimating unobserved networks with heterogeneous characteristics, and an application to the Swing Riots

SSRN pre-print 5338970.

Abstract: Often, researchers do not observe interactions between individuals that mediate outcomes but do observe rich individual-level characteristics. We present an estimator for unobserved networks from individual outcomes and characteristics that determine who links with whom. The estimator recovers the network by decomposing the covariance matrix of outcomes, penalising possible links differently based on pairwise individual characteristics. We provide theoretical bounds on estimation error, and a fast coordinate descent algorithm that makes estimation tractable for large networks. As an application, we estimate which parishes, distributed in space, rose together during the Swing Riots of 1830–1831. We find evidence of a small core of connected uprisings centered on known radical parishes amongst otherwise sporadic unrest. Exposure to different types of uprising polarise elite preferences to expand the right to vote.

Research in progress

Global competitor networks

with François Lafond, Gordon Phillips, and Michael König

Place-based policy in endogenous production networks

with Xianglong Kong, Katie MacDonald, Peter Ohlinger, and Ruochen Dai.

Awards, grants, and scholarships

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Minor Grant in Mesoeconomics

(with Xianglong Kong, Katie MacDonald, Peter Ohlinger, and Ruochen Dai)

Scholarships: Full scholarship and tuition waiver, Tinbergen Institute (2020-2022); Laidlaw research and leadership scholarship, value of £10,000 (2018)

Studentships: Sloan Foundation studentship in Mesoeconomics, University of Cambridge (2024); 'Optimisation-Conscious Econometrics', University of Chicago (2023).

External travel grants: Workshop on Firm-Level Supply Networks, University of Oxford (2025); 12th Warwick Phd Conference, University of Warwick (2024); Workshop on Firm-Level Supply Networks, University of Cambridge (2023).

Invited talks (selected)

Network Science in Economics conference (poster), Stanford University	2025
10th Monash-Paris-Warwick-Zurich-CEPR Text-as-Data Workshop	
Workshop on Firm-Level Supply Networks, University of Oxford	2025
European Economic Association summer meeting	2024
European summer meeting of the Econometric Society	

12th Warwick Phd conference, University of Warwick

Complexity Economics Seminar, Oxford Martin School, University of Oxford

Workshop on Firm-Level Supply Networks, University of Cambridge

2023

2024

1st International Workshop on Population-Scale Social Network Analysis,

Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Amsterdam

Refereeing Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organisation, Applied Network Science

Teaching Urban economics: challenges and policies, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam,

TA 2023-present

Interactive lecture notes

Lecture on 'Introduction to nonparametric and semiparametric estimation'.

Applied econometrics, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, TA 2023-present

Master-level applied econometrics course for spatial economics students.

Econometrics I, Tinbergen Institute, TA 2021

Introductory R lecture notes

Programming Proficient: **Julia** (preferred), **R**, and **Python**, HPC and AWS environments.

 ${\bf Unprofessional} \qquad {\rm Rock\text{-}climbing, squash}$

Activities