

MILENA ALMAGRO
milena-almagro.com
m.almagro@nyu.edu

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Address 19 West 4th St, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10012
Phone 917-913-4779 (mobile)

Placement Director: Alberto Bisin alberto.bisin@nyu.edu 212-998-8916
Graduate Administrator: Ian Russell Johnson ian.johnson@nyu.edu 212-998-8901

Education

PhD in Economics, New York University, 2014-2020 (expected)
Thesis Title: *Essays on Spatial Economics and Industrial Organization*
MSc in Mathematical Economics and Econometrics, London School of Economics, 2013-2014
BA in Economics, University of Cambridge, 2011-2013
BSc+MSc in Mathematics, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, 2006-2011

References

Professor Alessandro Lizzeri
New York University
19 West 4th St, New York, NY
(212) 992-8907
Alessandro.lizzeri@nyu.edu

Professor Guillaume R. Frechette
New York University
19 West 4th St, New York, NY
(212) 992-8683
frechette@nyu.edu

Professor Elena Manresa
New York University
19 West 4th St, New York, NY
Em1849@nyu.edu

Professor Tobias Salz
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA
tsalz@mit.edu

Teaching and Research Fields

Industrial Organization, Urban Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Applied Theory

Teaching Experience

Fall, 2018	Introduction to Econometrics, BA, NYU, TA for S. Traiberman
Spring, 2017	Introduction to Microeconomics, BA, NYU, TA for M. Lieberman
Fall, 2017	Introduction to Microeconomics, BA, NYU, TA for M. Bhiladwallha
Spring, 2016 & 2017	Econometrics II, PhD, NYU, TA for T. Cogley and T. Christensen

Research Experience and Other Employment

2016-2018	Research Assistant, NYU for G. R. Frechette, A. Lizzeri, and T. Salz
2016	Research Assistant, NYU for J. Montiel-Olea

Awards, Grants, and Fellowships

2019	Best Job Market Paper Award, European Economic Association
2019	Best Student Paper Prize, Urban Economics Association
2019	Data Grant, CV Starr Center for Applied Economics
2019-2020	Dissertation Writing Fellowship, NYU
2014-2019	MacCracken Fellowship, NYU
2013-2014	Postgraduate Studies Fellowship, Obra Social La Caixa
2012	1 st Class Academic Award, St Edmund's College, Cambridge University

Professional Activities – Invited Talks and Conferences

- 2019 YES (Columbia, NYC), 14th Meeting Urban Economics Association (Philadelphia FRB),
Econometric Society European Winter Meeting (Erasmus University, Rotterdam)
- 2017 CEMFI, SAET (Faro), Universidad de Vigo

Research Papers:

Job Market Paper

Location Sorting and Endogenous Amenities: Evidence from Amsterdam, with T. Domínguez-Iino.

This paper argues the endogeneity of amenities plays a crucial role in the welfare distribution of a city's residents by reinforcing location sorting. We quantify this channel by leveraging spatial variation in tourism flows and the entry of home-sharing platforms, such as Airbnb, as shifters of location characteristics to estimate a dynamic model of residential choice. In our model, different consumption amenities in each location are the equilibrium outcome of a market for services, which are supplied by firms and demanded by heterogeneous households. We estimate the model using detailed Dutch microdata, which allows us to track the universe of Amsterdam's residents over time, as well as the evolution of a rich set of neighborhood amenities. Our estimation results indicate significant heterogeneity across households in their valuation of different amenities, and the response of these amenities to demographic composition. We highlight the distributional implications of our estimates by evaluating counterfactual policies, such as zoning, as well as price and quantity regulations in housing markets, speaking to a classic trade-off between efficiency and equity.

Publications

The Construction of National Identities, with David Andrés-Cerezo.

Forthcoming in *Theoretical Economics*.

This paper explores the dynamics of nation-building policies and the conditions under which a state can promote a shared national identity on its territory. A forward-looking central government that internalizes identity dynamics shapes them by choosing the level of state centralization. Homogenization attempts are constrained by political unrest, electoral competition and the intergenerational transmission of identities within the family. We find nation-building efforts are generally characterized by fast interventions. We show that a zero-sum conflict over resources pushes long-run dynamics toward homogeneous steady states and extreme levels of (de)centralization. We also find the ability to foster a common identity is highly dependent on initial conditions, and that country-specific historical factors can have a lasting impact on the long-run distribution of identities.

Work in Progress

Arbitrage and Firm Heterogeneity in a Competitive Market: Evidence from the NYC Taxi Industry, with G. R. Frechette, A. Lizzeri, and T. Salz.

This paper studies the role of imperfect spatial arbitrage in allocating resources in the New York City taxi market. We first provide evidence of substantial persistent heterogeneity in productivity among New York City taxi drivers and links this heterogeneity to differences in behavior by drivers. Given the access to identical capital (taxis) and opportunities, such heterogeneity could not exist in an equilibrium where full spatial arbitrage equates the chance to meet a passenger across locations. Moreover, the persistence in those differences implies that less efficient drivers do not necessarily exit the market over time. We present two distinct forms of evidence that this heterogeneity is in large part driven by differences in search behavior. First, the magnitude of this heterogeneity is larger in "worse" market conditions (when drivers take longer to find passengers and where "ability" becomes more important). Second, drivers display substantial heterogeneity in search patterns in a way that affects earnings. We then construct a model of drivers with heterogeneous knowledge that takes into account imperfect arbitrage in the profitability of locations. The model allows us to back out the underlying distribution of ability of drivers and the probability of exiting the market conditional on ability. Model simulations can be used to study the importance of the heterogeneity in ability, and the response of this market to

different shocks, such as the entry of ridesharing apps, and to recover the long-run distribution of driver ability.

Patient-Specific Information and New Drug Adoption: Evidence from Digital Health, with J. Elliott.

With the rise of digital health technologies, health care professionals increasingly have access to detailed real-time data on their patients. We evaluate to what extent access by physicians to this patient-specific information leads to more efficient patient-drug matches, especially in the context of the introduction of new drugs. To do so, we use data on hemophiliacs from a digital health app that allows patients to record treatments and symptoms (bleeding). A unique feature of our data is that we observe whether physicians access patient information and what information they observe. We leverage this aspect of the data to establish how patient information about drugs' effects influences own prescriptions and the adoption of new drugs, which vary in effectiveness and in the rate of adoption. Additionally, we examine how the information diffuses across patients common to a physician and also within physicians' social networks. We find that patient-specific information has a significant effect on the probability of adoption of new drugs and that there are large spillover effects across a physician's patients as well as within physicians' social networks.

Data-Driven Nests in Discrete Choice Models, with E. Manresa.

Discrete choice models are widely used to study many economic phenomena due to its tractability. Assumptions on idiosyncratic taste shocks are important determinants of the substitution patterns across choices and often yield unrealistic predictions on consumer behavior, such as the independence of irrelevant alternatives. Nested logit represents consumers as agents that choose sequentially over product groups, hence allowing for more flexible substitution patterns. Assuming knowledge of these nest has proven problematic in many applications. In this paper we make use of the panel structure of consumer choice data, where there are many consumers and relatively few products, to estimate both the nested structure as well as the structural parameters. We propose a two-step estimation strategy where in the first step we use clustering methods to classify products, and in the second step we estimate the model conditional on the estimated nest structure, as in Bonhomme, Lamadon, Manresa (2019). We show in Monte Carlo simulations the good performance of the estimator.