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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

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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
(805) 722-0481
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Professor Henning Bohn
3016 North Hall
(805) 893-4532
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Associate Professor Javier Birchenall
3037 North Hall
(805) 893-5275
javier.birchenall@ucsb.edu

Research Fields:

Primary field: Macroeconomics

Secondary fields: Household Finance, Healthcare, Behavioral Macroeconomics

Teaching Experience:

University of California, Santa Barbara

Winter'15

Winter'16, Spring'16

Fall '15-16, Spring'17, Summer'17-18

Fall'17, Winter'18, Spring'18

Winter'17

Fall'18

Winter'19, Fall'19

PSTAT 109 Statistics for Economics

ECON 2 Principles of Economics-Macro

ECON 101 Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory

ECON 140A Introduction to Econometrics I

ECON 140B Introduction to Econometrics II

ECON 180 International Trade

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

2010-2011

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey Scholarship, TUBITAK

2004-2009

KYK Scholarship given to nationwide top 100 students in University

Entrance in Turkey

2004

Ranked 90th in University Entrance Examination (among more than 1.5 million participants)

Research Papers:

“Liquidity Constraints in Healthcare Expenditure” (Job Market Paper)

Increasing healthcare costs are a big concern for the wellbeing of liquidity constrained households. This paper evaluates the effect of binding liquidity constraints on healthcare spending decisions. Further, the paper compares the effect on healthcare expenditure with the effect on the non-health consumption in particular with food consumption. I extend a standard incomplete markets model with a health capital in the felicity function. I use extended model in order to test the incidence of binding liquidity constraints with a linearized Euler equation. Theoretically, I show that households reduce their expenditure compared to an unconstrained level of optimal healthcare spending by the binding liquidity constraints in the current period as well as expected binding constraints one period ahead. Empirically, I show that the test for healthcare expenditure has different implications than a standard test for nondurable consumption. In particular, current binding constraints and expected binding constraints lead to opposite direction of bias when the liquidity constraints are omitted. The resulting bias depends on which constraint has a stronger effect. 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. Altogether, my findings show that the effects of liquidity constraints are heterogeneous across households and across consumption categories.

“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