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GENDER: Male

CITIZENSHIP: Austria

PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES:

2009 – 2011 MRes in Economics, London School of Economics, with distinction
2004 – 2009 Diplom-Ingenieur (equivalent to MSc) in Technical Mathematics applied to Economics,
Vienna University of Technology, with distinction

DOCTORAL STUDIES: London School of Economics

DATES: 2011 - present

THESIS TITLE: Essays on Frictional Labour Markets with Heterogeneous Agents

EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE: Mid 2015

THESIS ADVISOR AND REFERENCES:

Professor Wouter Den Haan (Advisor)
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DESIRED TEACHING AND RESEARCH:

Primary Fields: Macroeconomics

Secondary Fields: Computational Economics, Monetary Economics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

2014	<i>Tools for Macroeconomists: The Essentials and Advanced Tools</i> (Summer course; Prof Wouter den Haan, Dr Petr Sedlacek, Dr Pontus Rendahl)
2012 – 2013	<i>Money and Banking</i> (Summer School; Dr Gianluca Benigno, Dr Kevin Sheedy)
2011 – 2013	<i>Monetary Economics</i> (3 rd year undergraduate; Prof Richard Jackman, Dr Kevin Sheedy)
2012	<i>Introductory Course in Mathematics</i> (MSc and MRes September Course; Dr Margaret Bray, Dr Francesco Nava, Dr Pascal Michailat)
2012	<i>Strategy</i> (2 nd year undergraduate; Prof Ignacio Palacios-Huerta)
2010 – 2011	<i>Macroeconomic Principles</i> (2 nd year undergraduate; Dr Rachel Ngai, Dr Kevin Sheedy)
2007 – 2009	<i>Econometrics for Business Informatics</i> (MSc students at Vienna University of Technology, Prof Bernhard Böhm)

RELEVANT POSITIONS HELD:

09/2013 – date	Research Officer, Centre for Macroeconomics, LSE
09/2012 – 08/2013	Research Assistant to Prof Wouter den Haan, Centre for Macroeconomics, LSE
08/2008 – 08/2009	Intern and Analyst in Financial Services Industry Advisory, Deloitte Vienna

LANGUAGES:

English: fluent

German: native

French: basic

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

2009 – 2013	LSE Postgraduate Research Scholarship
2009 – 2013	ESRC Postgraduate Scholarship
2009	Prize for excellent Diploma Thesis, City of Vienna and University of Technology
2005, 2006, 2008	Excellence Scholarships, Vienna University of Technology
2003	International Mathematical Olympiad: Honourable Mention
2002 – 2003	Austrian Mathematical Olympiad: Silver Medal 2003, Bronze Medal 2002
2002	Mathematical Kangaroo: Best Austrian in age-group

COMPLETED PAPERS:

Job Market Paper:

The Impact of Uncertainty Shocks on the Job-Finding Rate and Separation Rate

Abstract.

Increases in uncertainty lead to increases in the unemployment rate. Using US data, I show empirically that this is due to both an increase in the separation rate *and* a decrease in the job-finding rate. By contrast, standard search and matching models predict an *increase* in the job finding rate in response to an increase in the cross-sectional dispersion of firms' productivity levels. To explain observed responses in labour market transition rates, I develop a search and matching model in which heterogeneous firms face a decreasing returns to scale technology, firms can hire multiple workers, and job flows (job creation and job destruction) do not necessarily coincide with worker flows (hires and separations). Costly job creation (in addition to the usual hiring cost) is key to obtaining a decrease in the job-finding rate after an increase in uncertainty. Standard numerical solution techniques cannot be used to obtain an accurate solution efficiently and I propose an alternative algorithm to overcome this problem.

MRes Research Paper:

Efficiency of On-the-Job Search in a Search and Matching Model with Endogenous Job Destruction

Abstract.

I analyse the inefficiencies created in a search and matching model that allows for on-the-job search. First, the Hosios rule for the efficient level of the worker's bargaining power is adapted in a simple model. As the average gain of a new match is lower when some job seekers already have a job, the efficient level of labour market tightness should be lower and the worker's bargaining power higher than in a model devoid of on-the-job search. Second, the decision of when to perform on-the-job search is endogenised. It is shown that there is too much on-the-job search taking place because workers do not fully incorporate their current firms' loss when they quit. When partial wage commitment is introduced, the bargaining set becomes non-convex. Using a suitable bargaining process, I prove that wage commitment improves the efficiency of the on-the-job search decision and that the efficient level can be obtained.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:

Unemployment (Fears), Precautionary Savings, and Aggregate Demand

(with Wouter den Haan and Pontus Rendahl)

Abstract.

This paper studies business cycles when markets are incomplete, nominal wages do not respond one for one to price level changes, and labor markets are characterized by matching frictions. During recessions, idiosyncratic labor income risk increases as workers worry about being unemployed in the near future. This induces workers to save more. We allow such precautionary savings to end up in both unproductive and productive assets. The increased demand for the safer asset (money) puts deflationary pressure on prices, which pushes up real wages when nominal wages are sticky. This in turn deepens the recession. In the presence of both idiosyncratic investment risk as well as idiosyncratic labor income risk, an increase in idiosyncratic labor income risk induces both a desire to save more and a shift out of risky productive investments. Without idiosyncratic investment risk, precautionary savings does end up to some extent in the productive asset, which means that the model would overstate the depth of recessions if this channel is ruled out by assumption.

Solving Heterogeneous Agents Models using Past Error Terms of the Law of Motion

Abstract.

I propose to include past error terms of the aggregate law of motion as a state variable, when the infinite-dimensional distribution of heterogeneous agents is approximated. There are several advantages of adding this specific new state variable compared to adding higher moments or other characteristics of the distribution. First, the error term can have high predictive power, because it summarizes the information that was omitted by not including all higher order moments. Second, the error term is not predetermined at the beginning of the period, unlike moments of the distribution. When simulating the economy, it is hence possible to determine the realized error term in each period such that market clearing holds where necessary. It can also be chosen to reduce the difference between actual and predicted future moments of the distribution.