

# MATTHEW MILLINGTON

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Department of Economics, Arizona State University  
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Placement Director: Professor Natalia Kovrijnykh  
Placement Coordinator: Laura-Jean Talts

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## OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

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Tempe, AZ 85281  
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## EDUCATION

PhD in Economics, Arizona State University, 2018-present  
Thesis title: *Essays on the Labor Market*  
Expected completion date: May 2024

## References:

Domenico Ferraro, Associate Professor of  
Economics (Chair)  
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Gustavo Ventura, Professor of Economics  
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Economics & Executive Director of  
Undergraduate Programs  
kelvinwong@asu.edu  
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MS in Economics, Arizona State University, May 2021  
BS in Economics, Brigham Young University, December 2015, cum laude

## RESEARCH FIELDS

Macroeconomics, labor economics

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Instructor

Spring 2023  
Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2021  
Summer 2021

Spring 2021

Microeconomic Principles  
Macroeconomic Principles (online)  
Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory (in-person/online  
hybrid)  
Advanced Honors Macroeconomics (reassigned to in-  
struct the course for Edward Prescott)

### Teaching Assistant

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Spring 2021 | Financial Economics, assisting Rajnish Mehra              |
| Fall 2020   | Macroeconomic Principles, assisting Bart Hobijn           |
| Spring 2020 | Advanced Honors Macroeconomics, assisting Edward Prescott |
| Spring 2020 | Analysis of US Economy, assisting Bart Hobijn             |
| Fall 2019   | Economic Development, assisting Stephie Fried             |
| Fall 2019   | Macroeconomic Principles, assisting Joanna Girante        |

#### Undergraduate Advising

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Spring 2021 | Honor's Thesis Committee Member for Jack Fuller and Justin Fink |
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#### HONORS

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2021 | Best Third-Year Paper Presentation                    |
| 2021 | Distinguished Economics Graduate Instructor           |
| 2021 | John W. Teets Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant |

#### RESEARCH ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Summer 2021 | Research Assistant for Edward Prescott, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis |
| 2016-2017   | Research Assistant for Joe Price, NBER                                      |

#### CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2023 | ASU Macroeconomics Workshop                               |
| 2022 | Midwest Macro Fall Meetings, ASU Macroeconomics Workshop  |
| 2021 | ASU Macroeconomics Workshop, Ohanian-Hansen UCLA Workshop |

#### PUBLICATIONS

"Changes in Parental Gender Preference in the USA: Evidence from 1850 to 2019" with Todd R. Jones and Joseph Price, *Journal of Population Economics*, 2023.

#### WORKING PAPERS

On-the-Job Search, Human Capital Formation, and Lifecycle Wages (Job Market Paper)

**Abstract:** I build an equilibrium lifecycle model of wages that combines human capital accumulation with on-the-job search in a frictional labor market. In the model, heterogeneous workers endogenously invest in human capital accumulation and search effort, and firms post jobs. I discipline the model using microdata from the SIPP. Using the calibrated model, I show that on-the-job search is the driving force behind lifecycle wage growth, heterogeneous human capital accumulation is the driving force behind lifecycle wage dispersion, and there is significant heterogeneity in how workers attempt to increase their wage. I then use the model as a laboratory for studying tax and transfer progressivity. An increase in progressivity decreases wages, primarily due to reduced on-the-job search effort. Surprisingly, it has little effect on wage dispersion because the human capital and search channels offset one another.

Duration Dependence and Unemployment Persistence

**Abstract:** Unemployment is persistent over time, particularly as it decreases after recessions, but standard search models struggle to replicate this fact. I embed duration dependence in a basic search model and show that duration dependence helps to generate realistic unemployment persistence over the business cycle.

Intuitively, after recessions, the composition of the unemployment pool shifts to the long-term unemployed, and since they have lower job finding rates, this decreases the aggregate job finding rate and slows recovery. The effect is mitigated if (a) the appearance of duration dependence is driven by unobserved heterogeneity or (b) the recession is driven by a job separation shock.

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

Stopgap Jobs: Search and Temporary Jobs

**Abstract:** Only 2% of workers in the US have a temporary contract, but 10% of unemployment inflows and outflows involve temporary jobs. Using data from the SIPP and CPS Contingent Worker Supplement, I document that temporary jobs are consistent with “stopgap” behavior; workers tend to use temporary jobs as a short-term solution during an unemployment spell. I insert temporary jobs in a search-and-matching model with incomplete asset markets and calibrate the model to US data. In the model, workers accept temporary jobs if they have been unemployed for some time and their assets are low. I show that a model which does not take temporary jobs into account significantly understates the cost of unemployment because it attributes all job finding to permanent jobs, which are superior to temporary jobs.

## **PROGRAMMING SKILLS**

Python, MATLAB, Stata, LaTeX