

MATTHEW MILLINGTON

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OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

PhD in Economics, Arizona State University, 2018-present
Expected completion date: May 2024

References:

Domenico Ferraro, Associate Professor of
Economics (Chair)
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(480) 965-5498

Kelvin Wong, Clinical Associate Professor of
Economics & Executive Director of
Undergraduate Programs
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Gustavo Ventura, Professor of Economics
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Hector Chade, Professor of Economics
hector.chade@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	Honors 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

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

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

RESEARCH ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

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

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