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Curriculum Vitae Fall 2009

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Major Fields of Concentration

Industrial Organization, Development Economics

Education

<i>Degree</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Year</i>
Ph.D.	Economics	University of Minnesota (expected)	2010
M.A.	Economics	University of Minnesota	2009
Msc	Economics	Budapest University of Economics	2002

Dissertation

Title: "Essays in Industrial Organization and Development Economics"

Dissertation Advisors: Professor Amil Petrin and Professor Patrick Bajari

Expected Completion: Summer 2010

References

Professor Amil Petrin	(612) 615-0145 petrin@umn.edu	Department of Economics University of Minnesota 4-101 Hanson Hall
Professor Patrick Bajari	(612) 625-8369 bajari@umn.edu	1925 Fourth Street South Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455
Professor Thomas Holmes	(612) 625-4512 holmes@umn.edu	
Professor Christopher Timmins	(919) 660-1809 timmins@econ.duke.edu	Department of Economics Duke University 209 Social Sciences Building P. O. Box 90097 Durham, NC 27708

Honors and Awards

- 2009 CLA Graduate Research Partnership Program Fellowship, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2008 Zoltai Fellowship of the Graduate School, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2002 Academic Prize of the Student Committee of the Budapest University of Economics, Budapest, Hungary
- 2002 First Prize in the Economic Theory Section of the 2002 Scientific Student Conference of the Budapest University of Economics, Budapest, Hungary

Teaching Experience

- 2008 - present Instructor, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Taught *Principles of Microeconomics*.
- 2005 - 2008 Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Led recitation sections for *Principles of Macroeconomics* and *Principles of Microeconomics*.
- 2001 Instructor, Department of Macroeconomics, Budapest University of Economics, Budapest, Hungary. Taught *Principles of Macroeconomics*.

Research Experience

- 2003 - 2005 *Research Assistant*, Economics Department, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Research Assistant for Professors Francesco Caselli, Michael Kremer, and Philippe Aghion
- 2002 - 2005 *Researcher*, Research Institute of Economics and Enterprises of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RIEE HCIC)
- 1999 - 2002 *Research Assistant*, Institute of Economics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Research Assistant for Dr. Janos I. Toth.

Professional Experience

“P. Milgrom and J. Roberts: Economics, Organization and Management,” Hungarian translation, (with Gergely Ujhelyi), 2004.

Papers

“The Value of Free Water – Analyzing South Africa’s Free Basic Water Policy,” Job Market Paper
“Family Financing and Productivity among Small Manufacturing Firms in Ghana”

Computer Skills

Matlab, STATA

Languages

Hungarian (native), English

Dissertation Abstract

First Essay: “The Value of Free Water – Analyzing South Africa’s Free Basic Water Policy” (Job Market Paper)

This paper analyzes South Africa's Free Basic Water Policy, under which households receive a free water allowance equal to the World Health Organization's recommended minimum of 6 kiloliters per month. I structurally estimate residential water demand, evaluate the welfare effects of free water, and provide optimal price schedules derived from a social planner's problem. I use a unique dataset of monthly metered billing data for 60,000 households for 2002-2008 from a particularly disadvantaged suburb of Pretoria. The dataset contains rich price variation across 18 different nonlinear tariff schedules, and includes a policy experiment which removed the free allowance. I find that without government subsidy, the mean monthly consumption would decrease from 12.6 to 5.6 kiloliters, which is below the clean water consumption recommended by the WHO. However, it is possible to reallocate the current subsidy to form an optimal tariff without a free allowance, which would increase welfare while leaving the water provider's revenue unchanged. This optimal tariff would also reduce the number of households consuming below the WHO-recommended level.

Second Essay: “Family Financing and Productivity Among Small Manufacturing Firms in Ghana”

This paper argues that family financing through loans for investment or intermediate input purchases may allow relatively unproductive firms to stay in the market, reducing average productivity in the economy. Evidence from the Ghanaian Manufacturing Survey 1991-1998 is consistent with this hypothesis. I present reduced form estimates as well as a dynamic model which I estimate structurally using simulation methods. The counterfactual analysis with no family financing indicates an average productivity gain of 15% relative to a situation where all firms have access to family loans. The data shows that improving formal lending reduces the availability of family loans, suggesting an additional channel through which improving credit market conditions may increase productivity in developing economies.