
Guillaume Willeme

Postdoctoral researcher

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References:

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Christian Schluter
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Etienne Wasmer (PhD supervisor)
Full Professor,
New York University Abu Dhabi
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Research interests

Primary: Labour Economics, Structural Econometrics, Search and Matching Theory
Secondary: Urban Economics

Position

Since 2017: Postdoctoral researcher, Aix-Marseille School of Economics (AMSE)
2015-2016: Predoctoral researcher, AMSE
2014-2015: Visiting student researcher, University of California, Berkeley

Education

2016: Ph.D. Sciences Po Paris, Economics
Committee: Bruno Decreuse, Juan Dolado, Etienne Lehmann, Fabien Postel-Vinay,
Bruno Van der Linden, Etienne Wasmer
2012: M.Sc. ENSAE ParisTech & Sciences Po, Economics
2010: B.Sc. ENSAE ParisTech, Statistics/Economics

Research

Job Market Paper

- “A Dynamic Empirical Model of Frictional Spatial Job Search”, with Christian Schluter (Aix-Marseille Univ.)

This paper develops a general equilibrium life-cycle model of spatial job search across heterogeneous local labor markets in the presence of search frictions. US and European labor markets exhibit very low geographic mobility. This pattern has usually been framed as resulting solely from moving costs. However, to account for the observed geographic mobility, the implied moving costs should be extremely high. Stating the problem with a search-theoretic perspective, we establish a tractable model of location choice that accounts for the spatial dimension of search frictions. The model allows disentangling the different frictions that contribute to lowering geographic mobility, with a particular emphasis on the role of age. We estimate our model structurally using French administrative individual-level transition data.

Working Papers

- “Optimal Taxation to Correct Job Mismatching”, *R&R, Review of Economic Dynamics*

This paper presents a new efficiency argument for an accommodating taxation policy on high incomes. Job seekers, applying to different segments of a frictional labor market, do not internalize the consequences of mismatch on the entry decision of firms. Workers are not selective enough, resulting in a lower average job productivity and suboptimal job creation. When workers have symmetric comparative advantages, the first-best output-maximizing allocation can be decentralized through a simple anti-redistributive taxation. An income tax guarantees an optimal sharing of the match surplus and a production tax redresses the slope of the wage curve.

- “Age Discontinuity and Labor Market Policy Evaluation through the Lens of Job Search Theory”, with Bruno Decreuse (Aix-Marseille Univ.)

A recent strand of papers use sharp regression discontinuity designs (RDD) based on age discontinuity to study the impacts of minimum income and benefit extension policies. This design challenges job search theory, which predicts that such RDD estimates are typically biased. Owing to market frictions, people below the age threshold actually account for future eligibility to the policy. This affects their search outcomes in a continuous way. Comparing them to people above the threshold is misleading because both groups of workers are actually treated. We quantify the theoretical bias on the datasets that have been used in the literature. Our results suggest that the impacts of minimum income policies are (significantly) under-estimated, whereas the impacts of benefit extensions are (not significantly) over-estimated.

- “Regional Unemployment Persistence and Agglomeration Effects”, with Pierre Deschamps (Sciences Po)

Patterns of unemployment vary considerably across regions. Using an original model of the regional labor market with search and mobility frictions, we study the role of agglomeration effects on the dynamics of local unemployment. With agglomeration productivity gains, negative regional employment shocks are amplified because profit opportunities deteriorate, inducing higher mobility out of the region. We then calibrate the model in order to fit empirical regularities in the persistence of local shocks.

Work in progress

- “Social Welfare for the Gig Economy”

Teaching

- Spring 2017: Lecturer, International Macroeconomics (graduate), AMSE
- Fall 2017: Lecturer, Introduction to Structural Econometrics (Ph.D. course), AMSE
- Spring 2013: Teaching Assistant, Econometrics (graduate), ENSAE ParisTech
- Fall 2012-2013: Teaching Assistant, Microeconomics (undergraduate), Université Paris V
- Fall 2012: Lecturer, Mathematical Methods for economists (undergraduate), ENS Cachan

Experience

- Reviewer for *Labour Economics* (x2), *Journal of Public Economic Theory*, *Revue Economique*
- Research assistant to do data analysis and web scraping
- Summer internships in the statistics departments of the French administration (INSEE and Ministry of Education)

Awards

- 2017: Ph.D. award, Prix de la Chancellerie des Universités de Paris
- 2015: One-year Ph.D. grant, AMSE
- 2014: Visiting fellowship for UC Berkeley, Sciences Po
- 2012: Three-year research grant, Sciences Po

Languages and computing

- Languages: French (native), English (fluent), Spanish (basic)
- Softwares: Julia with Jupyter Notebook, R, Python, SAS and Stata