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Undergraduate Studies:
B.A, Economics, Boğaziçi University, 2009

Graduate Studies:
M.A, Economics, Boğaziçi University, 2011
Dissertation Title: Welfare Implications of Competition in a Vertical Market Structure: A Case of Accumulator Industry

University of California, Santa Barbara, 2014 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Expected Completion Date: June 2020

References:

Professor Peter Rupert
1119 North Hall
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Professor Henning Bohn
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Assoc. Professor Javier Birchenall
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Research Fields:

Primary field: Macroeconomics
Secondary fields: Household Finance, Healthcare, Behavioral Macroeconomics

Teaching Experience:

University of California, Santa Barbara

Winter'15	PSTAT 109 Statistics for Economics
Winter'16, Spring'16	ECON 2 Principles of Economics-Macro
Fall '15-16, Spring'17, Summer'17-18	ECON 101 Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory
Fall'17, Winter'18, Spring'18	ECON 140A Introduction to Econometrics I
Winter'17	ECON 140B Introduction to Econometrics II
Fall'18	ECON 180 International Trade
Winter'19, Fall'19	ECON 181 International Finance

Research Experience:

Boğaziçi University

2013-2014	Research Assistant to Prof. Ahmet Faruk Aysan
2010-2011	Research Assistant to Prof. Ayşe Mumcu and Prof. Fikret Adaman

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2017	Janet A. Alpert Fellowship in Economics
2017	Economics Department Graduate Student Funding
2015-2016	UCSB Economics Department Grant

Research Papers:

"Liquidity Constraints in Healthcare Expenditure" (Job Market Paper)
Liquidity constraints restrain the consumption smoothing ability of optimizing households. This paper evaluates the impact of liquidity constraints on healthcare spending decisions and compares it with the impact on the non-health consumption in particular with food consumption. I show that households deviate from unconstrained level of optimal healthcare spending by the binding liquidity constraints in the current period as well as expected binding constraints one period ahead. In a linearized Euler equation, current binding constraints cause a negative omitted variable bias on income which is predicted to have no impact on consumption growth by permanent income hypothesis, whereas expected binding constraints lead to a positive bias. In the test, the resulting bias depends on which effect is stronger. Moreover, the income elasticity of healthcare expenditure varies significantly between asset poor and rich families, more than the elasticity of non-health consumption among wealth quintiles, a finding that is supportive of the heterogeneous impact of the binding liquidity constraints.

"History-Dependent Present Bias"
Liquidity constraints and present-biased preferences are considered as alternative explanations for the non-optimal household decisions especially among the poor. I propose a model where present bias arises endogenously. Time inconsistency arises due to a lasting effect of binding constraints onto the preferences which alter the optimal decision relative to a time-consistent decision maker more than one period even for nondurable goods. The model serves as a micro foundation for the quasi-hyperbolic discounting for the ever-constrained households. The bias factor is updated slowly based on the credit history which results in heterogeneity in the degree of present bias among households.

"Welfare Implications of Competition in a Vertical Market Structure: A Case of Accumulator Industry"
The accumulator industry exhibits a typical example of a vertical market structure, where waste accumulators are collected, then recycled in order to extract lead, which is subsequently used as the main input in the production of new accumulators. Through a theoretical model the thesis analyzes the welfare implications of the extent of competition in such a market structure. It replicates the well-known result that there is an incentive for firms to vertically integrate; yet also shows that enforcing competition is not welfare-enhancing

Research Papers in Progress:

Testing Liquidity Constraints for Durable Consumption

Health Investment under Time Inconsistency