

## JASON O'CONNOR

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### RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Research: Economics of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Industrial Organization  
Teaching: Innovation Strategy, Industrial Organization, Applied Econometrics

### DOCTORAL STUDIES

Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois  
Dissertation: Endogenous Technological Competition in Agricultural Biotechnology  
Committee Chairperson: Professor Scott Stern  
Date of Completion: July 2010 (expected)

### PREDOCTORAL STUDIES

B.A.: Economics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, 2002.  
B.A.: Electrical and Computer Engineering, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, 2002.  
M.A.: Economics, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 2005.

### FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Kauffman Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 2009  
Department of Economics Distinguished Teaching Award, 2005-2006

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, 2005-2006  
Introduction to Macroeconomics  
Senior Honors Thesis Seminar  
Teaching Assistant, Kellogg School of Management, 2007-2009  
Management of Technology

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Professor Scott Stern, 2006-2008  
Research Assistant to Professor Shane Greenstein, 2007

### JOB MARKET PAPER

See No Evil, Taste No Evil? Consumer Preferences, Labeling, and Innovation in Agricultural Biotechnology

I estimate the impact of a negative market size shock on late-stage agricultural biotechnology innovation activity. From 1999 to 2003, European Union policy responded to concerns over GMO (genetically modified organism) safety through the establishment of strict labeling requirements for genetically modified foods and a *de-facto* moratorium on GMO regulatory approvals. Two complementary factors caused the market size shock: (1) the souring of EU public opinion on GMOs and (2) labeling requirements that solved the consumer's inability to discern GMOs in food products. I exploit the differential impact of the labeling requirements and

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consumer use across organisms to estimate the impact of the shock on agricultural biotechnology innovation. I find a substantial decrease of 70-80% in development activity in organisms likely to be seen with a GMO label by consumers. I quantify the welfare costs of these policies through a counterfactual estimation of innovation activity in the sugarbeet market. The welfare losses through reduced innovation in this medium sized market (\$1.1 billion in 2000) range between \$100 to \$200 million over the period 2001-2007. The magnitude of this single crop estimate suggests that consumer notification regulations have important, overlooked welfare effects that must be considered when analyzing the benefits of GMO regulations.

## **OTHER PAPERS**

Judicial Decisions as Legislation: Congressional Oversight of Supreme Court Tax Cases, 1954–2005, *New York University Law Review* 82:5, 1340-1402, with Nancy C. Staudt and René Lindstädt.

## **PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Age: 30

Marital status: Married

Citizenship: US

## **REFERENCES**

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