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DEGREES

Ph.D., Economics, University of California, Los Angeles (expected)	June 2007
C.Phil., Economics, University of California, Los Angeles	September 2004
M.A. Economics, University of California, Los Angeles	March 2005
M.A., Economics, CCER, Beijing University, China	July 2002
B.A., Finance, Renmin University of China	July 2000

FIELDS

Research: Macroeconomics, Financial Economics, and Public Finance

Teaching: Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, and Econometrics

DISSERTATION

Chairperson: Professor Gary D. Hansen

Expected completion date: June 2007

Title: Uncertain Medical Expenses and Portfolio Choice Over the Life Cycle (Job Market Paper)

In this paper, I explore the effects of uninsurable risk of health expenditures as well as labor income risk on portfolio choice in a realistically calibrated life-cycle model. Most of the existing literature that examines labor income risk and its effect on portfolio composition over the life cycle can provide compelling explanations for the vast differences in portfolios between young and old investors; but few of these studies can explain continued declines in risk-taking with age after retirement. This paper uses MEPS (Medical Expenditure Panel Survey) and HRS (Health and Retirement Study) data to calibrate uncertain medical expenses for the retired. With the consideration of idiosyncratic health expense risk in addition to labor income risk, the model can generate declining financial risk-taking with age after retirement, and therefore fits the data much better than those studies which consider labor income alone. Additionally, regressions on simulated data also show that investors with poorer health tend to hold a smaller share of stocks in their portfolios, which is consistent with the empirical pattern of portfolio choice. Finally, using the model I have developed, I predict the impact of changes in government health

insurance programs, such as expansion of the Medicare program, on individuals' portfolio choices. Simulated results show that a more generous Medicare policy significantly increases the proportion of financial wealth held in equities for the retired.

Title: Optimal Unemployment Insurance with Consumption Commitments: Can Current UI Policy Be Justified?

In this paper, I propose the optimal design of the unemployment insurance contract in an environment with consumption commitments in which people cannot freely substitute among different goods within a single period. The optimal plan I obtain involves a relatively flat decreasing sequence of insurance payments over some duration, which is then followed by a large drop to a very low level of transfer. The results fit current policy well, therefore give an explanation to justify the current policy. Additionally, the model predicts that if we change from the current unemployment insurance program to the optimal contract, the government will only save 1.7% in unemployment payments, which shows that current policy is not as flawed as researchers have traditionally believed. In fact, to achieve efficiency, unemployment transfers should include a jump, similar to we observe in practice.

RESEARCH PAPERS

- “Uncertain Medical Expenses and Portfolio Choice Over the Life Cycle” (Job Market Paper) August 2006
 “Health Insurance Coverage of the Near Elderly: Extension of the Medicare System” April 2006
 “Optimal Unemployment Insurance with Consumption Commitments
 --Can Current UI Policy Be Justified?” February 2006
 “Optimal Income Taxation with Enforcement Frictions” November 2005
 “Business Cycles, Policy Distortion and Bank Runs in China” August 2004
 “Test of Myopic Loss Aversion Theory: the Case of Taiwan” March 2004

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Teaching Fellow, Dept. of Economics, UCLA September 2003- present
 Discussant at Western Economic Association Conference July 2006
 Discussant at Western Social Society Association Conference April 2006
 University Community Representative, UCLA September 2005-July 2006
 Research Assistant, National Bureau of Economics Research July 2005- October 2005
 Research Assistant, CCER, Beijing University, China January 2002-June 2002
 Teaching Assistant, CCER, Beijing University, China September 2001-June 2002

AWARDS

- Four-year Fellowship, Dept. of Economics, UCLA 2002-2006
 Early Advancement to Candidacy Fellowship, Graduate Division, UCLA 2005
 China Economics Research Scholarship, CCER, Beijing University, China 2002

Excellent Graduate Student Honor, Renmin University of China	2000
First Prize Scholarship, Renmin University of China	1999
First Prize Scholarship, Renmin University of China	1998

TEACHING

Econ 1: Principles of Economics Winter 2004-05/Fall 2006	Evaluation Score 8.00/9
Econ 106G: Introduction to Game Theory Spring 2005	Evaluation Score 8.27/9
Econ 11: Microeconomic Theory Winter 2006	Evaluation Score 8.33/9
Econ 101: Microeconomic Theory Spring 2006	Evaluation Score 8.50/9

PERSONAL

Citizenship: P.R.China
Languages: English, Mandarin
Computer Skills: Matlab, Mathematica, Stata, SAS

REFERENCES

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