

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Department of Economics
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**Curriculum Vitae
Fall 2021****ROSS BATZER****Personal Data***Address*

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Contact Information

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Citizenship: USA

Major Fields of Concentration

Macroeconomics, Public Economics, Computational Economics

Education

<i>Degree</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Year</i>
PhD	Economics	University of Minnesota (expected)	2022
MA	Economics	University of Minnesota	2019
BS	Economics	University of Minnesota	2015

Dissertation

Title: "Essays in Macroeconomics"

Dissertation Advisor: Professor V. V. Chari

Expected Completion: Summer 2022

References

Professor V. V. Chari	(612) 626-7151 chari002@umn.edu	Department of Economics University of Minnesota 4-101 Hanson Hall
Professor Christopher Phelan	(612) 625-2533 cphelan@umn.edu	1925 Fourth Street South Minneapolis, MN 55455
Professor Kjetil Storesletten	(612) 624-6084 kstoresl@umn.edu	

Honors and Awards

2015 - 2016 *Bruce and Mildred Mudgett Fellowship*, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
2015 *Johnson Scholar*, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
2013 - 2015 *Gold National Scholarship*, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
2012 - 2013 *Charter Scholarship*, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

Teaching Experience

2019 - 2021 *Tutor*, Tutored in computing and estimating structural models.
2016 - 2017 *Head Teaching Assistant - Principles of Microeconomics*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Research Experience

2017 - *Research Analyst/Visiting Scholar*, Research Department, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis,
present Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Working Papers

“Letting Your Past Define Your Taxes: Optimal History-Dependent Income Taxation in General Equilibrium,” job market paper
“What's Yours is Mine: Joint vs. Private Consumption and Taxation with Home Production ” with Amy Handlan
“Labor Market Demand and Monetary Information Shocks,” with Amy Handlan

Works in Progress

“Constrained Efficiency with Super-Rich Households”
“Home Production and Joint Taxation: Estimating Family Labor Supply with Neural Networks ” with Amy Handlan

Computer Skills

Python (including numpy, pandas, scikit-learn and keras/tensorflow), Stata, Julia, Matlab, SAS, SQL

Languages

English (native)

Abstracts

(Abstracts for each of my papers are available on my website.)

“Letting Your Past Define Your Taxes: Optimal History-Dependent Income Taxation in General Equilibrium” job market paper

I study how labor income taxation should vary with a household's income history in a life-cycle model with differentiated skill types and general equilibrium wages. I consider a very general class of tax functions that can depend on the entire income history, which requires solving a dynamic maximization problem with up to 41 state variables. To maintain the feasibility of the optimal taxation problem with a large state space, I use a novel neural network approach to simultaneously solve the model and compute the labor income tax function that maximizes steady state welfare. I find

that the optimal history-dependent tax function behaves very differently depending on a household's income history. For most households, average tax rates increase over the life-cycle. However, for households with very high income histories, average tax rates decrease over the life-cycle. The welfare gains from history-dependent taxation are large, equivalent to about a 2 percent increase in lifetime consumption compared to a tax on current income. This suggests that history-dependent taxation may have large welfare benefits in reality, but the exact benefit will depend critically on the production structure of the economy and how complementary different types of labor are. Finally, I show that a parametric function that varies with just the average of previous income levels mimics the full history-dependent tax system by increasing taxes more slowly over the life cycle with higher levels of average past income.