

# William Bennett

University of Houston

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## PRIMARY EMPLOYMENT

**University of Houston**, Department of Economics

Graduate Assistant, August 2020 – Present

**Western Kentucky University**, Department of Economics

Graduate Assistant, August 2019 – May 2020

## EDUCATION

**University of Houston**, PhD Economics, August 2020 – Present

**Western Kentucky University**, MA Applied Economics, May 2020

**Western Kentucky University**, BS Mathematical Economics, Mathematics Minor, May 2019

## RESEARCH FIELDS

Macroeconomics, Time Series Econometrics, Fiscal Policy, Behavioral Economics

## AFFILIATIONS AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT

**International Society for Efficiency and Productivity Analysis**

Administrative Director, July 2023 – Present

**Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce**

Intern, December 2017 – July 2018

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Optimal income tax progressivity over the business cycle”

**Abstract:** I study optimal progressive income taxation in an incomplete-markets model with aggregate state-dependent skewed idiosyncratic income risk and a two-state regime switching process for aggregate productivity. A Ramsey planner is constrained to two log-linear tax and transfer functions, one for each aggregate state, to allow state-dependent progressivity. I take recent computational techniques used for aggregate MIT shocks and adapt them to work for regime switching processes. I find that the negative skewness of income risk during recessions leads to higher optimal progressivity than the less-skewed risk in expansions.

“Predicting forecaster inattention”

**Abstract:** Economic forecasters have been documented as deviating from having both full information and rational expectations. The sticky information model attempts to explain this by assuming information rigidity: each period a fraction  $\lambda$  of forecasters do not get their information sets updated. To explain the data, empirical findings use calibration or follow Coibion and Gorodnichenko (2015) and estimate  $\lambda$  using aggregated regressions. This

leads to large estimates, with up to 50% of forecasters not receiving information each quarter. Adapting Andrade and Bihan (2013) and Giacomini et al. (2020), I employ a different estimation strategy using data from the US survey of professional forecasters and provide evidence that  $\lambda$  is 10 times smaller. My results imply that some other, stronger source of information rigidity must be present, and thus a model accounting for information rigidity should not use sticky information as its only mechanism. I also document novel state-dependence and show how individual and group forecast errors affect the likelihood of forecasts being sticky, with the effects being heterogeneous and nonlinear across forecast horizons.

## RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

“A study on discrete Ponzi Scheme model through Sturm-Liouville theory” with F. Atici, *International Journal of Dynamical Systems and Differential Equations*, 2021, Vol.11 No.3/4, 227-240

**Abstract:** In this paper, we introduce a second order self-adjoint difference equation which describes the dynamics of Ponzi schemes: a type of investment fraud that promises more than it can deliver. We use the Sturm-Liouville theory to study the discrete equation with boundary conditions. The model is based on a promised, unrealistic interest rate  $r_p$ , a realised nominal interest rate  $r_n$ , a growth rate of the deposits  $r_i$ , and a withdrawal rate  $r_w$ . Giving some restrictions on the rates  $r_p$ ,  $r_i$ , and  $r_w$ , we prove some theorems to when the fund will collapse or be solvent. Two examples are given to illustrate the applicability of the main results.

## AWARDS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

**University of Houston**, Graduate Assistantship Stipend, 2020 – Present

**University of Houston**, Graduate Assistantship Tuition waiver, 2020 – Present

**Western Kentucky University**, Outstanding Graduate Student, 2020

**Western Kentucky University**, Research Grant, 2016

## INSTRUCTOR

Intermediate Macroeconomics (UH)

## GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT

### **PhD:**

Econometrics II (UH)

Microeconomics II (UH)

Macroeconomics I (UH)

### **Undergraduate:**

Intermediate Macroeconomics (UH)

Energy Economics (UH)

Monetary Policy (UH)

Money and Banking (UH)

Principles of Macroeconomics (UH)

Principles of Microeconomics (WKU)

## LANGUAGES

English

## COMPUTER SKILLS

Julia, MATLAB, Python, R, SAS, Stata, Github, LaTeX (including Beamer), Microsoft Office

## REFERENCES

**Bent Sorensen:** website

**David Papell:** website