

Northwestern

Economics

BRIAN O'QUINN

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Citizenship: United States

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Research: Macroeconomics, Industrial Organization
Teaching: Macroeconomics

DOCTORAL STUDIES

Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois
Dissertation: Heterogeneous Agent Dynamics across the Business Cycle
Committee Chairperson: Professor Giorgio Primiceri
Date of Completion: December 2017

PREDOCTORAL STUDIES

M.A.: Economics, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, 2014
B.S.: Economics & Applied Mathematics, Texas A&M University, College Station,
Texas, 2007

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Dissertation Year University Fellowship, Northwestern University, 2012
University Fellowship, Northwestern University, 2008–2012
Foundation Honors, Texas A&M University, 2007
University Honors, Texas A&M University, 2007
Business Economics Certification, Texas A&M University, 2007
University Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Texas A&M University, 2006
Phi Beta Kappa Society, Texas A&M University, 2006

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, 2008–2015
Department of Economics
Introduction to Macroeconomics
Introduction to Microeconomics

Intermediate Macroeconomics
Intermediate Microeconomics
Kellogg School of Management
Accelerated Finance
Finance II
Managing People for Competitive Advantage
Department of Mathematics
Multivariate Calculus
Probability and Statistics for Econometrics
Teaching Assistant, Texas A&M University, 2007
Intermediate Macroeconomics

RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Edgar Browning, Texas A&M University, 2007
Research Assistant to Theodore Turocy, Texas A&M University, 2007
Research Intern, Koch Quantitative Trading, 2006

JOB MARKET PAPER

“The Effect of Plant Entry and Exit on Productivity across the Business Cycle”
Brian O'Quinn

What is the effect of plant entry and exit on productivity throughout the business cycle? According to Schumpeter's theory of creative destruction, recessions should cleanse the economy of unproductive plants. I also consider the hypothesis that economic booms should force less productive plants to close due to increased competition for inputs. Using plant-level data from Chile, 1979–96, I estimate productivity using two contemporary methods and develop metrics to isolate the change in average productivity due solely to plant entry and exit. The results support both propositions. I find that entry–exit behavior during a recession improved productivity by 2.4 percentage points per year over periods of moderate economic growth. Similarly, entry–exit behavior during economic booms improved productivity by 1.9 percentage points per year over periods of moderate economic growth.

OTHER PAPERS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

“Unemployment and Credit Constraints in a Heterogeneous Agent Model”
Brian O'Quinn, 2014–2017

What is the link between the drop in consumer credit during the Great Recession and increased unemployment? I build a heterogeneous household model with endogenous idiosyncratic risk of unemployment, incomplete insurance, sticky wages, and a central bank that follows a predetermined interest rate rule. After a shock to their credit constraints, households try to save more and thereby reduce their spending. This results in job rationing because prices are rigid. With a typical interest rate rule, I find that a tightening in credit constraints that matches the decline in consumer credit between 2008:Q2 and 2010:Q3 can explain about a 1 percentage point increase in unemployment. Without an interest rate decrease, my model exhibits a 5.36 percentage point increase in unemployment.

LANGUAGES

English (native)

COMPUTER SKILLS

Proficient: Java, MATLAB, R

Some experience: C++, Stata

REFERENCES

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