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Office Contact Information

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Personal Information:

Citizenship: US, Israeli

Undergraduate Studies:

BA, Economics, Philosophy, Columbia University, *Magna Cum Lauda, Phi Beta Kappa*, 2003

Graduate Studies:

Harvard University, 2009 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Political Economy and Government
Dissertation Title: "Essays in Economic Geography, Firm Sorting, and Productivity"
Expected Completion Date: May 2015

References:

Professor Marc Melitz
Harvard University, Littauer Center 215
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Professor Edward L. Glaeser
Harvard University, Littauer Center 315a
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Professor Pol Antràs
Harvard University, Littauer Center 207
(617) 495-1236, pantras@harvard.edu

Professor Elhanan Helpman
Harvard University, Littauer Center 217
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Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary fields: International Trade, Urban and Real Estate Economics
Secondary fields: Economic Geography

Teaching Experience:

Spring, 2012-2014 International Trade, Harvard University, teaching fellow for Professor Pol Antràs
Fall and Spring, 2007 Principals of Economics, Columbia University, teaching assistant for Professors Padma Desai and Brendan O'Flaherty

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2007-2009 Federal Reserve Board of Governors, Research Assistant

Fellowships, Scholarships, and Grants:

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| 2008 | National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship |
| 2011 | MIT University Transportation Center, Fellowship |
| 2012 | Harvard Interdisciplinary Program on Inequality and Social Policy, Fellowship |
| 2013 | Taubman Center for State and Local Government, Research Grant |
| 2014 | Core Logic Academic Research Council, Real Estate Data Grant |
| 2014 | Ewing Marion Kauffman Entrepreneurship Dissertation Fellowship |

Publications:

“Unhappy Cities.” *Forthcoming, Journal of Labor Economics* (2014). (with Glaeser, Edward L. and Joshua D. Gottlieb.)

Research Paper:

“Density, Productivity, and Sorting” (Job Market Paper)

The strong, positive relationship between productivity and density has been used as evidence for the existence of agglomeration forces such as productivity spillovers. This paper presents an alternative hypothesis: The sorting of heterogeneous entrepreneurs drives the density-productivity relationship. Sorting generates differences in market access and prices, and relationships between location and firm characteristics arise endogenously. I introduce a new method for solving continuous space geography models. Indexing locations according to their endogenous desirability, I solve the model in two steps, first with respect to the index and then mapping locations to index values. This change of variable approach dramatically reduces the complexity of the continuous space geography, allowing me to characterize multiple equilibria and derive relationships between location and firm characteristics. I use establishment-level Census data to document these relationships, and I find they are consistent with the model. Finally, I use the predictions of the model to test the sorting hypothesis. Positive shocks to density can lead to negative productivity changes through changes in the composition of firms, inconsistent with models of agglomeration forces without sorting. I test for these composition effects, instrumenting for the supply of new construction using the inter-city linkages of REITs, and present evidence of firm sorting.

Research Papers in Progress:

“Location Advantage and the Distribution of Economic Activity”

I estimate the extent to which ex-ante differences in firm productivity account for differences in the density of economic activity across locations. Firms with heterogeneous productivity choose locations that differ endogenously with respect to access to markets, inputs, and productivity spillovers. I decompose location effects into observable proximity to other firms in the same industry, other firms in linked industries, and population centers, and unobservable location advantages. Using micro-geography available in the restricted access Census data, sample distances between firms in the same industry, upstream firms, and downstream markets and estimate the relative contributions of each of the proposed agglomeration forces and market access to location advantage.

“*The Denser the Better? Manufacturing Productivity and Urban Growth during US Zoning Law Expansion, 1910-1940*” (with Jamie Lee)

From 1916 to 1929, local governments across the US adopted zoning ordinances. We construct a new dataset of these ordinances within information on passage date and type: use, height, area, and comprehensive. Instrumenting for adoption with state Zoning Enabling Acts, we examine the short- and long-term consequences of early adoption on city manufacturing and commercial outcomes.