

Curtis Kephart

Curriculum Vitae

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Education

PhD in International Economics	University of California Santa Cruz	June 2015, Expected
MA in International Economics	University of California Santa Cruz	June 2011
BA in Business Management Economics	University of California Santa Cruz	Sep 2001-Jun 2003

Completed Sequences: Advanced Micro and Macroeconomics. Advanced Econometrics, International Finance, and International Trade.

Major Fields of Concentration: Financial Economics, Experimental Economics, Market Microstructure.

Research in Progress - Thesis Advisor Daniel Friedman

Software for Continuous Game Experiments, work with James Pettit, Daniel Friedman, and Ryan Oprea. *Forthcoming in Experimental Economics (accepted Dec 2013)*.

ConG is software for conducting economic experiments in continuous and discrete time. It allows experimenters with limited programming experience to create a variety of strategic environments featuring rich visual feedback in continuous time and over continuous action spaces, as well as in discrete time or over discrete action spaces. Simple, easily edited input files give the experimenter considerable flexibility in specifying the strategic environment and visual feedback. Source code is modular and allows researchers with programming skills to create novel strategic environments and displays.

Hotelling Spatial Competition Model Experiments

Exploring Hotelling models of spatial competition (product differentiation and geographic competition) in a continuous time, experimental setting.

Emergence of Trading Institutions in a Large Virtual Economy, with Matt Baumer and Dan Friedman.

One of the most fundamental questions in economics is how exchange institutions - such as money, middleman services, and developed markets for goods and labor (and finance) - could emerge. Early attempts to tackle this question include much of Adam Smith's 1776 book (e.g., his formulation of the double coincidence problem in direct barter exchange, and his opening discussion of how specialization coevolves with the extent of market activity); Jevons' (1875) refinement of the double coincidence problem and proposed solution via indirect money-mediated exchange; and Menger's (1892) definition of money as a good with maximal "saleableness," enabling more efficient trade. Among the more influential and formal theoretical studies are Jones (1976), Kiyotaki and Wright (1989), and Rubinstein and Wolinsky (1987). Almost without exception, the modern literature is speculative in that it is not grounded in direct observation of economic activity.

We, by contrast, document and analyze the recent emergence of a sizeable and increasingly sophisticated exchange economy. The near completeness of the dataset permits us to show in greater detail than ever before the spontaneous emergence of certain goods as money, credit, and the more gradual emergence of a small subset of players as specialized middlemen and brokers. Further, we present the creation of broad macroeconomic indices for a large virtual economy. We use the data to measure economic fundamentals (e.g. aggregate price levels) and then explore the impact on these fundamentals of various quasi-natural experiments such as the introduction of a centralized posted-price marketplace.

Teaching

Instructor: Introduction to Econometrics.

Teaching Assistant (2009 to Present): Introduction to Microeconomics, Mathematics for Economists, Marketing (twice), Intermediate Macroeconomics (twice), Econometrics (thrice).

Awards & Honors

Outstanding Campus-wide Teaching Assistant Award 2012-2013

Teaching Assistant Excellence Award, Economics Department, for Econometrics, Spring 2012

Teaching Assistant Excellence Award, Economics Department, for Econometrics, Spring 2011

Teaching Assistant Excellence Award, Economics Department, for Marketing, Spring 2010

Regent's Fellowship, Economics Department, UCSC 2009

Department Honors, Economics Department, UCSC 2003

College Honors, Adlai Stevenson College, UCSC 2003

Employment Experience

Graduate Student Researcher.

Under NSF Grant SES-0925039 "Continuous Games", Summer 2011 and Winter 2012

Under NSF Grant CCF-1101741 "Economic Analysis of Recommender Systems", Fall 2013

Under NSF Grant SES-1357867 "Preferences and Equilibrium in Laboratory Financial Markets", upcoming Summer and Fall 2014

Lab Manager LEEPS Lab - leeps.ucsc.edu Summer 2011 to Present

Supervisor: Daniel Friedman. Oversee operation of the experimental economics laboratory at UC Santa Cruz. This involves supervising a team of programmers helping faculty and graduate students create software for economic experiments. I helped ensure all technology operated smoothly (this included lab machines, servers, websites, and subject recruitment management software). I also designed and conducted a number of pilot and production experiments.

Teaching Assistant UCSC Economics Department Winter 2010 to Present

Sales Manager and Marketing

Forex Capital Markets June 2004 – April 2007

Forex Capital Markets offers a platform for speculating in the Foreign Exchange market.

After a year as a sales representative, I became a Team Lead where - in addition to directly supervising a small team - I was involved in hiring and mentoring of new sales staff.

In the Online Marketing role, tasks included search engine optimization, optimization of lead generation campaigns, and use of large budget Google AdWords and Microsoft adCenter account.

I helped build and market a constellation of websites to increase the web presence of the firm. I became expert in email marketing best practices including initial strategies, segmentation, design, deliverability issues, A/B testing, and campaign analysis.

Originally hired in New York, I relocated as new sales offices opened in Dallas and San Francisco.

Additional Skills

Proficient in R (gretl, RStudio, Shiny & RStudioServer), SQL and LaTeX.

Some Python, Java, MATLAB, HTML-5, JavaScript d3.