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Placement Directors: Professor Ufuk Akcigit, uakcigit@uchicago.edu, (773) 702-0433

Graduate Student Coordinator: Robert Herbst, ferbst@uchicago.edu, (773) 834-1972

Education

The University of Chicago, 2014 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: “Advertising, Brand Preferences and Market Structure”
Expected Completion Date: June 2021

Rice University, 2010 to 2014
B.A., Magna Cum Laude
Mathematics, Statistics, Mathematical Economic Analysis

References:

Professor Greg Kaplan
University of Chicago
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(773) 702-5079

Professor Joseph Vavra
Univ. of Chicago Booth School of Business
joseph.vavra@chicagobooth.edu
(773) 834-0959

Professor Chad Syverson
Univ. of Chicago Booth School of Business
chad.syverson@chicagobooth.edu
(773) 702-7815

Research Fields:

Primary fields: Macroeconomics
Secondary fields: Industrial Organization, Firm Growth

Teaching Experience:

Lecturer

Spring, 2018 Elements of Economics Analysis III (Macroeconomics), University of Chicago
Spring, 2017 Elements of Economics Analysis III - Honors, University of Chicago

Teaching Assistant

Winter, 2018 Behavioral Economics & Policy, University of Chicago

Winter, 2017	Elements of Economics Analysis III - Honors, University of Chicago
Fall, 2017	Introduction to Economic Analysis of Law, University of Chicago
Fall, 2017	Microeconomics, Univ. of Chicago Booth School of Business
Spring, 2016	Computational Methods in Economics, University of Chicago
Winter 2016	Intro to International Economics, University of Chicago

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2019	Becker Friedman Institute Data Acquisition Fund, University of Chicago
2019	Travel and Data Fund Awards, University of Chicago
2015	Sherwin Rosen Fellowship, University of Chicago
2014	Social Sciences Fellowship, University of Chicago

Conferences and Seminar Presentations:

2021	Applied Young Economist Webinar (Scheduled)
2021	The Midwest Economics Association, 85th Annual Conference (Scheduled)
2019	Trans-Atlantic Doctoral Conference, London School of Business

Research Papers:

“Advertising, Brand Preferences and Market Structure” (Job Market Paper)

This paper explores how innovations in advertising technology reshape consumers' brand preferences -- propensity to purchase certain brands over others despite of similar prices -- and contribute to changes in the aggregate market structures. Using a novel firm-level data set, I document that aggregate concentration and markup in the U.S. has decreased by 10% and 5% respectively between 2010 and 2016. Empirical evidence also reveals significant changes to the cost structures of the advertising industry during the same period. I then construct a multi-product, multi-sector heterogeneous firm model with endogenous advertising and entry/exit decisions, and structurally estimate model parameters from data. Counterfactual analysis suggests that if the advertising cost structure has not changed during the sample period, U.S. aggregate markup and Herfindahl would both *increase*.

“Constructing Location-Specific Price Indexes from Scanner Data”

As a recent trend in empirical macroeconomics literature, many researchers are now using location-specific price indexes as measures of cost of living in different localities, instead of aggregate measures such as the Consumer Price Index (CPI) released by national statistical agencies. Based on item level micro-data collected from around 35000 U.S. supermarkets from 2006 to 2016, I compare different approaches to construct such location-specific price indexes from scanner datasets, and propose a method that generates unbiased, free of "chain drift" indexes while staying computationally feasible. I show that the resulting indexes are consistent with official statistics released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, and discuss ways to treat missing data in the process. My results suggest that there is significant regional variation in inflation rates across U.S. locations from 2006 to 2016: cities have lower inflation rates than rural areas. This finding potentially raises new interesting questions on the effect of central banks' monetary policies on regional inflation rates.