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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, University of Michigan, expected 2020.

M.A. Economics, University of Michigan, 2016.

B.A. Mathematics and Economics, Williams College, 2011, Cum Laude.

RESEARCH AREAS

Labor Economics, Family Economics, Economic Demography.

WORKING PAPERS

“Why Bother? The Effect of Declining Marriage Prospects on Employment of Young Men”
(job market paper—latest version accessible on my [website](#)).

Abstract: Why have so many young men withdrawn from the U.S. labor force since 1965? This paper presents a model in which men invest time in employment to enhance their value as marriage partners. When the marriage market return on this investment declines, young men’s employment declines as well, in preparation for a less favorable marriage market. Taking this prediction to data, I show that fewer young men sought employment after 2 interventions that reduced the value of gender-role-specialization within marriage: i) the adoption of unilateral divorce legislation, and ii) demand-driven improvements in women’s employment opportunities. I then show, using a structural estimation, that half of the employment effect of a labor market shock to men’s wages is determined by endogenous adjustment of the marriage market to the shock. These findings establish the changing marriage market as an important driver of decline in young men’s labor market involvement.

“Inter-Generational Transmission and the 21st Century Rise in Skilled Mothers’ Labor Supply.”
[link](#) to paper.

Abstract: By most measures, gender progress in the U.S. labor market has stagnated since the 1990s. This paper reveals that skilled mothers' full-time employment propensity *rose by 12 percentage points* between 1999 and 2016. After ruling out several standard explanations for such a change, I hypothesize that the surge of skilled mothers entering the full-time workforce in the previous generation has induced a recent shift in household gender norms. I develop a model in which a new mother's belief about the difficulty of balancing career and family is conditioned by her own mother's prior career behavior, and find empirical support for the model in two-generation datasets constructed from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics. An accounting exercise attributes roughly 30 percent of the recent change to the model's inter-generational mechanism. Shifting norms appear to be promoting gender equality in full-time employment among skilled households in the 21st century.

“Is There a ‘Male Breadwinner’ Norm? The Hazards of Inferring Preferences from Marriage Market Outcomes” (with David Lam). [link](#) to paper.

Abstract: Is there a social norm against wives out-earning their husbands? Building on standard marital matching models, we show that a variety of underlying social preferences about a given trait all generate positive assortative matching on that trait, and hence the same distribution of spousal trait differences in equilibrium. Applying this result to U.S. Census and administrative earnings data, we find that simple

models of assortative matching closely replicate the observed distribution of spousal earnings differences, in which very few wives out-earn their husbands. Further, we show that the recent finding of a discontinuous drop-off in probability mass as wives start out-earning their husbands is illusory, due to the existence of a point mass of equal-earning couples that compromises econometric inference. We conclude that the distribution of spousal earnings differences in the U.S. provides little information about the existence of a male breadwinner norm or its implications for gender inequality.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

“The Gender Gap in STEM: Evidence from Transition to Coeducation at U.S. Colleges” (with Avery Calkins and Brenden Timpe).

PUBLICATIONS

“The Declining Labor Market Prospects of Less-Educated Men” (with John Bound). *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 2019. [link](#) to paper.

“A Modern History of Fiscal Prudence and Profligacy” (with Paolo Mauro, Rafael Romeu and Asad Zaman). *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 2015. [link](#) to paper.

AWARDS

George Katona Economic Behavior Research Award, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, winter 2020 (one semester fellowship + \$3000 research stipend).

William Haber Graduate Fellowship, Department of Economics, University of Michigan, fall 2019 (one semester fellowship).

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Pre-Doctoral Training Fellowship, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan, 2015-16, 2017-18, 2018-19.

Summer Research Apprenticeship funding, Department of Economics, 2014, 2015.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Short-Term Consultant, 2018. (hired by a large firm to analyze gender differences in employee compensation and career trajectories, using a detailed payroll dataset.)

Research Assistant to Professor Martha Bailey, Population Studies Center and Department of Economics, University of Michigan, 2016-17.

Special Sworn Status with the United States Census Bureau, 2016-present.

Research Analyst, Fiscal Operations II Division, Fiscal Affairs Department, International Monetary Fund, 2011-13.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Guest Lectures

“An Introduction to the Economics of Marriage.” Martha Bailey’s PhD course in Economic Demography, 2019.

“An Economist’s Perspective on Gender Gaps.” Amira Halawah’s undergraduate Psychology course on Women in STEM, 2018.

Graduate Student Instructor, Principles of Macroeconomics, Fall 2014 and Winter 2015.

SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2019: Inter-American Development Bank, University of Michigan Labor Seminar (twice), Urban Institute.

2018: University of Michigan Health, History, Demography and Development (H2D2) Research Day, Society of Labor Economics Annual Meetings, PSID Annual Users Conference, University at Buffalo, Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (discussant).

2017: University of Michigan Labor Lunch (twice), IZA Workshop on Gender and Family Economics, Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Society of the Economics of the Household (SEHO) Annual Meeting.

2016: University of Calgary Empirical Microeconomics Workshop (poster session).

SERVICE

Co-organizer, Graduate Student Summer Seminar, Department of Economics, 2016, 2017, 2018.

Social Coordinator, Graduate Economics Society, Department of Economics, 2014-15.

Junior Advisor (residential advisor for freshmen), Williams College, 2009-10.

SOFTWARE

Stata, Julia, Latex, Matlab, R

REFERENCES

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