

IJA TRAPEZNIKOVA

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RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Research: Labor Economics, Macroeconomics
Teaching: Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Macroeconomics, Applied
Econometrics

DOCTORAL STUDIES

Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois
Dissertation: Employment Adjustment and Labor Utilization
Committee Chairperson: Professor Dale T. Mortensen
Date of Completion: July 2010 (expected)

PREDOCTORAL STUDIES

M.A.: Economics, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 2005
M.A.: Economics, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, *summa cum laude*, 2004
B.A.: Economics, University of Latvia, Riga, Latvia, *summa cum laude*, 2002

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Summer Fellowship, Northwestern University, 2005-2008
Graduate School Teaching Assistantship, Northwestern University, Fall 2005
Graduate School Fellowship, Northwestern University, 2004-2005
Outstanding Academic Achievement Award, Central European University, 2004
Graduate School Fellowship, Central European University, 2002-2004
K. Morbergs Fellowship for Academic Research, University of Latvia, 2001-2002
Socrates/Erasmus Fellowship, University of Latvia, Spring 2001
4-year State Fellowship, University of Latvia, 1999-2002

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, 2005-2009
Strategic Marketing Decisions (MBA, 2006-2009), Introduction to Microeconomics
(Undergraduate, Fall 2005)
Teaching Assistant, University of Latvia, 2001
Labor Economics (Undergraduate)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Professor Luojia Hu, Northwestern University, Spring 2008
Research Assistant to Professor Éva Nagypál, Northwestern University, 2007-2008
Researcher, Project "Reasons and Duration of Unemployment and Social Exclusion in Latvia",
founded by Ministry of Welfare of Latvia in cooperation with European Science Foundation
(with Mihails Hazans and Jekaterina Dmitrieva), 2006-2007
Research Assistant to Professor Christopher Taber, Northwestern University, 2006-2007
Research Assistant to Professor John Earle, Central European University, Fall 2003
Research Assistant to Professor Mihails Hazans, University of Latvia, 2001-2002

JOB MARKET PAPER

“Employment Adjustment and Labor Utilization”

Abstract:

Labor adjustment costs determine the extent to which firms vary their employment in response to exogenous shocks. The standard models that are used to formalize and assess the impact of labor adjustment costs only allow firms to change the size of their workforce (extensive margin) and not the number of hours that each worker works (intensive margin). The goal of this study is to relax this assumption and to propose a dynamic general equilibrium model that introduces labor adjustment on both intensive and extensive margins, and subsequently test the model using firm-level data. The model also allows for an on-the-job search that generates different vacancy filling and attrition rates across firms. Calibrated to fit data from a unique matched employer-employee panel of Danish firms, the model captures the negative co-movement between hours and employment at the firm level; that growth in hours precedes growth in employment; and the relation between firm size, wages, and productivity. I find that the average cost of hiring a new worker is equal to about one month of wages. The parameterized model is then used to simulate an increase in hiring costs, which generates a substantial rise in the unemployment rate and a fall in the job-finding rate. I show that ignoring general equilibrium channels by leaving vacancy filling and quit rates unchanged leads to a twice as large increase in the unemployment rate.

OTHER PAPERS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

“Family Background and Schooling Outcomes Before and During the Transition: Evidence from the Baltic Countries” (with Mihails Hazans and Olga Rastrigina), *Journal of Population Economics*, 21:719-749, 2008

“Access to Secondary Education in Albania: Incentives, Obstacles, and Policy Spillovers” (with Mihails Hazans), *BICEPS Working Paper*, 2006

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Age: 29

Marital status: Single

Citizenship: Latvian

REFERENCES

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