NADAV KUNIEVSKY

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Education

University of Chicago, Ph.D. Economics	*2018–2024*
Tel Aviv University, M.Sc. Economics	*2014–2017*
Magna Cum Laude	
Tel Aviv University, B.A. Economics and Accounting	*2011–2014*
Magna Cum Laude	

References

Professor Stephane Bonhomme (Chair)	Professor Derek Neal
University of Chicago	University of Chicago
Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics	Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics
sbonhomme@uchicago.edu	n9na@uchicago.edu
Professor Ben Brooks	Professor Jack Mountjoy
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Research and Teaching Fields

Primary:	Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics
Secondary:	Industrial Organization

Job Market Paper

Bridging the Gap: Information, Returns and Choices

Abstract: *How much of the gap in choices across social groups is driven by differences in returns or the ability to predict these returns? To address this question, we employ a decomposition exercise and a structural model to quantify the roles of information quality and differences in returns in driving this gap. Focusing on the college attendance decisions of White and Hispanic high school students in Texas, we use administrative data to understand the drivers behind their differing choices. Initially, we demonstrate that the average monetary returns from college for Hispanics are almost zero, in contrast to being positive for Whites. We then estimate the extent to which differences in returns and information quality contribute to the gap in choices and find that differences in information quality narrow the choice gap in college attendance, where most of the gap is explained by differences in returns. Finally, we use our model to show that to achieve parity in choice between the two groups, policymakers would*

need to provide highly accurate additional information, potentially explaining between 19% and 35% of post-college earnings.

Working Papers

It's Not Who You Are, It's What They Know: Wage Gaps and Informational Frictions

Abstract: *Can informational asymmetries among firms account for all observed wage gaps across social groups? We confirm this through a parsimonious common-value auction model in the labor market with unspecified information structures. Firms with identical characteristics encounter workers with unobserved productivity and extend wage offers based on their information about worker productivity and competing offers. Using 2010 American Community Survey data, we show that wage disparities among both black and white men and women can be explained using a common productivity distribution for all social groups and differences in what firms know, if the mean of this common productivity distribution ranges between $48,000 and $132,800. Our results emphasize the importance of understanding what firms know in shaping wage distributions and explaining wage disparities.*

Uncovering Latent Types in Sequential Choice Data Using Text Embedding Algorithms

Abstract: *In economic analyses of agents making a series of discrete choices, deciding what constitutes as an alternative is crucial. This paper introduces a technique for categorizing similar alternatives in contexts where forward-looking agents make a series of decisions. The proposed method groups options that are equivalent from the perspective of the agents, using the renowned word2vec algorithm (Mikolov et al., 2013) from the Natural Language Processing literature. The paper discusses the link between the word2vec method and the underlying agents dynamic optimization problem.*

A Note on Linear Regression in a Nonlinear World: The Multivariate Case

Abstract: *For estimating causal effects, researchers often assume conditional independence and operationalize these assumptions using linear regression. However, challenges arise in interpreting the regression coefficient when the treatment variable is continuous and the Data Generating Process is nonlinear. This paper examines the interpretation of the regression coefficient through an extension of Yitzhaki's theorem (Yitzhaki, 1996) to the multivariate case. The analysis reveals that, in many scenarios, the coefficient does not represent a weighted average of treatment effects, due to biases akin to omitted variable and attenuation biases.*

Work in Progress

Quantifying Uncertainty over the Lifecycle

We examine the welfare implications of income uncertainty, specifically its differential impact across social groups. Leveraging a new lifecycle metric for uncertainty costs, we compare utility outcomes from both expected and optimal consumption profiles under certainty. To perform this analysis, we employ a new approach that uses a Generative AI model (Normalized Flow) for the estimation and simulation of future consumption and income trajectories. Utilizing comprehensive household survey data from India, our findings reveal small but persistent disparities in uncertainty costs across different castes, under the assumption of homogeneous utility functions. The study suggests that, in the absence of preference heterogeneity, income-to-welfare mapping may be adequately performed without considering uncertainty.

Content Vs Form: What Drives Differences in Test Scores Across Different Socioeconomic Status with Maria Goldshtein

Differences in test scores across various socioeconomic statuses (SES) often hinge on more than just the academic content; they also reflect variances in communication styles. This study explores the dual aspects of content and form in academic self-expression and their impact on evaluation outcomes. We investigate how students' ability to adapt their style and expression to diverse audiences, a skill variably acquired across different SES, influences their test scores. Employing methodologies from Text Style Transfer literature and decomposition techniques from labor economics, the study quantifies the extent

to which differences in the ideas students present and the styles they use contribute to score discrepancies. This approach provides a nuanced understanding of how SES-related factors shape academic performance, underscoring the importance of both substance and style in educational assessments.

Integrating Minority Perspectives: An Analysis of Women's Induction into the Field of Economics

Can complementarity explain path dependence in innovation? Evidence from the secondary market of patents

Awards, Scholarships, and Grants

Becker-Friedman Institute Research Grant ($10000)	2022
Neubauer Fellowship and Theodore W. Schultz Fellowship Award	*2018-2023*
Scholarships for Outstanding Academic Achievements, Tel Aviv University	*2014-2027*

Teaching Experience

Job Mobility/wage determinants (Graduate)	TA for Prof. Neal	*Autumn 2021*
TA Honors Metrics (Undergraduate)	TA for Prof. Bonhomme	*Spring 2021*
Human Capital and Markets (Graduate)	TA for Prof. Heckman	*Winter 2021*
Empirical Analysis III (Graduate)	TA for Prof. Heckman	*Spring 2020*
Economics for Everyone (Undergraduate)	TA for Prof. Levitt and Prof. List	*Spring 2020*

Publications

On the Interpretation of the Intergenerational Elasticity and the Rank-Rank Coefficients for Cross Country Comparison, Economics Letters, (Forthcoming, 2024)

Gandal, Neil, Nadav Kunievsky, and Lee Branstetter. "Network-Mediated Knowledge Spillovers in ICT/Information Security." *Review of Network Economics* 19, no. 2 (2021): 85-114.

Gandal Neil, Stefania Gandal and Nadav Kunievsky, "The High-Tech Sector", Chapter 17, The Israeli Economy, 1995–2017: Light and Shadow in a Market Economy. Ben-Bassat, Avi, Reuben Gronau, and Asaf Zussman, eds. Cambridge University Press, 2021. Forthcoming

Additional Information

Citizenship	Israel, Romania
Programming Skills	Python, R, Stata
Languages	Hebrew (Native), English (Fluent), Arabic (Beginner)