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PLACEMENT DIRECTORS

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EDUCATION

Ph.D.   Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, expected May 2020
B.A.   Mathematics and Economics, Swarthmore College, 1998

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary: Macroeconomics
Secondary: Labor Economics

DISSERTATION

Essays on Wages and Employment
Committee: Prof. John Haltiwanger (Chair), Prof. Boragan Aruoba, Prof. Judith Hellerstein, Dr. Henry Hyatt

JOB MARKET PAPER

"Downward Nominal Wage Rigidity and Job Destruction"

This paper provides quasi-experimental evidence that downward nominal wage rigidity causes firms to destroy jobs in response to negative aggregate shocks. Given the unanticipated nature of the 2008 financial crisis, firms had heterogeneous exposure to downward nominal wage rigidity in Q4 of 2008 due to heterogeneity in their seasonal patterns of nominal wage adjustment. To identify these seasonal patterns, I develop a set of machine learning tools that I apply to longitudinal data on individual U.S. firms. I find the rate of job destruction in Q4 of 2008 increased nearly twice as much at the firms most exposed to downward nominal wage rigidity because of the calendar quarter in which they historically tended to raise workers' nominal wages. The increase in the aggregate job destruction rate in Q4 of 2008 would have been 23% smaller if all firms could have had the wage flexibility of the firms least exposed to downward nominal wage rigidity because of their typical raise quarter. These empirical findings run counter to the assumption that downward rigidity in wages does not cause job destruction, which is found in most search-and-matching labor market models incorporating wage rigidity. I develop a model wherein downward nominal wage rigidity causes inefficient job destruction, while ensuring, á la Barro (1977), that workers and firms do not forgo mutually beneficial nominal wage cuts.

OTHER RESEARCH PAPERS

"Cyclical Labor Market Sorting," 2019, invited submission at the *Journal of Econometrics*, with Leland Crane and Henry Hyatt

"Aggregate Labor Market Fluidity," 2019, with Henry Hyatt and Kristin Sandusky

"Retirements, Vacancy Chains, and the Decline in Employer-to-Employer Transitions," 2019

"An Empirical Evaluation of Theories of Wage Adjustment", work in progress

TEACHING EXPERIENCE
Instructor, Econometrics II (undergraduate), University of Maryland, Summer 2019

RESEARCH AND RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE
Research Assistant, Center for Economic Studies, The U.S. Census Bureau, Fall 2016 - present
Research Assistant, Prof. Will Dobbie, Princeton University, Summer 2015 - Summer 2016
Founder and President, various technology startups, Winter 2000 - Summer 2013
Economic Consultant, Ernst & Young, Boston, Summer 1998 - Winter 2000

GRANTS AND AWARDS
Roger and Alicia Betancourt Fellowship in Applied Economics, Fall 2019
Retirement Dissertation Fellowship, Center for Retirement Research, Boston College, 2018
High Honors in Economics and Mathematics, Swarthmore College 1998
Adam's Prize for Best Senior Thesis, Economics Department, Swarthmore College, 1998

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS
2019: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau
2018: Econometrics Society North American Summer Meeting, Western Economics Association Meeting, Bates College, U.S. Census Bureau, NBER Summer Institute (coauthor presented), American Economic Association meeting (coauthor presented)
2017: U.S. Census Bureau, NBER Summer Institute (coauthor presented)

PATENTS AND PATENT APPLICATIONS
"Generating topic-specific language models," 2018, US Patent 9,892,730
"Ranking search results," 2012 and 2016, US Patents 8,176,043 and 9,348,915
"System and method for personalized search of television content using a reduced keypad," 2006, US Patent Application 11/270,023

REFERENCES
Prof. John Haltiwanger	University of Maryland	haltiwan@econ.umd.edu	(301) 405-3504
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Prof. Judith Hellerstein	University of Maryland	hellerst@econ.umd.edu	(301) 405-3545