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Personal

Birthplace: Livingston, New Jersey, USA.

Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Houston, *expected* 2009.

M.A. Economics, University of Houston, 2006.

B.A. Economics, Seton Hall University, 2000.

Honors: *Magna Cum Laude.*

Honorary Society: *Omicron Delta Epsilon, International Economic Society, 2000.*

Major Fields of Interest

Empirical Macroeconomics, Political Economy.

Dissertation—*Essays on Public and Private Risk Sharing*

Chapter 1 (Job Market Paper)— Partners in Risk Sharing: The Effect of Private Insurance on Government Risk Sharing Behavior.

Abstract: The relationship between government insurance and private risk sharing mechanisms is an important yet surprisingly overlooked aspect in the discussion on government risk sharing behavior. By pooling data from multiple sources to construct a panel analysis on U.S. states over the years 1986–2005, I systematically examine the interdependent relationship between these two types of risk sharing mechanisms. In my empirical model, unemployment insurance taxes, welfare spending, and income taxes as a share of total taxes are used as measures for public risk sharing. The private risk sharing mechanisms used are a measure of private wealth, life insurance in force and homeownership. By separating the economic environment from the underlying taste of the population through the use of instrumental variables, I provide evidence that individuals' preferences for risk sharing influence government risk sharing behavior.

Chapter 2— Are Households Ricardian or Non–Ricardian? Evidence from US State Level Life Insurance.

Abstract: In the Ricardian equivalence literature, the income distributions among parents and their heirs have no effect on their consumption. In this paper, I examine a key underlying assumption of the Ricardian equivalence hypothesis as proposed by Barro (1974): a household's consumption and saving behavior is partially based on the objective to smooth consumption both within lifetimes and across generations. I exploit this assumption by testing whether there is a role for intergenerational risk sharing as a potential factor operative in the link between government budget deficits and consumption smoothing across generations. Empirically, I examine the relationship between the demand for life insurance at the state level and federal government budget deficits in the US over the years 1970-2006. Consistent with the main assumption of Ricardian equivalence, I find that the demand for life insurance is negatively associated with federal government budget deficits.

Teaching Experience

Instructor, *University of Houston, Department of Economics*

Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2006, Summer 2007, Spring 2008.

Principles of Macroeconomics, Fall 2007.

Teaching Assistant, *University of Houston, Department of Economics*

Economics of Globalization, Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Summer 2008, Fall 2008, Spring 2009.

Research Experience

Research Assistant, *University of Houston, Department of Economics*

Dietrich Vollrath, Spring 2006.

Computer Skills

Gauss, Linux, Eviews, Stata, LaTeX.

References

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Rebecca Achee Thornton ***(Teaching Reference)***
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Undergraduate Director
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http://www.uh.edu/~echoang/cv.pdf