Motoaki Takahashi

https://motoakitakahashi.github.io/

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Citizenship: Japan

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, the Pennsylvania State University	2017-Present
M.A. in Economics, Hitotsubashi University	2015-2017
B.A. in Economics, the University of Tokyo	2011-2015

Fields of Interest

Spatial Economics, International Trade

Working Paper

"The Aggregate Effects of the Great Black Migration" (Job Market Paper)

In the United States, four million African Americans migrated from the South to the North between 1940 and 1970. How did it impact aggregate US output and the welfare of African Americans and others? To answer this question, I quantify a dynamic general equilibrium model in which cohorts of African Americans and others migrate across states. I compare the baseline equilibrium matched with US data from 1940 to 2010 with counterfactual equilibria in which African Americans or others cannot relocate across the North and the South between 1940 and 1970. The mobility of African Americans and others increased aggregate output by 0.7 and 0.3 percent, respectively. Although African Americans accounted for about 10 percent of the US population, their relocation impacted the aggregate economy more than the relocation of the other 90 percent did. The mobility of African Americans induced a large increase in the welfare of African Americans in the South, a small decrease in the welfare of African Americans in the North, and little change in the welfare of others.

Work in Progress

"International Trade and Regional Unemployment"

How does productivity improvement in China affect unemployment across the US states? I develop a many-region model that comprises involuntary unemployment, and quantify it for 30 countries and the 50 US states. The model merges the efficiency wage model of Shapiro and Stiglitz (1984) and a quantitative general equilibrium model of international trade and the spatial economy. In the model, workers shirk rather than contribute to production for the market clearing wage. To prevent shirking, firms set a wage that is higher than the market clearing wage. This causes involuntary unemployment. I take the model to data, and compute the counterfactual of the 5% increase in China's productivity. From the factual to the counterfactual, real wages increase, but unemployment rates also increase in all the US states. States in the heartland have a larger increase in unemployment than states in the west coast. The overall US welfare decreases.

Presentations

Osaka University	2019

Awards and Grants

Project Research Grant, the Institute of Economic Research,	2021, 2022
Hitotsubashi University, 2×300,000 yen (with Taiji Furusawa, Daiji Kawaguchi, and Kensuke Suzuki).	
Fulbright Scholarship.	2017-2019
Distinguished Senior Thesis Award, Faculty of Economics, the University of Tokyo.	2015

Research Experience

Research Assistant to Prof. Jonathan Eaton	Summer 2021, 2022
Research Assistant to Prof. David Argente	Summer 2020

Research Assistant to Prof. Makoto Saito   2015-2017
Research Assistant to Prof. Taiji Furusawa   2016-2017
Research Assistant to Prof. Kohei Kawaguchi   2017

Teaching Experience

The Pennsylvania State University
Game Theory (undergraduate), TA for Prof. Andres Aradillas-Lopez   Spring 2021, Spring 2022
The Economics of Auctions and Procurement (undergraduate), TA for Prof. Karl Schurter   Fall 2021
Urban Economics (undergraduate), TA for Prof. Jingting Fan   Fall 2020
Game Theory (undergraduate), TA for Prof. Miaomiao Dong   Spring 2020
Mathematics for Economists (Ph.D), TA for Prof. Miaomiao Dong   Fall 2019
Introduction to Econometrics (undergraduate), TA for Prof. Maria Fernandez-Medina   Spring 2019
Mathematics for Economists (Ph.D), TA for Prof. Henrique de Oliveira   Fall 2018
Introduction to Econometrics (undergraduate), TA for Prof. Amanda Mandzik   Fall 2017, Spring 2018

Hitotsubashi University
Introduction to Economics (undergraduate), TA for Prof. Kohei Kawaguchi   Spring 2017
Intermediate Macroeconomics (undergraduate and master's), TA for Prof. Makoto Saito   Spring 2016

Skills

Language: English, Japanese
Computer: Julia, R, Stata, QGIS, LaTeX

References

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