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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Cambridge 2015-present

Field: Microeconomic Theory, Economics of Networks, Industrial Organization

This Title: Essays on Network Formation

Expected Completion Date: June 2019

References:

Prof Sanjeev Goyal

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University of Cambridge
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Dr Matthew Elliott

Faculty of Economics
University of Cambridge
Sidgwick Avenue
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Prof Francis Bloch

Paris School of Economics
48 Boulevard Jourdan
75014 Paris, France
E-mail: francis.bloch@univ-paris1.fr

Visiting PhD Student, Stanford University April 2018

Econometric Society Summer School in Seoul August 2017

MPhil in Economic Research (distinction), University of Cambridge 2014-2015

BSc in Mathematical Economics and Statistics (first class), University of Birmingham 2012-2014

BSc in Economics, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, China 2010-2014

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Diploma Microeconomics, Univ. of Cambridge (Undergraduate) 2016-2018

Teaching Assistant, Economics of Network, Univ. of Cambridge (Graduate) 2016-2018

Supervisor, Microeconomics, Downing College, Univ. of Cambridge (Undergraduate) 2017-2018

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Referee: American Economic Journal: Microeconomics

HORNORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Faculty of Economics Trust Fund, Univ. of Cambridge 2018-2019

Cambridge International Scholarship 2015-2018

Best Teaching Assistant Award, Faculty of Economics, Univ. of Cambridge 2018

Santander Award, St Edmund's College, Univ. of Cambridge

2015

The James Claydon Prize in Economics, St Edmund's College, Univ. of Cambridge

2015

WORKING PAPERS

"The Formation of Links and the Formation of Networks" JOB MARKET PAPER

Abstract: Theoretical investigations on network formation activities proceed under strong assumptions on how a link between two agents can be produced: typically link investments are assumed to be unweighted and links are formed either reciprocally or unilaterally. We propose a more general approach to link formation by allowing weighted link investment and employing a CES link formation function. This formulation has two advantages other than permitting a more flexible sponsorship of links. First, it nests the two commonly employed bilateral and unilateral link formation assumptions as special cases and thus enables robustness checks on existing works. Second, it introduces a variation in link investment substitutability and hence facilitates the analysis of how different link formation technologies affect network formation. We illustrate this approach through two applications: a game of pure network formation and a game of network formation with assorted activities. In both cases, greater link investment substitutability is associated with more unequal sponsoring of links and more diversity on network position and action choice of players. These structures have large welfare implications.

"When to Make an Introduction?"

Abstract: The literature on network formation typically assumes that the creation and severing of a relationship is a decision made by the two agents involved. This paper enriches the scope of investigation by analyzing a model where links can be formed via introductions from mutual friends. I assume that players who are heterogeneous in their attractiveness undergo a matching process where the set of feasible matches is defined by a network. I investigate how the incentive for making an introduction depends on the endowment configuration and network positions when players' objective is to enhance own matching outcome. The characterization revolves around the structure of alternating path with descending endowments. I also examine the stability of networks based on introductions and show that introductions are not always welfare improving.

WORK IN PROGRESS

"The Formation of Multi-Functional Networks" (with Marcin Dziubinski and Sanjeev Goyal)

"Foster a Community: Learning from Network Formation Dynamics"

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

2018 EDGE Jamboree Workshop (Munich), 4th Annual Conference in Network Science and Economics (Nashville), 23rd Coalition Theory Network Workshop (Maastricht), Cambridge Networks Workshop

2017 22nd Coalition Theory Network Workshop (Glasgow), Cambridge Microtheory Workshop

2016 Cambridge Networks Workshop

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Citizenship: Chinese

Language: Chinese (native), English (fluent)