

Rong Rong

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Education

Ph.D. in Economics, George Mason University, 2013 (expected)

Dissertation Title: *Endogenous Network Formation: Experiments and Methods*

Committee: Daniel Houser (Chair), Tyler Cowen, Robert Axtell

Teaching and Research Fields: Experimental methodology, Social Network Theory, Network Analysis, Cluster Analysis, Behavioral Economics

MA in Economics, George Mason University, 2010

B.S. in Economics, Shanghai Jiaotong University, 2007

Research

Job Market Paper

Growing Stars: A Laboratory Analysis of Network Formation, with Daniel Houser.

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2087104

Summary:

The acquisition and dispersion of information, a critical aspect of economic decisions, can occur through a network of agents (Jackson, 2009). Empirical and theoretical findings suggest that an efficient information dispersion network takes the form of a star: small numbers of agents gather information and distribute it to a large group. Controlled tests of this theory, however, have typically found little evidence of star network emergence. An exception is Goeree et al (2009), which reports reliable star network formation in an environment that includes ex ante heterogeneous agents. While heterogeneity may explain network formation sometimes, it seems to play a smaller role in other cases (Feick and Price, 1987; Conley and Udry, 2010). In this paper we investigate whether specific institutional conditions promote star network formation with ex ante homogeneous agents. We find that investment limits and the “right-of-first-refusal,” both of which are institutions that stabilize decision making, have a surprising ability to promote star network formation. Further, using a cluster analysis that allows us to draw inferences about individuals’ behavioral rules, we find that these effective institutions encourage individual rationality as well as positive habits. We argue that these decision rules emerge due to the stabilizing features of the institutions and this stability facilitates improved network behaviors and outcomes.

Publication

China Bashing: Does Trade Drive the 'Bad' News about China in the U.S.?, with Carlos Ramirez, Review of International Economics, Vol. 20, Issue 2, pp. 350-363, 2012

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-9396.2012.01026.x/pdf>

Research in Progress

Money or Friends: Social Identity and Truth Telling in Social Network, with Daniel Houser

Cluster Analysis for Social Network Data, with Daniel Houser

Risk Attitudes and Job Contact Networks: Theory and Simulation, with Daniel Houser

Extreme Paternalism: Theory and Lab Experiment on Strategic Information Transmission with Bans and Requirements, with Robin Hanson

I'll Be There: A Natural Field Experiment on Keeping and Breaking Promises, with Jared Barton

Teaching Experience

2011 Instructor, George Mason University
(Undergraduate level: Principles of Microeconomics, Evaluation: 4.38/5)

Grants, Honors and Awards:

Grants

2010 Student investigator in Mason research grant to Professors Castillo and Petrie (\$10,000)

Honors

2012 Economics Department Outstanding Student Presentation Award
2011 ICES Outstanding Doctoral Candidate Summer Fellowship
2010 APEE 2010 Young Scholar Award
2009-2011 Pre-doc Fellowship, International Foundation for Research in Experimental Economics
2004-2006 Academic Excellency Scholarship of Shanghai Jiaotong University
2006 Leadership Award from Red Cross Shanghai (top 10 at the municipal level)

Scholarships

2007-present ICES Doctoral Student Fellowship, Economics Department, George Mason University

Conference Attendance

"Star Network Formation with Homogeneous Agents":

Stanford Institute of Theory Economics (SITE) 2012 Workshop, Segment 5, San Francisco, Sep, 2012

Economic Science Association (ESA) 2012 International Conference, New York, June, 2012

ICES End-of-Semester Conference, Arlington, May, 2012

Association of Private Enterprise Education (APEE) conference, Las Vegas. Mar, 2012

Discussant or conference participant:

Southern Economic Association Conference, Washington D.C. Nov, 2011

Econometric Society World Congress, Shanghai, China, Aug, 2010

Economic Science Association Conference, Arlington, July, 2009

Refereeing Activity

Economic Letters
European Economic Review
Games and Economic Behavior
Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization
Journal of Neuroscience, Psychology, and Economics
Quarterly Journal of Political Science

Summer Schools

2012, “The Science of Complexity: Understanding the Global Financial Crisis 2012”, held by Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study and the Santa Fe Institute
2011, “Bounded Rationality”, held by Max Planck Institute
2009, “Social Change”, held by Institute of Humane Studies

Language

English (fluent), Mandarin Chinese (native)

Computer Skills

STATA, Matlab, R, Z-tree, UCINET

Personal interests

Chinese seal carving, scuba diving, gardening

References

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