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RESEARCH FIELDS

Experimental economics, behavioral economics, political economy, public economics, industrial organization, development economics

EDUCATION

PhD in Economics: *University of California, Irvine.* Started fall 2016. Advanced to candidacy in Fall 2018. Completed dissertation prospectus exam in Spring 2020. Projected completion by the end of 2020. GPA 4.0. Recipient of the Fellowship in Honor of Christian Werner.

Master of Arts in Economics: *University of California, Irvine.* Completed fall 2017. GPA 4.0.

Bachelor of Science in Brain, Behavior and Cognitive Science: *University of Michigan.* Graduate with Distinction, 2010. I received the Caris Dean's Scholarship in Creative Writing, a four-year full-tuition scholarship, and the James Randi Educational Foundation Scholarship for advancing critical thinking.

RESEARCH

Job Market Paper: Experimental Public Goods Games with Progressive Taxation (2018) *Submitted for Publication* Public goods can be provided through a mix of voluntary contributions and taxation. Existing experimental work has treated taxation as pure waste or assumed flat taxes. I study a more realistic setting in which taxes are progressive and contributions are tax deductible. Though there is an interior dominant strategy equilibrium, mean contributions are consistently above this level, even when Pareto-harming. Using a "stranger" re-matching design, I find no evidence of decay in contributions over time or end game effects. I show how to fit the contribution patterns using a finite-mixture model with heterogeneous heuristic types.

Working Paper: International Norms of Peace, War, and Sanction (2019) In this paper I develop an economically microfounded model of international conflict as an indefinitely iterated game, showing that under typical parameters there exist many equilibria, some resulting in war, others in peace. I propose that norms provide a plausible equilibrium selection mechanism for this iterated game. This provides a synthesis between the "realist" and "liberal" schools of international relations: The realists are correct that international norms are cheap talk, not written into the rules of the game; but the liberals are correct that norms can have real effects, when they select one equilibrium over another. Based on this

theoretical result, I provide historical evidence that changes in international norms, particularly the willingness to impose multilateral sanctions against bad actors, are at least in large part responsible for the era of peace that we now observe.

Working Paper: Asymmetric Price Transmission of Cost Shocks: An Experimental Investigation (2019) *Submitted for publication* A collaboration with Dave Hales, Muhammad Bulutay, and Weiwei Tasch. We conduct a laboratory experiment with 245 participants to explore the widely observed phenomenon of Asymmetric Price Transmission (APT). We apply a stylized environment of differentiated price competition with periodic cost shocks, excluding most of the theorized causes of APT, in order to isolate and study the possibility that tacit coordination between competitors is sufficient to cause APT. We propose a simple, reduced-form model of average pricing behavior in this setting, which generates testable hypotheses. Participants were divided randomly into simulated markets of sizes 2, 3, 4, 6, and 10. We find that, for markets of size 3 and greater, average prices do indeed tend to rise more rapidly after positive cost shocks than they fall after negative cost shocks. For markets of size 2, we find that most markets coordinated on persistently high prices, with no clear evidence of convergence to Nash, regardless of shocks. We conclude, consistent with some of the theoretical literature on APT, that tacit coordination among competitors may be an important cause of APT.

Working Paper: Consumer Choice under Group Identification and Ostracism (2020) A collaboration with Hyewon Park. Some consumer products, such as sports memorabilia and university-themed clothing, have a strong element of group identification. Our goal is to measure the effect of group identity on purchasing behavior, under treatment conditions designed to disentangle expression of identity from fear of ostracism. Using the Klee-Kandinsky group paradigm, we sort participants into groups, and assign each group a product. Using the standard Becker-DeGroot-Marschak bidding mechanism, we determine willingness to pay for the product. Then we report their choices to the other participants before engaging in social dilemma games.

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

University of California, Irvine (2018-present): Graduate Student Researcher, involved in programming software, running experiments, developing theoretical models, and conducting data analysis for several research projects in behavioral economics.

University of California, Irvine (2016-2018): Teaching Assistant, leading the discussion sections of various courses in economics. I have taught up to three hours of discussion sections per quarter and met with students during office hours, as well as assisted in the design of tests and homework assignments. I taught sections of introductory macroeconomics, game theory, development economics, and economics of religion.

University of Michigan (2015): Web developer for REBUILD, a research project studying the effectiveness of new teaching methods in science. (<http://rebuild.umich.edu>) I made substantial design changes to both front-end and back-end, after which traffic and retention substantially increased.

California State University at Long Beach (2013-2014): Graduate Assistant, primarily test proctoring and grading with some tutoring of students.

University of Michigan (2013): Science writer for the Physics History Project, interviewing physicists and conducting research to compile a history for the 2017 bicentennial. I designed and implemented a website for the project (<http://michiganphysics.com/>), and did some editing and transcription.

Tutor.com (2012): Tutoring on-line in physics, algebra, writing, pre-calculus, statistics, economics, and calculus. Working on a heavy but unpredictable schedule, I tutored students from around the world.

GED tutor, Ann Arbor Public Schools Adult Education (2011). I tutored a variety of students, many with mental health issues or learning disabilities, to help them prepare for their GED. One of my students was an elderly man who suffered from obsessive-compulsive disorder and had failed the test several times before due to his anxiety. After I worked with him for several weeks, he passed with a perfect score.

SOFTWARE AND PROGRAMMING SKILLS

Programming languages I am proficient with include: Python, R, C++, HTML

Software packages I am proficient with include: oTree, zTree, STATA, Excel, LaTeX, MATLAB, SPSS, PostgreSQL

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

BESLab Experimental Economics Summer School in Macroeconomics (2020, canceled): I was invited along with my collaborators to present the paper “Asymmetric Price Transmission of Cost Shocks”, but unfortunately the workshop was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

UC Irvine Experimental Social Science Lab Seminar (2016-present): This seminar was designed to workshop and present results from experiments conducted at the Experimental Social Sciences Lab. I presented in the seminar nearly every quarter, and from fall 2017 to spring 2020 I organized the seminars, inviting speakers, scheduling the program, managing funding, and ordering food for the attendees.

UC Irvine Institute for Mathematical Behavioral Sciences Seminar (2019): This interdisciplinary seminar attracted speakers both from within UC Irvine and from other universities around the United States. Speakers ranged from mathematicians to economists to sociologists and even physicists. I presented a paper on political economy.

Worldcon 76: San Jose (2018). On the “academic track” of this long-standing science fiction conference, I presented a paper applying game theory and political economy to the concept of a world government, showing that it is both more beneficial and more feasible than is generally believed.

Thinking About Animals: Critical Animal Studies. Brock University (2011) To a standing-only crowd, I presented on the subject of animal cognition and its application to the ethics of animal rights.

Midwest BLGT and Ally College Conference. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2008) I presented on the social psychology of gender, sexual orientation, and their intersection.

LOST: A Candid Conversation with Those Outside the Church about Those Inside the Church. Rochester College (2007) Personally invited, I spoke at a religious university on a panel of nonreligious people about our beliefs and experiences.

LEADERSHIP

Treasurer, oSTEM UCI (2018-2019). I was the treasurer of the UCI chapter of the student group oSTEM (Out in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), which engages in both community-building and political activism on behalf of LGBT students in science fields.

Economic Policy Specialist, Ann Arbor chapter of Organizing for America (2012). As part of a small team of economic policy advisors, I developed presentations to be shown to wide audiences in order to explain economic policy issues and counteract misconceptions about the Obama administration.

Founder and President, University of Michigan Secular Student Alliance (2006-2010) In my first year of college I gathered a group of students to inaugurate a new chapter of the recently-formed Secular Student Alliance, advancing critical thinking and separation of church and state through student activism. By the time I left, I was managing a student organization with over 100 members and coordinating the scheduling of several meetings and events each week.

REFERENCES

John Duffy, Professor of Economics — Dissertation Chair

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