Syllabus

Recent Trends on Economic Policy

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Description
This reading group focuses on recent contributions to the empirical macro-finance literature that has developed since the Great Recession. This is a huge and growing literature, spanning from asset pricing to household finance, but there are some key characteristics common to most papers.

First, papers in this literature aim to address big economic questions which might inform both policy makers as well as market participants. So it tries to be relevant and impactful.

Second, this literature tends to feature large granular data and to take causal identification seriously. No short cuts in answering these questions and “finding new and relevant data” is the name of the game.

Finally, although mostly empirical, this literature is informed by key theoretical insights, and when tackling new topics, it aims to address new theoretical developments in this area. To provide economic insights that last longer than a news cycle, it needs to speak and inform those just consuming this literature.

Goals and Format:
During every meeting, one student will be in charge of a 20-minute presentation with slides. Other students will be randomly asked to give a 5-minute summary of the paper of the day before starting the main presentation/discussion. There are three big benefits for students:
a) You will be exposed to *recent* research at the intersection of finance, financial econometrics, and macroeconomics. It is a great starting point for your own research agenda.
b) You will refine your *presentation skills* with and without slides (no slides during your job market interviews!).
c) You will have the opportunity to propose and present *papers related* to your research.
Household Finance and the Great Recession


Other references:


Households, Financial Friction and Conventional Monetary Policy


Other references:


Unconventional Monetary Policy: Effects on the Real Economy and on the Financial Markets


Berger, David, Nicholas Turner and Eric Zwick, “Stimulating Housing Markets”


Post Crisis: Regulation and Recovery


Other references:

**Fintech: Challenges and Opportunities**


**Student debt crisis**


**Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

TBD