

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

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Curriculum Vitae
Fall 2019

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Citizenship: Vietnam (F-1 Visa)

Major Fields of Concentration

Macroeconomics, International Economics, Public Finance

Education

<i>Degree</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Year</i>
PhD	Economics	University of Minnesota (expected)	2020
MA	Economics	University of Minnesota	2017
BSc	Mathematics and Economics <i>summa cum laude</i>	Carroll University	2014

Dissertation

Title: "Fiscal Policies, Redistribution, and Limited Commitment"
 Dissertation Advisor: Professor V. V. Chari and Professor Larry E. Jones
 Expected Completion: Summer 2020

References

Professor V. V. Chari	(612) 626-7151 chari002@umn.edu	Department of Economics University of Minnesota 4-101 Hanson Hall
Professor Larry E. Jones	(612) 624-4553 lej@umn.edu	1925 Fourth Street South Minneapolis, MN 55455
Professor Manuel Amador	(612) 624-4060 amador@umn.edu	
Dr. Benjamin Malin	(612) 204-5499 benjamin.malin@mpls.frb.org	Research Department Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis 90 Hennepin Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55401

Honors and Awards

2017	<i>Summer Economics Fellowship</i> , American Economic Association
2016	<i>Participant, The Princeton Initiative: Macro, Money and Finance</i> , nominated by Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
2016	<i>Distinguished Teaching Assistant</i> , Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
2015	<i>Morton and Artice Silverman Fellowship</i> , Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
2014	<i>Bert and Susan Hill Gross Fellowship</i> , Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
2014	<i>Mathematics Major of the Year</i> , Department of Mathematics, Carroll University, Waukesha, Wisconsin
2014	<i>Phi Kappa Phi</i> , Carroll University, Waukesha, Wisconsin
2013 & 2014	<i>Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities</i> , Carroll University, Waukesha, Wisconsin
2013	<i>Outstanding Student in Economics Award</i> , Department of Business, Accounting, and Economics, Carroll University, Waukesha, Wisconsin

Teaching Experience

August 2016	<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Led recitations for <i>Numerical Methods</i> course for PhD students.
2015-2016	<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Led recitations to for the graduate level <i>Macroeconomic Theory</i> sequence.
2013-2014	<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Carroll University, Waukesha, Wisconsin. Led recitations for <i>Intermediate Algebra</i> .
2011-2014	<i>Math Center Assistant</i> , Carroll University, Waukesha, Wisconsin. Led tutoring sessions for <i>Calculus</i> and <i>Introduction to Statistics</i> .
2012-2013	<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Carroll University, Waukesha, Wisconsin. Led recitations for <i>Computational Thinking</i> .

Research Experience

2016-Present	<i>Research Analyst</i> , Research Department, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Research assistant to the Economic Analysis Group.
Summer 2019	<i>Dissertation Intern</i> , Research Department, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri.
Summer 2017	<i>Dissertation Fellow</i> , Research Department, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia.
2013-2014	<i>Research Scholar</i> , 2013 Pioneer Scholar Program, Carroll University, Waukesha, Wisconsin.
2012-2013	<i>Research Assistant</i> , Carroll University, Waukesha, Wisconsin. Research assistant to Professor Christopher Kuster.

Publication

“Will the U.S. Velocity of Money Rise up Again? New Evidence from Random Walk Hypothesis,” *Undergraduate Economic Review*, Vol.10:1, 2014: Article 14.

Working Papers

“Redistribution, Sovereign Debt, and Optimal Taxation,” job market paper
 “Optimal Redistributive Policy in Debt Constrained Economies,” working paper
 “Austerity, Inequality, and Sovereign Default,” in progress

Presentations

“Sovereign Debt-Financed Redistribution,” presented at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri, August 2019.
 “Optimal Redistributive Policy in Debt Constrained Economies,” presented at Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia, June & August 2017; National Taxation Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 2017; Midwest Economics Association Meeting, Evanston, March 2018; Midwest Macroeconomics Meeting, Madison, Wisconsin, May 2018; Annual Congress of the European Economic Association, Cologne, Germany, August 2018; North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society, Seattle, Washington, June 2019.

“Will the U.S. Velocity of Money Rise up Again? New Evidence from Random Walk Hypothesis,” presented at Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Dallas, Texas, March 2014.

Computer Skills

Fortran, Python, Matlab, Stata, R, Julia, Lyx, LaTeX

Languages

English (fluent), Vietnamese (native)

Abstracts

“Redistribution, Sovereign Debt, and Optimal Taxation,” job market paper

This paper proposes a theory of external debt sustainability based on the government’s motive for redistribution. I study a small open economy model in which taxes are distortionary and the government has a redistributive concern and faces endogenous borrowing constraints due to its lack of commitment. Given these borrowing constraints, the value of financial autarky determines the sustainable level of debt. Financial autarky is endogenously costly because, in this case, redistribution requires high and volatile labor distortions. Having access to external financing allows the government to redistribute at a higher level of efficiency and to smooth distortions. Quantitatively, the theory can account for the external debt’s recent buildup in Italy and is consistent with the positive correlation between pre-tax income inequality and external debt across countries. In response to a negative productivity shock, the optimal austerity policies are increasing external borrowing and redistribution while reducing redistribution to repay debt in the future. The magnitude of these responses varies with the underlying wage inequality.

“Optimal Redistributive Policy in Debt Constrained Economies”

This paper studies optimal taxation in an open economy. The government has a redistributive motive and faces self-enforcing debt constraints that arise from the limited commitment of the government. Redistributive policies are proportional taxes on labor and domestic saving. The standard Ramsey results of labor tax smoothing and a zero capital tax in the limit no longer hold. Instead, optimal labor taxes decrease over time and eventually converge to a non-zero limit, and the optimal capital tax is positive in the limit. The efficient contract features front-loading distortion and back-loading efficiency, allowing the government to borrow more in the future. The model's numerical exercise shows that a stronger redistributive motive requires greater tax distortions at the beginning of time as well as a higher external debt level in the long run.

“Austerity, Inequality, and Sovereign Default”

This paper explores how a government’s redistributive concern affects its austerity policies and incentive to default. I study optimal sovereign default, debt and tax policies in an Eaton-Gersovitz-Arellano model with heterogeneous agents. The government has lack of commitment in all policies. I show that the model is equivalent to a modified representative-agent setup in which the government chooses the distribution of consumption shares, and the effective risk aversion is higher. The model can account for a higher average debt-to-output ratio as well as a higher average spread than the canonical representative-agent model.