Michael Cai

Northwestern

Economics

	Placement Director: Placement Administrator:	Professor Alessandro Pava Lola Ittner	an 847-491-8266 847-491-5213	alepavan@northwestern.edu econjobmarket@northwestern.edu	
Contact Information	Department of Economics Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208	n w	Mobile: 832-758-76 nichaelcai@u.nortl vww.michaelcai.co Citizenship: USA	hwestern.edu	
Research Interests	Macroeconomics, Behavior	al Economics			
Education	Ph.D in Economics, Northwestern University2025 (expected)Committee: Matthias Doepke (Chair), George Marios Angeletos, Matthew RognlieB.S. summa cum laude in Economics, New York University Stern School of Business2017				
Job Market Paper	Explaining the Macroeconomic Inertia Puzzle Many macroeconomic models struggle to explain the sluggish response of aggregate variables to sudden shocks and changes in policy. While numerous theories of adjustment frictions and bounded rationality have been proposed to explain this macroeconomic inertia, no consensus has emerged among them. I show that canonical heterogeneous-agent models—the Blanchard (1985) perpetual youth and Bewley (1986) incomplete markets models—are consistent with aggregate consumption inertia if agents' average expectations align with survey expectations of income and interest rates. To determine the causes and analyze the policy implications of inertia, I adopt a model of frictional Bayesian learning that can explain patterns of forecast errors in expectations data that existing theories struggle to account for. Incorporating this form of learning into a standard heterogeneous-agent New Keynesian environment, I provide a theory for how inertia arises endogenously. Inertia results when the equilibrium amplification of an initial shock exceeds expectations, causing expectations to slowly become unanchored. This theory yields a novel drawback to inertial monetary policy rules and the delayed financing of fiscal deficits: Policy regimes that act more gradually experience longer transmission lags.				
Working Papers	Optimal Long-Run Fiscal Policy with Heterogeneous Agents (with Adrien Auclert, Matthew Rognlie, and Ludwig Straub)				
	building on the dual app of heterogeneous-agent states do not exist, wit When Ramsey steady	proach to optimal taxati models à la Aiyagari (th our results suggestir states do exist, they an	ion. Applying this (1995), we find that ing that long-run is re associated with	e of dynamic Ramsey problems, s method to standard calibrations at in many cases Ramsey steady immiseration is optimal instead. a optimal long-run labor income l to strong anticipatory effects of	
PUBLICATIONS	Online Estimation of DSGE Models (with Marco Del Negro, Edward Herbst, Ethan Matlin, Reca Sarfati, and Frank Schorfheide) <i>The Econometrics Journal</i> : Volume 24, Issue 1, Jan 2021, Pg. C33-C58				
	DSGE Forecasts of the Lost Recovery (with Marco Del Negro, Marc P. Giannoni, Abhi Gupta, Pearl Li, and Erica Moszkowski) International Journal of Forecasting: Volume 35, Issue 4, Oct-Dec 2019, Pg. 1770-1789				

Awards	Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Behavioral Macroeconomics Graduate Fellowship (Northwestern University) Award for Excellence in Economics (Single awardee from NYU Stern)			
Research Experience	Research Assistant, Prof. Matthias Doepke, Northwestern University Research Assistant, Prof. Matthew Rognlie, Northwestern University Senior Research Analyst, Dr. Marco Del Negro, Federal Reserve Bank of New York Research Assistant, Prof. Tim Christensen, New York University			
Teaching Experience	Intermediate Macroeconomics, Prof. Mark Witte, Northwestern University Intermediate Macroeconomics, Prof. Giorgio Primiceri, Northwestern University			
Other Experience	Visiting Scholar, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago Research Officer, International Monetary Fund			
Programming	Python, Julia, Matlab			
LANGUAGES	English (native), Chinese (basic)			
References	Professor Matthias Doepke Department of Economics London School of Economics Houghton Street London, England WC2A 2AE m.doepke@lse.ac.uk Professor Matthew Rognlie Department of Economics Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 matthew.rognlie@northwestern.edu	Professor George Marios Angeletos Department of Economics Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 angeletos@northwestern.edu		

Last updated: November 2024