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Contact Information

University of Maryland, Baltimore County
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Professional Appointment

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Maryland Baltimore County, 2019-present

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, The University of Chicago, 2019
M.A. in Economics, The University of Chicago, 2013
M.A. in Financial Economics, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, 2009
B.S., Economics and Business, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, 2009

Teaching and Research Fields

Primary fields: Macroeconomics, Monetary Economics.
Secondary fields: Labor Economics, Networks in Economics, Financial Economics.

Teaching Experience

2019	Principles of Macroeconomics, Instructor, University of Maryland Baltimore County
2018	Introduction to Macroeconomics, University of Chicago, Teaching Assistant for Professor Allen R. Sanderson.
2016	Introduction to Advanced Macroeconomic Analysis, University of Chicago, Teaching Assistant for Professor Harald Uhlig.
2015-16	Introduction to Macroeconomics, University of Chicago, Teaching Assistant for Professor Allen R. Sanderson.
2015	Elements of Economic Analysis IV, University of Chicago, Teaching Assistant for Kerstin Holzheu.
2014	Elements of Economic Analysis IV, University of Chicago, Teaching Assistant for Gunnar Heins.
2010	Mathematical Economics, PUC Chile, Teaching Assistant for Professor Jaime Casassus.
2009	Econometrics, PUC Chile, Teaching Assistant for Professor Verónica Gil.

2006-07	Introduction to Microeconomics, PUC Chile, Teaching Assistant for Professor Andres Illanes.
2005	Accounting, PUC Chile, Teaching Assistant for Professor Gustavo Maturana.
2012	Introduction to Economics, PUC Chile, Instructor.
2011	Introduction to Economics, PUC Chile, Instructor.

Research Experience and Other Employment

Summer 2017	Central Bank of Chile, Ph.D. Intern.
2010-2012	Chilean Ministry of Finance, Junior Economic Advisor.
2009-2010	PUC Chile, Research Associate.
2008-2009	PUC Chile, Research Assistant.

Professional Activities

2018	Speaker at the 7th Annual Workshop on Networks in Economics and Finance (Lucca, Italy)
2017	Referee for Journal of Political Economy.

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships

2016-2018	Morgenthau Fellowship, University of Chicago
2012-2015	Becas Chile Scholarship, Government of Chile.
2009	Highest Honors M.A. Thesis, PUC Chile.

Publications (non-academic)

2010, S. Valdés, N. Castro and A. Torche "A New Price Index for Annuities", Working Paper N° 11 Superintendencia de Valores y Seguros de Chile, April, in Spanish.
www.svs.cl/sitio/publicaciones/serie_documentos_trabajo.php

Working Papers

"The Importance of Production Networks and Sectoral Heterogeneity for Monetary Policy"
(Job Market Paper)
Abstract:
In this paper I develop a multi-sector model with price frictions, production networks, trend inflation and different types of shocks to study how these conditions affect the properties of inflation and its implications for monetary policy. Calibrating the model to the U.S. economy my results show that in this richer setting inflation becomes 30% less sensitive to the output-gap and more sensitive to sectoral variables linked to between-sector and within-sector price distortions. This fact adds inertia to the inflationary process and makes monetary policy less effective. Additionally, the welfare costs of trend inflation increase by one order of magnitude in the multi-sector model compared to the standard one-sector model. The amplification is quantitatively explained by between-sector rather than within-sector price distortions. This suggests that one-sector models and models without heterogeneity underestimate the costs of long-run inflation and the efficacy of monetary policy in fighting inflation.

"A New Keynesian Perspective on Total Factor Productivity via Production Networks", with Francesca Loria.
Abstract:
We construct a New Keynesian model with production networks to study how aggregate productivity, measured as the

Solow residual, depends on sectoral markups and on the production network itself. The model also allows us to study the dynamic behavior of aggregate productivity facing different types of aggregate and sectoral shocks. The introduction of price stickiness allows us to shed a light on monetary-induced short run productivity changes. We calibrate a 14-sectors economy using the I-O tables from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. For the U.S. economy, aggregate productivity is quite sensitive to average markups. A relatively small average price markup of 15% over marginal cost can reduce the steady state level of productivity by 25% relative to a perfect competition case. On the dynamic dimension, we find that a 1% contractionary monetary policy shock and a 1% positive markup shocks contract total factor productivity by 3.5% and 0.1% respectively on an annual basis. Idiosyncratic shocks can have a large impact on changes in productivity depending on the centrality of the sector in the network.

Work in Progress

"Productivity-Driven Labor Income Inequality", with Matías Tapia

Abstract:
In this paper we study how some determinants of firm productivity and firm dynamics affect labor income inequality. To analyze this link we develop a labor model with search frictions and on-the-job search where firms face stochastic productivity and offer workers productivity-contingent contracts. The stationary equilibrium of the model reproduces some salient characteristics of the data: more productive firms pay higher wages and hire more workers and the labor income distribution displays a Pareto right tail. In this setting, changes in the firm environment are mapped to the stationary distribution of productivity and wages. For example, decreases in the fixed cost of operating a firm or increases in the degree of creative destruction shift the stationary productivity distribution towards lower levels and increase labor income inequality.