

Tsung-Hsien Li (李宗憲)

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, University of Mannheim

🌐 Citizenship: R.O.C. (Taiwan) — 📍 L7, 3-5, 68161 Mannheim, Germany — 📞 +49 621 181-1871

🔗 <https://tsunghsien1124.github.io/> — ✉ tsung-hsien.li@gess.uni-mannheim.de

Placement Officer

Prof. Dr. Christoph Rothe (rothe@vwl.uni-mannheim.de; +49 621 181-1921)

Research Interests

Primary: Macroeconomics, Computational Economics

Secondary: Consumer Finance and Default, Financial Intermediation

Education

09/2017 — Present Ph.D. in Economics, University of Mannheim

Main Advisor: [Prof. Michèle Tertilt, Ph.D.](#)

Expected Graduation: August 2022

Spring 2020 Visiting Ph.D. Student, Yale University

09/2012 — 06/2015 M.A. in Economics, National Taiwan University

09/2007 — 06/2012 B.A. in Economics & B.S.S. in Bio-Industry Communication and Development, National Taiwan University

References

Michèle Tertilt, Ph.D.

Professor of Economics
University of Mannheim
tertilt@uni-mannheim.de
+49 621 181-1902

Klaus Adam, Ph.D.

Professor of Economics
University of Mannheim
adam@uni-mannheim.de
+49 621 181-1809

Dr. Matthias Meier

Assistant Professor of Economics
University of Mannheim
m.meier@uni-mannheim.de
+49 621 181-3430

Honours

08/2019 — Present Ph.D. Scholarship, Stiftung Geld and Währung

12/2021 Grant for Selective Papers at SAEe, Fundación Ramón Areces

[Rescheduled] Nominated Participant at 7th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings

09/2017 — 07/2019 Ph.D. Scholarship, German Research Foundation (DFG)

06/2017 Outstanding Research Paper, Central Bank of R.O.C. (Taiwan)

12/2014 Outstanding Master's Thesis Award of Macroeconomic Theory, Taiwan Economic Association

09/2013 C. Y. Cyrus Chu and Tain-Jy Chen Scholarship Award

Teaching Experience

- 02/2019 — 06/2019 Teaching Assistant, University of Mannheim
Macroeconomics A (Bachelor) [\[Evaluation\]](#)
- 09/2012 — 06/2015 Teaching and Grading Assistant, National Taiwan University
Money and Banking, Microeconomics, Statistics, Industrial Economics, Principles of Economics, Mathematics for Economists (All Bachelor)

Professional Experience

- 08/2015 — 07/2017 Economic and Financial Analysis Specialist, Department of Economic Research, Central Bank of R.O.C. (Taiwan)
- 06/2015 — 05/2016 Research Assistant, Taiwan Clearing House. Project Title: “The Identification of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) in Taiwan,” (with Nan-Kuang Chen and Yu-Ning Hwang)
- 08/2014 — 07/2015 Research Assistant, National Taiwan University. Advisors: Nan-Kuang Chen and Hung-Jen Wang

Job Market Paper

“Rationalizing the Payday Loan Puzzle: A Credit Scoring Explanation,” (with [Jan Sun](#))

Abstract: Many credit cardholders in the U.S. turn to expensive payday loans, even though they have not yet exhausted their credit lines. This results in significant monetary costs and has been coined the “Payday Loan Puzzle”. We propose the novel explanation that households use payday loans to protect their credit scores since payday lenders do not report to credit bureaus. To quantitatively examine this hypothesis, we build a two-asset Huggett-type model with two default options as well as both hidden information and actions. Using our calibrated model, we can quantitatively account for 40% of the empirically identified payday loan users with liquidity left on their credit cards. We can also match the magnitude of monetary costs due to this seeming pecuniary mistake. To inform the policy debate over payday lending, we assess the welfare implications of several policy counterfactuals such as banning payday loans or increasing the default costs. We find that banning payday loans or increasing their default costs is welfare decreasing in aggregate.

Work in Progress

“Consumer Bankruptcy: the Role of Financial Frictions”

Abstract: Bankruptcy leniency renders financial intermediaries more externally funded. However, more leveraged intermediaries face higher refinancing costs when financial frictions arise due to moral hazards (refinancing channel). In addition, higher refinancing costs reduce investment in physical capital due to the no-arbitrage condition (divestment channel). Both forces jointly influence the welfare implication of bankruptcy regimes via the insurance-efficiency trade-off between smoothing across states and over time (Zame, 1993). To understand the effects of financial frictions, I develop an Aiyagari-type heterogeneous agent model with consumer default and the agency problem between banks and depositors. In this setting, the welfare conclusion depends further on the effects of refinancing and divestment channels. As a result, a lenient bankruptcy code is not necessarily optimal even when households face significant idiosyncratic risks.

Policy-Relevant Publications

“Collateral Constraints, Housing Prices, and Business Cycles in Taiwan,” (in Mandarin Chinese), *Quarterly Bulletin*, Central Bank of R.O.C. (Taiwan), R&R [\[Download\]](#)

🔊 I use an estimated DSGE model to decipher the housing boom in Taiwan.

“Identifying and Evaluating Domestic Systemically Important Banks in Taiwan,” (in Mandarin Chinese, with [Nan-Kuang Chen](#) and Yu-Ning Hwang), 2018, *Quarterly Bulletin*, Central Bank of R.O.C. (Taiwan), vol. 39(4), pp. 5-36 [\[Download\]](#)

🔊 We identify systemically important banks in Taiwan based on the SRISK measure.

Presentations

2021 Warwick Economics PhD Conference; CES Annual Conference; ENTER Jamboree; 11th GESS Research Day; 46th SAEe (scheduled)

2020 Bonn-Mannheim PhD Workshop

Workshops, Summer Schools, and Training Courses

2021 Gerzensee ADP—Numerical Methods by Prof. Felix Kübler; Econometric Society Summer Schools in Dynamic Structural Econometrics; NOVA Summer School—Topics on Sovereign Default by Prof. Pablo A. Guerron-Quintana; 13th BESLAB Experimental Economics Summer School in Macroeconomics

2020 EABCN Training School on Continuous-time Methods in Macroeconomics

2019 EABCN & Bank of England Training School on Solution Methods for Discrete Time Heterogeneous Agent and Markov Switching Linear Models; Princeton Initiative: Macro, Money and Finance Conference; Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality by HCEO; Gerzensee ADP—Bayesian Macroeconometrics by Prof. Frank Schorfheide

2018 Joint Research Center (European Commission) & Dynare Course on Identification Analysis and Global Sensitivity Analysis for Macroeconomic Models

2016 Dynare Summer School; SEACEN & Bank of Japan Intermediate Course on Econometric Modeling and Forecasting

Computational Skills and Languages

Matlab (Octave), R, EViews, Julia, Python, L^AT_EX

English, German (Basic), Mandarin Chinese (Native), Taiwanese (Native)

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