

Basile GRASSI
Nuffield College
New Road
Oxford, OX1 1NF
United Kingdom
Mobile : +33(0)6.64.54.09.87
basile.grassi@gmail.com
<https://sites.google.com/site/grassibasile/>

Appointment

Since 09/2014 **Nuffield College and Department of Economics, University of Oxford**
Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Education

2010-2014 **Paris School of Economics (PSE) - Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne - CREST**
Ph.D. in Economics (*Allocataire Moniteur Normalien and 4th year CREST Scholarship*)
Defended on 1st October 2014
Jury: Florin Bilbiie (advisor), Vasco M. Carvalho, Xavier Gabaix (referee), Jean Imbs (president),
Boyan Jovanovic (referee)

2009-2010 **Paris School of Economics (PSE)**
MA in Economics - “Analyse et Politique Économiques” (APE) *magna cum laude*

2006-2010 **ENSAE - National school of statistics and economics** (Top 5% accepted nationally)
“Option Formation Par la Recherche”

2008-2010 **École Normale Supérieure de Cachan**
“Agrégation” in Mathematics in 2009 (Top 10%)

Job Market Paper

IO in I-O: Competition and Volatility in Input-Output Networks

There is a growing literature suggesting that firm level productivity shocks can help understand macroeconomic level outcomes. However, existing models are very restrictive regarding the nature of competition within sector and its implication for the propagation of shocks across the input-output (I-O) network. The goal of this paper is to offer a more comprehensive understanding of how firm level shocks can shape aggregate dynamics. To this end, I build a tractable multi-sector heterogeneous firm general equilibrium model featuring oligopolistic competition and an I-O network. It is shown that a positive shock to a large firm increases both the average productivity and the Herfindahl Index in its sector. By reducing the sector price, the change in average productivity propagates only to downstream sectors. Conversely, the change in the Herfindahl Index, by increasing price and reducing demand for intermediate inputs, propagates both to downstream and upstream sectors. The sensitivity of aggregate volatility to firms' shocks is determined by the sector's (i) Herfindahl Index, which measures the volatility of the sector, (ii) position in the input-output network, which measures the direct and indirect importance of this sector for the household, and (iii) relative market power in the supply chain, which relates to the changes in demand to upstream sectors.

Large Firm Dynamics and the Business Cycle

(joint with Vasco M. Carvalho - University of Cambridge)

R&R at American Economic Review

Do large firm dynamics drive the business cycle? We answer this question by developing a quantitative theory of aggregate fluctuations caused by firm-level disturbances alone. We show that a standard heterogeneous firm dynamics setup already contains in it a theory of the business cycle, without appealing to aggregate shocks. We offer a complete analytical characterization of the law of motion of the aggregate state in this class of models – the firm size distribution – and show that the resulting closed form solutions for aggregate output and productivity dynamics display: (i) persistence, (ii) volatility and (iii) time-varying second moments. We explore the key role of moments of the firm size distribution – and, in particular, the role of large firm dynamics – in shaping aggregate fluctuations, theoretically, quantitatively and in the data.

Why Risky Sectors Grow Faster?

(joint with Jean Imbs - CNRS - Paris School of Economics)

Because they are populated by a few large firms and many small ones. We construct a model of idea flows in which growth and volatility both depend on the prevalence of large firms in a sector. There is a finite number of firms that choose between a "local" and a "global" technology. The "local" technology means producing using a random technology, given by a discrete Markov deviation from its earlier value. In the limit, "local" firms define an expanding technology frontier. The "global" technology means drawing technology from the pool of existing producers. In equilibrium, the "local" technology is chosen by large enough firms only, and growth increases in their share. Since the "local" technology has stochastic consequences, so does volatility. The model's key predictions are born out in US firm-level data: growth and volatility both increase in the share of large firms, which can explain a sizeable fraction of the positive link between growth and volatility at microeconomic level.

Work in Progress

Bottom-up Markup Cyclicalilty

(joint with Ariel Burstein - UCLA and Vasco M. Carvalho - University of Cambridge)

A Note on the Hopenhayn Model: Analytical Solution in Discrete Time

Teaching experience

Since 2015	University of Oxford <i>Firm Heterogeneity in Macroeconomics</i> Advance Macroeconomics I (Mphil 2nd year) Post-Graduate
2014 – 2016	University of Oxford <i>Class Teacher (Teaching Assistant)</i> Macroeconomics (MPhil 1st year) Post-Graduate
2010 – 2012	Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne <i>Teaching Assistant for Professors Jean-Olivier Hairault and Elisabeth Cudeville</i> Macroeconomics (L2) Undergraduate
2010 – 2012	École Normale Supérieure de Cachan Paris School of Economics-Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne <i>Teaching Assistant (in english) for Professors Florin Bilbiie and Nicolas Dromel</i> Quantitative Macroeconomics Analysis (M1) Graduate
2007–2010	Lycée Janson-de-Sailly <i>Interrogator (teaching assistant) for Professors Luc Abergel and Carine Apparicio</i> Mathematics (CPGE) Undergraduate

Research experience

- 2012 – 2013** **New York University (NYU)**
Visiting Graduate Student
Fulbright Scholarship
Under the supervision of Professor Bojan Jovanovic
- April-May 2012** **Centre de Recerca en Economia Internacional (CREI)**
Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF)
Visiting Graduate Student
Under the supervision of Professor Vasco Carvalho
- 2010 – 2011** **Paris School of Economics**
Research Assistant for Professor Romain Rancière
Working Paper “Inequality, Leverage and Crises” with Michael Kumhof (IMF)
- May-August 2011** **European Central Bank - DG/E Monetary Policy Strategy Division**
Graduate internship
Under the supervision of Massimo Rostagno and Roberto Motto

Seminar and Conference Presentations

- 2016** CREST, National Bank of Belgium*, Bank of England, University of Minnesota*, CEPR Workshop Leuven (Understanding the Micro Channels Affecting Growth), ESSIM 2016 CEPR Helsinki, 15th Journée Louis-André Gérard-Varet, Banque de France (Workshop Granularity and Macro), SED 2016 Toulouse, Banque de France (Joint French Macro Workshop)
- 2015** European University Institute*, Bank of England, SITE-Stanford Summer Workshop, SED 2015 Warsaw, NBER Summer Institute EFCE*, Birkbeck College, University of Oxford
- 2014** CREST (Macro Workshop), Warwick Economics PhD Conference, University of Oxford, Princeton University*, NY Fed*, Stern/New York University*, Banque de France (Joint French Macro Workshop)
- 2013** Paris School of Economics (Macro Workshop), NYU (Macro Student Lunch Seminar)

* presented by co-author

Honors and Awards

- 2015** **Louis Forest PhD thesis prize**
Chancellerie des Universités de Paris
- 2015** **Special Distinction for best PhD thesis**
Association Française de Science Economique (AFSE)
- 2013–2014** **Dissertation Fellowship**
CREST-INSEE
- 2012–2013** **Fulbright Fellowship**
French Fulbright Commission
- 2010–2013** **Three years Ph.D. scholarship ASN (ex-AMN)**
Ministry of Higher Education and Research - École Normale Supérieure de Cachan
- 2008–2010** **Two Years Ecole Normale Supérieure Full Scholarship**
École Normale Supérieure de Cachan - Mathematics Department

Professional Service

Referee

American Economic Review, Management Science, European Economic Review

2014-2016

Macroeconomics Seminar Organization

Exeter College Seminar in Macroeconomics at the Department of Economics, University of Oxford

Other professional experience

2007–2008

Ministry of Economy, Finance and Employment - ENSAE Junior Etude

Direction Générale de la Modernisation de l'Etat (DGME)

Consultant

2008

French Strategy Unit - Centre d'Analyse Stratégique - Commissariat Général du Plan

Research Assitant (Internship)

Under the direction of Oliver Passet (Head of departement) and Clément Schaff

Language and IT Skills

IT

Operating systems

Linux, Windows XP/Vista/7, Mac Os

Progammng languages

CamL, Python, Matlab, Mathematica, Scilab, Maple, Maxima

Statistics & Econometrics

SAS, R, Stata, Eviews

Language

French

Native speaker

English

Fluent

Spanish

Basic grounding

References

Florin Bilbiie

Paris School of Economics
Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne

florin.bilbiie@parisschoolofeconomics.eu

Jean Imbs

Paris School of Economics - CNRS

jeanimbs@gmail.com

Vasco M. Carvalho

University of Cambridge

vmcarvalho.web@gmail.com

Paul Beaudry

University of British Columbia

paul.beaudry@ubc.ca