NADAV KUNIEVSKY

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Education

University of Chicago, Ph.D. Economics	*2018–2024*
Tel Aviv University, M.Sc. Economics	*2014–2017*
Magna Cum Laude	
Tel Aviv University, B.A. Economics and Accounting	*2011–2014*
Magna Cum Laude	

References

Professor Stephane Bonhomme (Chair)
University of Chicago
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Professor Derek Neal
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Professor Jack Mountjoy
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Research and Teaching Fields

| Primary: | Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics |
| Secondary: | Industrial Organization |

Job Market Paper

Bridging the Gap: Information, Returns and Choices

Abstract: *How much of the gap in choices across social groups is driven by differences in returns or the ability to predict these returns? To formalize this question, we use a decomposition exercise and a structural model to quantify the role of information quality and differences in returns in driving this gap. Focusing on the college attendance decisions of White and Hispanic high school students in Texas, we use administrative data to understand what drives their differing choices. First, we show that the average monetary returns for college for Hispanics are almost zero compared to being positive for Whites. We then estimate the extent to which differences in returns and information quality are contributing to the gap in choices. Under reasonable assumptions, we find that differences in information quality narrow the choice gap in college attendance, where most of the gap is explained by differences in returns. We also show that to achieve parity in choice between the two groups, a policymaker would*

need to provide highly accurate additional information, potentially explaining between 19% and 35% of post-college earnings.

Working Papers

On the Interpretation of the Intergenerational Elasticity and the Rank-Rank Coefficients for Cross Country Comparison (R&R Economics letters)

Abstract: *This paper investigates the Intergenerational Elasticity (IGE) and Rank-Rank coefficients, employing Yitzhaki's theorem (Yitzhaki, 1996) to express them as weighted averages of underlying causal mechanisms driving mobility. We highlight the challenges of interpreting cross-country comparisons using either the IGE or the Rank-Rank coefficient due to the regression weighting scheme and show that while the Rank-Rank coefficient is more interpretable for positional mobility, it lacks insights into the underlying mechanisms driving mobility across countries. The analysis demonstrates potential drawbacks of using linear regression coefficients as summary statistics in the context of intergenerational mobility comparisons.*

It's Not Who You Are, It's What They Know: Wage Gaps and Informational Frictions

Abstract: *Can informational asymmetries among firms account for all observed wage gaps across social groups? We confirm this through a parsimonious common-value auction model in the labor market with unspecified information structures. Firms with identical characteristics encounter workers with unobserved productivity and extend wage offers based on their information about worker productivity and competing offers. Using 2010 American Community Survey data, we show that wage disparities among both black and white men and women can be explained using a common productivity distribution for all social groups and differences in what firms know, if the mean of this common productivity distribution ranges between $48,000 and $132,800. Our results emphasize the importance of understanding what firms know in shaping wage distributions and explaining wage disparities.*

Uncovering Latent Types in Sequential Choice Data Using Text Embedding Algorithms

Abstract: *In economic analyses of agents making a series of discrete choices, deciding what constitutes as an alternative is crucial. This paper introduces a technique for categorizing similar alternatives in contexts where forward-looking agents make a series of decisions. The proposed method groups options that are equivalent from the perspective of the agents, using the renowned word2vec algorithm (Mikolov et al., 2013) from the Natural Language Processing literature. The paper discusses the link between the word2vec method and the underlying agents dynamic optimization problem.*

A Note on Linear Regression in a Nonlinear World: The Multivariate Case

Abstract: *This note employs a multivariate version of Yitzhaki's theorem (1996) to interpret the coefficients of a continuous treatment variable in a regression model with controls, when the data-generating process is not linear. We show that the coefficient does not usually capture a weighted average of treatment effects, mainly due to biases akin to omitted variable and attenuation biases.*

Work in Progress

Quantifying Uncertainty over the Lifecycle
We examine the welfare implications of income uncertainty, specifically its differential impact across social groups. Leveraging a new lifecycle metric for uncertainty costs, we compare utility outcomes from both expected and optimal consumption profiles under certainty. To perform this analysis, we employ a new approach that uses a Generative AI model (Normalized Flow) for the estimation and simulation of future consumption and income trajectories. Utilizing comprehensive household survey data from India, our findings reveal small but persistent disparities in uncertainty costs across different castes, under the assumption of homogeneous utility functions. The study suggests that, in the absence of preference heterogeneity, income-to-welfare mapping may be adequately performed without considering uncertainty.

Can complementarity explain path dependence in innovation? Evidence from the secondary market of patents

Awards, Scholarships, and Grants

Becker-Friedman Institute Research Grant ($10000)	2022
Neubauer Fellowship and Theodore W. Schultz Fellowship Award	*2018-2023*
Scholarships for Outstanding Academic Achievements, Tel Aviv University	*2014-2027*

Teaching Experience

Job Mobility/wage determinants (Graduate)	TA for Prof. Neal	*Autumn 2021*
TA Honors Metrics (Undergraduate)	TA for Prof. Bonhomme	*Spring 2021*
Human Capital and Markets (Graduate)	TA for Prof. Heckman	*Winter 2021*
Empirical Analysis III (Graduate)	TA for Prof. Heckman	*Spring 2020*
Economics for Everyone (Undergraduate)	TA for Prof. Levitt and Prof. List	*Spring 2020*

Predoc Publications

Gandal, Neil, Nadav Kunievsky, and Lee Branstetter. "Network-Mediated Knowledge Spillovers in ICT/Information Security." *Review of Network Economics* 19, no. 2 (2021): 85-114.

Gandal Neil, Stefania Gandal and Nadav Kunievsky, "The High-Tech Sector", Chapter 17, The Israeli Economy, 1995–2017: Light and Shadow in a Market Economy. Ben-Bassat, Avi, Reuben Gronau, and Asaf Zussman, eds. Cambridge University Press, 2021. Forthcoming

Additional Information

Citizenship	Israel, Romania
Programming Skills	Python, R, Stata
Languages	Hebrew (Native), English (Fluent), Arabic (Beginner)