William Bennett

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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, Expected May 2025
Western Kentucky University, MA Applied Economics, May 2020
Western Kentucky University, BS Mathematical Economics, Mathematics Minor, May 2019

RESEARCH FIELDS

Time Series Econometrics, Macroeconomics, and 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

"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 economic forecasters deviating from having both full information and rational expectations by assuming information rigidity: each period a fraction λ 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 λ 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 λ 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.

"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. I also find that the welfare difference from optimal policy between an income process that incorporates skewness and a misspecified process that does not can be upward of 30%.

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

Dr. Bent Sorensen (Advisor): besorensen@uh.edu
Dr. David Papell: dpapell@uh.edu
Dr. Kei-Mu Yi: kyi3@central.uh.edu