Tsung-Hsien Li (李宗憲)

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Placement Coordinator: Ulrich Kehl (cdse@uni-mannheim.de; +49 621 181-1751)

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

Prof. Michèle Tertilt	Prof. Klaus Adam	Prof. Matthias Meier
University of Mannheim	University of Mannheim	University of Mannheim
tertilt@uni-mannheim.de	adam@uni-mannheim.de	m.meier@uni-mannheim.de
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Honours

08/2019 — Present	Ph.D. Scholarship, Stiftung Geld und 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 because of 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. 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, LaTeX
English, German (Basic), Mandarin Chinese (Native), Taiwanese (Native)

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