#### Laura C. Murphy

# Northwestern Economics

Placement Director: Placement Administrator: Prof. Alessandro Pavan Lola Ittner

847-491-8266 847-491-5213 alepavan@northwestern.edu econjobmarket@northwestern.edu

CONTACT Information Department of Economics Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive

Evanston, IL 60208

Mobile: 224-421-2629 laura.murphy@u.northwestern.edu www.lauracharlottemurphy.com

Citizenship: Canadian

RESEARCH INTERESTS Macroeconomics and Household Finance

**EDUCATION** 

PhD in Economics, Northwestern University

(expected) 2025

Committee: Martin Eichenbaum (Co-chair), Matthias Doepke (Co-chair),

& Matthew Rognlie

MA Economics, Northwestern University

2019

BA in Economics w/ Environmental Studies minor, Victoria College & University of Toronto 2017

WORK IN PROGRESS

### The Term Structure of Debt Commitments, Liquidity Concerns, and Durable Good Choices

This paper investigates the role of liquidity constraints in shaping loan term choices within the auto loan market, a major component of household debt in the United States. I address two key features of auto loan term lengths in the U.S.: their substantial cross-sectional heterogeneity and the notable rise in average term lengths over time. Using data from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York/Equifax Consumer Credit Panel, along with supplemental income and price data, I establish a causal link between liquidity constraints and loan term lengths, demonstrating that much of the cross-sectional variation in term lengths can be attributed to differences in liquidity constraints among borrowers. To further analyze these patterns, I develop a quantitative model of term length choice, showing that access to longer loan terms enables borrowers to smooth consumption and manage debt more effectively. Through this model, I also demonstrate that while time-series variation in liquidity constraints alone does not fully account for the increase in term lengths, the narrowing gap between interest rates on debt and savings, when interacted with liquidity constraints, has contributed to the observed trend toward longer loan maturities.

#### Baby Boom and Income Bust: Demographics and Lifetime Income with Fergal Hanks

We study how demographic changes in the US affect men's lifetime incomes through career spillovers. American men's lifetime median incomes have followed a hump-shaped pattern: rising with each cohort entering the labour market from the late 1950s until the 1970s, and subsequently falling. The start of decline coincides with the entry of the baby boomers who represent a structural break in the size of incoming cohorts. The availability of higher-compensated management tasks increases with the number of lower ranked (younger) workers. So, a larger cohort of workers will increase (decrease) the opportunities of their predecessors(successors), in contrast to the symmetric effect predicted by traditional models. We utilize a simple model to show cross-cohort differences in promotions to higher rank jobs can account for the shape of lifetime median incomes observed in the data. We also show the promotion mechanism is consistent with several other cross-cohort empirical facts.

## Understanding the Fall of Female Labour Force Participation in Post-Industrial Revolution England with Marie-Louise Décamps & Myera Rashid

We study women's labor market participation in England between 1851 and 1911 using newly digitized census microdata. We document three novel facts. First, women's labor force

participation rate slightly decreased between 1851 and 1911, driven by a 40% decrease among married women. Secondly, examining synthetic cohorts reveals that the drop in married women's labor force participation is driven by younger cohorts choosing not to join the workforce, rather than older cohorts exiting at increasing rates. Lastly, we observe that women were predominantly employed in the textile and domestic service sectors. Our theoretical model suggests that increasing societal barriers may have influenced married women's labor market engagement over time.

AWARDS	Graduate Fellowship (Northwestern University)	2023 – 24
	AEA Summer Economics Fellow (Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago)	2023
	Distinguished TA Award (Northwestern University)	2021
	Adams Gold Medal (Victoria College at the University of Toronto)	2017
RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	Research Assistant, Prof. Martin Eichenbaum	2019-22
	Research Assistant, Prof. Christina Patterson	2020
	Research Assistant, Bank of Canada Economics & Financial Research Department	2017 - 18
	Research Assistant, Bank of Canada Canadian Economic Analysis Department	2016
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Undergraduate Econometrics, Gaston Illanes (Northwestern) Undergraduate Advanced Macroeconomics, Martin Eichenbaum (Northwestern) Graduate Macroeconomics I, Lawrence Christiano (Northwestern) Graduate Macroeconomics II, Martin Eichenbaum & Guido Lorenzoni (Northwestern) Graduate Macroeconomics III, Matthias Doepke (Northwestern) Undergraduate Advanced Game Theory, Jeff Ely (Northwestern)	2024 022, 2024 2020 2021 2021 2020
OTHER	Visiting Scholar, Chicago Federal Reserve	2024
EXPERIENCE	NBER Macroannual Rapporteur	2021
Programming	Python, Matlab, Stata	

LANGUAGES

English (native), French (basic)

REFERENCES Professor Martin Eichenbaum

> Department of Economics Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 847.491.7001

eich@northwestern.edu

Professor Matthew Rognlie Department of Economics Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208

847.491.8215

matthew.rognlie@northwestern.edu

Professor Matthias Doepke Department of Economics London School of Economics Houghton Street

London, England WC2A 2AE

m.doepke@lse.ac.uk

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