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Fields

Research: Microeconomic Theory, Public Economics, Industrial Organization
 Teaching: Microeconomics

Education

Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University (anticipated) 2021
 Dissertation: Public Policy and Markets
 Committee: Marciano Siniscalchi (Chair), Eddie Dekel, Alessandro Pavan
 M.A., Economics, Northwestern University 2017
 B.A., Economics-Mathematics, Columbia University 2015
 John W. Kluge Scholar, cum laude, Economics Departmental Honors

Fellowships & Awards

Dissertation University Fellowship, Northwestern University 2020–2021
 Columbia University Scholars Program, Summer Enhancement Fellowship 2014
 Columbia University Scholars Program, Summer Enhancement Fellowship 2013
 Columbia University Scholars Program, Summer Enhancement Fellowship 2012

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University 2016–2021
 Microeconomics (graduate), Microeconomics (undergrad), Econometrics (undergrad)
 Teaching Assistant, Columbia University 2014–2015
 Microeconomics (undergrad), Econometrics (undergrad)

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Jeff Ely, Northwestern University 2020
 Research Assistant, Joseph Stiglitz, Columbia University 2013–2015

Conferences

Econometric Society Winter Meetings (accepted) 2020
 RUD, Queen Mary University of London (accepted) 2020
 Graduate Student Decision Theory Conference 2020
 Transatlantic Theory Workshop, Oxford University 2019

Refereeing

American Economic Review, Journal of Economic Theory, Mathematical Social Sciences

Computing Skills

R (proficient), Stata (experienced)

Job Market Paper

“Market-Based Mechanisms” with Francisco Poggi

Abstract: Agents frequently condition their actions on market outcomes, e.g. asset prices, that they believe convey information about an unknown state. However, when the agent is an important actor in the market, expectations of their action may also influence market outcomes. Thus there is a feedback loop between anticipated actions and market outcomes, which affects their information content. Moreover, the dependence of market outcomes on expectations of the endogenously determined action can induce non-fundamental market volatility. In this paper we study the general problem of choosing

decision rules mapping outcomes to actions in the presence of such feedback effects. We characterize the set of joint distributions of outcomes, actions, and states that can be implemented as the *unique* equilibrium by such a decision rule. By characterizing the feasible set, we greatly simplify the problem of choosing decision rules. A simple graphical technique allows us to identify qualitative features of optimal policies. We illustrate the power of this approach with an application to corporate bailouts. We also characterize optimal decision rules when the requirement of unique implementation is relaxed.

Publications

“Reverse Bayesianism: A Generalization” with Edi Karni and Marie-Louise Vier 

The B.E. Journal of Theoretical Economics, ahead of print

Brief abstract: This paper studies an environment in which a decision maker choosing between acts may initially be unaware of certain consequences. We follow the approach of Karni and Vier  (2013) to modeling increasing awareness, which allows for the decision maker’s state space to expand as she becomes aware of new possible consequences. We generalize the main result in Karni and Vier  (2013) by allowing the discovery of new consequences to nullify some states that were non-null before the discovery. We also provide alternative assumptions which strengthen the predictions of the belief updating model.

Other papers

“Screening and Information-Sharing Externalities”

Brief abstract: In many settings, multiple uninformed agents bargain simultaneously with a single informed agent in each of multiple periods. For example, workers and firms negotiate each year over salaries, and the firm has private information about the value of workers’ output. I study the effects of transparency in these settings; uninformed agents may observe others’ past bargaining outcomes, e.g. wages. I show that in equilibrium, each uninformed agent will choose in each period whether to try to separate the informed agent’s types (screen) or receive the same outcome regardless of type (pool). In other words, the agents engage in a form of experimentation via their bargaining strategies. There are two main theoretical insights. First, there is a *complementary screening* effect: the more agents screen in equilibrium, the lower the information rents that each will have to pay. Second, the payoff of the informed agent will have a certain supermodularity property, which implies that equilibria with screening are “fragile” to deviations by uninformed agents. I apply the results to study pay-secrecy regulations and anti-discrimination policy. I show that, surprisingly, penalties for pay discrimination have no impact on bargaining outcomes. I discuss how this result depends on the legal framework for discrimination cases, and suggest changes to enhance the efficacy of anti-discrimination regulations. In particular, anti-discrimination law should preclude the so-called “salary negotiation defense”.

“Redistribution Through Tax Relief”

Brief abstract: This paper theoretically and empirically explores policy solutions to the entwined issues of high property taxes, geographic income disparities, and inequality in public education prevalent in the United States. By accounting for heterogeneity in incomes and home qualities, I am able to shed new light on classic questions regarding competition in local public goods provision, and make novel policy recommendations. I characterize the equilibrium in a dynamic general equilibrium model of location choice and education investment with a competitive housing market, heterogeneous wealth levels and home qualities, and strategic district governments. When all homes are owner-occupied, I show that competition between strategic districts leads to over-taxation in an attempt to attract wealthier residents. A simple class of policies that cap and/or tax the expenditure of richer districts are Pareto improving, and thus politically feasible. These policies reduce inequality in access to education while increasing expenditure on the most under-funded schools. I discuss the policy implications of the degree of homeownership. Finally, I test the assumptions and implications empirically using a regression discontinuity design and data on property tax referenda in Massachusetts.

“Platform-Mediated Competition”

Brief abstract: Cross-group externalities and network effects in two-sided platform markets shape market structure and competition policy, and are the subject of extensive study. Less understood are the within-group externalities that arise when the platform designs many-to-many matchings: the value to agent i of matching with agent j may depend on the set of agents with which j is matched. These effects are present in a wide range of settings in which firms compete for individuals’ custom or attention. I characterize platform-optimal matchings in a general model of many-to-many matching with within-group externalities. I prove a set of comparative statics results for optimal matchings, and show how these can be used to analyze the welfare effects various changes, including vertical

integration by the platform, horizontal mergers between firms on one side of the market, and changes in the platform's information structure. I then explore market structure and regulation in two in-depth applications. The first is monopolistic competition between firms on a retail platform such as Amazon. The second is a multi-channel video program distributor (MVPD) negotiating transfer fees with television channels and bundling these to sell to individuals.

“Subjective Complexity Under Uncertainty”

Brief abstract: Complexity of the problem of choosing among uncertain acts is a salient feature of many of the environments in which departures from expected utility theory are observed. I propose and axiomatize a model of choice under uncertainty in which the size of the partition with respect to which an act is measurable arises endogenously as a measure of subjective complexity. I derive a representation of incomplete Simple Bounds preferences in which acts that are complex from the perspective of the decision maker are bracketed by simple acts to which they are related by statewise dominance. The key axioms are motivated by a model of learning from limited data. I then consider choice behavior characterized by a “cautious completion” of Simple Bounds preferences, and discuss the relationship between this model and models of ambiguity aversion. I develop general comparative statics results, and explore applications to portfolio choice, contracting, and insurance choice.

“Efficiency in Bargaining with Externalities” (note)

Brief abstract: Consider a principal contracting with multiple agents. The principal engages in simultaneous bilateral negotiations with each agent over an allocation (referred to as the “trade”) and payment. There are externalities to trade; each agent's payoffs depends on their own trade and that of the other agents. I identify general conditions on the bargaining game under which the payoff of the principal is increasing in the aggregate surplus generated by trade. In particular, this implies that the principal-optimal trade profile is efficient.

Non-academic publications

“Deciphering Nicaragua's Tepid Covid Response” *NACLA*, June 17, 2020.

Languages

English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), Mandarin Chinese (basic)

References

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