

# Notes for Dec 18 Meeting

## What I have done:

- **Papers about divorce/separation/cohabitation**
  - Read some of the literature on divorce/separation and also how it relates to cohabitation. [Some of the more interesting ones: Weiss and Willis (1997), Brien et al. (2006), Matouschek and Rasul (2008), Kulu and Boyle (2010), Lundberg et al. (2016), Folke and Rickne (2020)]
  - Nothing really to note on comparing costs of separation in marriage vs. cohabitation. [Tach and Eads (2015) do a bit of analysis showing decreases in household income are roughly the same in cases of divorce and dissolving a cohabitating partnership.]
  - There is some interesting stuff about measuring cohabitation in survey data. [Manning and Smock (2005), Fitch et al. (2005), Kennedy and Fitch (2012), Manning et al. (2019)]
  - I also looked at Mourifié and Siow (2021) to see what kind of cohabitation information they are using. They used US census data from 1990, 2000, and 2010.
- **Data sources**
  - I have narrowed in on a few promising candidates - all US data.
    - \* Current Population Survey (CPS): A monthly US survey which tracks households for 4 months at a time at two separate times. Has reliable cohabitation information starting in 2007. I have the data and am playing around with it.
    - \* National Longitudinal Survey of Youth - 1997 Cohort (NLSY97): Follows a sample of Americans born in the years 1980-84 (about 9000 of them). Very detailed, but somewhat restrictive given that it is just one cohort.
    - \* National Survey of Family Growth: A repeated cross section, initially only tracked women but men were added in 2015. Cohabitation is identified through a question "have you ever/are you currently living with..."
- **I met with Aloysius**
  - He gave me some useful information (unsurprisingly) and some papers to read.
  - Measuring cohabitation rates historically is a paper by itself.
  - For endogenizing separation in the Choo and Siow (2006) and Choo (2015) framework, he advised taking the simplest approach, some logit form which ultimately produces a simple/tractable MMF.

## What is still left to do:

- **Consider the simplest model of divorce/separation where we only observe hazard rates**
  - Dependent on how well I am able to identify cohab dissolution from CPS - as this is the most representative sample, I'd prefer to use it.
  - I need to try this with all 3 sources listed above and see if they are all similar.
  - Not a lot of examples in the literature of people trying to do this.
- **Write an intro chapter for my thesis**
  - I would like to do a proper lit review and synthesize all of the information I've read through.
  - Fully document all of the trends in marriage, divorce/separation, fertility, and cohabitation. It hasn't been done in a while and there are likely some interesting things to note regarding the period post-2008 and COVID. Include some reduced-form analyses.

## References

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