

Christo Tarazi

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EDUCATION

State University of New York at Binghamton, NY
Ph.D. Economics Candidate

Expected May 2020

State University of New York at Binghamton, NY
Master of Arts in Economics

May 2017

Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY
Bachelor of Arts in Economics
Minor in Mathematics
Magna cum laude

May 2014

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Macroeconomics and Econometrics

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Case-based Learning, Bounded Rationality, Twitter Data, and Political Economy

RESEARCH

Job Market Paper

Case-based Learning and the Cobweb Model (joint with Andreas Pape and Wei Xiao)
Relaxing the rational expectations assumption, this paper investigates the behavior of case-based learning firms in a cobweb model. Relying on empirical studies from cognitive science and psychology, Case-based learning agents are designed to mimic human behavior. Each time-period, the case-based learning firm is only aware of a certain state of the world. Consulting its memory, the firm calculates the expected utility for all available actions. The calculation is based on past profits achieved from similar states. The action with the highest expected profit is chosen and the agent's memory is updated with the new outcome. When calculating their expected pay-off, firms take an aspiration level into account. The aspiration level is the firm's perceived possible maximum profit at any point in time. Firms are modeled to be both realistic and ambitious. Realistic in the sense that they take best past performance into account and ambitious by always striving for more. In a world with a single firm, the market converges to the monopolistic price. A firm must be realistic to achieve convergence. With a high weight on its profit expectations, the firm unrealistically asks for more not settling for one quantity in the long-run. By increasing the number of firms, the market approaches the competitive price but does not converge to it. This is due to some firms' deviation from equilibrium production. By pure chance, the deviating firms experience a higher than rational level profit early on the learning path. Continuing to aspire for this higher profit, those firms find it worthwhile to deviate from equilibrium. The result holds under certainty and uncertainty generated by three discrete states and a more complex auto-regressive pattern.

Work in Progress

- Quantifying Twitter: The Effect of Comey's Letter on Clinton's Support
- Nowcasting Consumer Sentiment from Twitter

PUBLICATIONS

- Tarazi, C. (2015). The Effect of Insurance Coverage on Healthcare Expenditures. Atlantic Economic Journal, 43(2), 303-304.
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KEY SKILLS

Languages: English (fluent), Arabic (fluent), French (basic)

Proficiency in Stata, Python, R-Software, MATLAB, LaTeX and Excel

- Developed numerous code for appropriate software to input, decipher, clean, dissect datasets and program statistical, econometric and/or machine learning models for different analysis
- Conduct supervised-learning sentiment analysis on cleaned sample of over 210 million Tweets (~800gbs of data) using Python's packages including Tweepy, Pandas, Numpy, and Sklearn.
- Transformed over a 1000 pages of PDF text into a dataset using R's text manipulation techniques
- Generated reports powered directly from raw data utilizing R data processing, LaTeX, ggplot2, and R Markdown
- Created Python code to automatically update various JSON files necessary for D3 visualization from traditional excel workbook

Working knowledge in HTML, CSS, JavaScript and Microsoft Access

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor at SUNY Binghamton, Binghamton, NY

Fall 2018; Summer 2018, 2019

- Instruct Economics of Developing Countries (ECON314) with emphasis on basics of data-analysis using advanced excel functionality

Teaching Assistant at SUNY Binghamton, Binghamton, NY

September 2015 to Present

- Taught PhD level microeconomic theory leading discussion for Microeconomic Theory I (ECON611)
 - Held discussion sections for large undergraduate classes including Principles of Microeconomics (ECON160), Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON162) and Macroeconomic Theory (ECON362)
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WORK EXPERIENCE

Short-term Consultant at World Bank Group, Washington D.C.

February 2018 to May 2018

- Provided support to World Bank Advisory Services and Analytics (ASA) project in Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region
- Merged several components of household Survey data of approximately 12,000 households and 55,000 individuals using Stata
- Identified relevant variables from survey collected dataset reflecting economic and social marginalization
- Conducted summary statistics to investigate the degree of marginalization within each identified group in comparison to the general population
- Demonstrated reorganization across different geographic units and plotted results interactively using Tableau Software.

Eiris Conflict Risk Network, Washington, DC

January 2015 to July 2015

- Constructed map of economic sectors for countries facing political conflict around the world
- Analyzed corporate and journalistic reports in countries of conflict to identify companies of interest to socially responsible investors
- Compiled research in database and prepared code to automatically format information for online launch

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES

- President of Economics Graduate Student Organization at SUNY Binghamton for 2016-2017
- Finalist in Best Undergraduate Paper Award at 78th International Atlantic Economic Conference in 2014

REFERENCES

Professor Wei Xiao

Dissertation Advisor

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Professor Andreas Pape

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