

Matias Bayas-Erazo

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Economics

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Fields Research: Macroeconomics, Optimal Taxation

Education Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University (anticipated) 2024

Dissertation: Essays in Macroeconomics

Committee: George-Marios Angeletos (co-chair), Guido Lorenzoni (co-chair), Alessandro

Pavan, Matthew Rognlie

M.Sc, Econometrics and Mathematical Economics, London School of Economics
 Master 1 in Economics, Toulouse School of Economics
 B.A, Economics, University of Virginia
 2014

Job Market Paper "Optimal Public Debt with Redistribution"

This paper studies the interaction between public debt and redistribution when markets are incomplete and agents are heterogeneous. I consider a standard heterogeneous agent model where the government controls both the progressivity of the tax schedule and the level of public debt. I compute the optimal mix of debt and progressivity, comparing two different concepts of long-run optimality. In both the optimal steady state and the Ramsey steady state, planners that care about redistribution favor *lower* levels of debt. I show that this is due to a novel interest rate channel: redistributive taxation reduces the need to self-insure and thus makes government borrowing more expensive. I back out the implied preferences for redistribution in the US and argue that they are inconsistent with both Utilitarian and Rawlsian criteria.

Other papers "Optimal Taxation with Rational Inattention" with George-Marios Angeletos

Brief abstract: We study optimal taxation when agents are rationally inattentive. Using a flexible model of inattention, we show that there is no corrective role for taxes when attention costs satisfy an invariance condition. At the same time, some forms of inattention generate inter-dependence across states: tax decisions in one state are no longer independent of those in other states. This coupling arises because an inattentive demand function depends on the price of goods in multiple states of the world. In contrast to the traditional view, inter-dependence may call for *lower* tax rates. In addition, it breaks Slutsky matrix symmetry and can justify state-dependent taxation.

"The Joint Dynamics of Labour and Capital" with Fergal Hanks

Brief abstract: Models of lumpy capital adjustment are too responsive to interest rates relative to empirical evidence. We argue that allowing for small convex adjustment costs in labour can help these models better match the data. Convex costs cause labour to increase slowly in response to a shock thus smoothing out the impact on the marginal product of capital. Due to both depreciation and uncertainty over future productivity, this delay in the benfits of additional capital can have a large impact on the responsiveness of capital investment.

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"Tariffs and Current Account Deficits" with Guido Lorenzoni

Fellowships & Awards

Dissertation University Fellowship, Northwestern University

Northwestern Graduate Fellowship

2023-2024 2018-2023

2018-2023

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University

Money and Banking

Intermediate Macroeconomics
Introduction to Macroeconomics

Corporate Finance Labor economics

Research Experience Research Assistant, George-Marios Angeletos, Northwestern University

Research Assistant, Alessandro Pavan, Northwestern University Research Assistant, Guido Lorenzoni, Northwestern University

Summer 2016

Summer 2023

Spring 2022

2019-2021

Research Assistant, Marco Macchiavelli, Board of Governors Federal Reserve

Languages and Skills

English (fluent), Spanish (native) Julia, Matlab, Python, R, ŁAFX

References

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