

LHAKPA SHERPA

Email: lhs9@pitt.edu

Office Phone: 412-648-1763

Cell Phone: 718-909-9385

Citizenship: Nepal

Visa Status: F1 (Permanent Resident Applicant)

Url: <https://sites.google.com/view/lhakpasherpa>

Department of Economics
University of Pittsburgh
4999 Wesley W. Posvar Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Education

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, University of Pittsburgh 2019 (Expected)
Dissertation title: "Essays in Macroeconomics and Applied Economics"
Committee: Prof. Daniele Coen-Pirani (Chair), Prof. Marla Ripoll
Prof. Sewon Hur, Prof. Najeeb Shafiq
M.A. in Applied Mathematics, University of Missouri-Columbia 2013
M.A. in Economics, Washington University in St. Louis 2011
B.A. in Economics and Mathematics, Elmira College 2009

Research Interests

Primary Fields: Macroeconomics, Public Economics

Secondary Fields: Development Economics, Quantitative Methods

Working Papers

[Student Debt and Entrepreneurship: The Effect of Repayment Plans on Entrepreneurial Activity \(Job Market Paper\)](#)

[Estimating the Tax Elasticity of Taxable Income Using the CPS](#)

Research in Progress

Marital Rates and Declining Entrepreneurship

Finance and Structural Change

Professional and Academic Experience

Instructor

Intermediate Macroeconomics, University of Pittsburgh 2018,2017,2016

Finite Mathematics, University of Missouri-Columbia 2012,2013

College Algebra, University of Missouri-Columbia 2012

Teaching Assistant

Applied Econometrics, University of Pittsburgh	2018
Intermediate Macroeconomics, University of Pittsburgh	2017
Advanced Macroeconomics II, University of Pittsburgh	2015,2016
Advanced Macroeconomics I, University of Pittsburgh	2014,2015
Calculus I, University of Missouri-Columbia	2011

Research Assistant

Prof. Stefania Albanesi	2016,2017
-------------------------	-----------

Honors and Awards

Graduate Teaching Assistantship, University of Missouri-Columbia
E.C. Harwood Fellowship, American Institute for Economic Research
American Institute for Economic Research Summer Fellowship
Abraham Shabanowitz Prize in Mathematics, Elmira College
Phi Beta Kappa (Junior year inductee), Elmira College
Summa Cum Laude, Elmira College
Valedictorian Scholarship, Elmira College

Presentation and Program Participations

Pittsburgh Brownbag Presentation	2014-2018
Princeton Initiative, Princeton University, New Jersey	2015
Teaching Inclusively Workshop, Center for Learning and Teaching, Pitt	2017

Research Abstracts

Student Debt and Entrepreneurship: The Effect of Repayment Plans on Entrepreneurial Activity

Abstract: Student debt has grown the most in the US among any other types of debt. While student debt can be viewed as a good investment because of the high returns on college education, it can also have distortionary behavioral effects. One such distortionary behavior is occupational choice. In this paper, I construct a model of occupational choice between being an entrepreneur and a worker and examine how occupational choice is affected by repayment plans available to students. Since en-

entrepreneurship is inherently riskier than becoming a worker and repayment of student debt that takes into account the income level of the borrower can have effect on occupational choice. I find that while repayment plans do not change the rate of entrepreneurship in the aggregate, there is substantial change in the composition of entrepreneurs by age.

Estimating the Tax Elasticity of Taxable Income Using the CPS

Abstract: In this paper, I provide estimates for the elasticity of taxable income with respect to marginal tax rates using the publicly available Current Population Survey (CPS) dataset, in contrast to studies that use datasets on tax returns that are not publicly available. I am able to use the panel structure of the CPS and exploit tax reforms in the US to employ an instrumental variables approach to study how taxable income responds to tax change. I find that the elasticity of taxable income is 0.42 for married couples.

Marital Rates and Declining Entrepreneurship

Abstract: In this paper, I document that entrepreneurship is most common among married individuals. Considering that entrepreneurship can be a risky occupation and requires personal asset, this can be attributed to insurance provided by spouses or the ability to accumulate asset faster given both spouses are earning. I build a model of occupational choice where individuals can be married or single. Then, I run counterfactual experiments to quantify the effect of decline in marriage in the rate of entrepreneurship.

Credit Constraints and Structural Change

Abstract: Motivated by the fact that access to external finance tends to be a barrier in many of the developing countries, I construct a quantitative model to study the effects of credit constraints on structural change. I incorporate elements from existing literature and augment the model with credit constraints. Popular existing models look at frictionless economies, and suggest channels through which structural change occurs. By introducing credit constraints I argue that these proposed channels are not fully operational and that relaxing the constraint in a calibrated model can generate labor share decline in the agriculture sector of up to 22%.

Professional Activity and Membership

Journal Referee for: *Review of Economic Dynamics*

Membership: American Economic Association

Computer Skill

Stata, Fortran(90/95), OpenMP, Matlab, L^AT_EX

Languages

Nepali (native), Sherpa (native), English (Fluent), Hindi (advanced)

References

Prof. Daniele Coen-Pirani
Department of Economics
University of Pittsburgh
230 South Bouquet St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
(412) 648-1749
E-mail: coen@pitt.edu

Prof. Sewon Hur
Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland
Research Department
1455 E 6th Street
Cleveland, OH 44114
(216) 579-2132
E-mail: sewonhur@gmail.com

Prof. Marla Ripoll
Department of Economics
University of Pittsburgh
230 South Bouquet St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
(412) 648-2243
E-mail: ripoll@pitt.edu

Placement Officers

Prof. Daniele Coen-Pirani
(412)648-1749
E-mail: coen@pitt.edu

Mr. Brian Deutsch
(412)648-1399
E-mail: briandeutsch@pitt.edu