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Quazi Fidia Farah

Contact information

Department of Economics
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Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Kansas State University — Aug., 2018
Dissertation: "Essays in expectation driven business cycles and wage polarization"
Dissertation committee:
Dr. William Blankenau (Chair) — Dr. Steve Cassou
Dr. Lance Bachmeier — Dr. Ben Schwab
M.A. in Economics, York University, Toronto, Canada. — 2010

Research fields

Primary fields: Macroeconomics, Human Capital and Labor Economics, Firm Dynamics, Managerial Economics
Secondary fields: International Economics, Applied Econometrics.

Work experience

Assistant Professor — Aug., 2018-present
Department of Economics
University of Wisconsin - La Crosse
Courses taught: Global Macroeconomics, Intermediate Macroeconomics.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, Kansas State University.
Courses taught
Primary Instructor: Money and Banking, Intermediate Macroeconomics, Principles of Macroeconomics.
Teaching Assistant: Principles of Macroeconomics, Principles of Microeconomics, Intermediate Macroeconomics, Intermediate Microeconomics.

Research Assistant, Department of Economics, York University, Toronto, Canada.
Research project: "A dynamic theory of competence, loyalty and stability in dictatorship", *The B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics*, Vol 12, 2012.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, York University, Canada.
Courses: Principles of Macroeconomics, Applied Econometrics, Development Economics, Monetary Economics, Mathematical Economics, Statistics.

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, North South University, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Courses: Mathematical Economics, Econometrics, History of Economics, Statistical Economics, International Trade

Project Assistant, The Innovators - Unnayan Onneshan, A Center for Research and Action on Development, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Intern, The Grameen Bank, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Research

Publications
"Adjustment dynamics between broker-dealer leverage and stock market: A threshold cointegration analysis" (with Iqbal Ahmed, *accepted, Empirical Economics*).

Working Papers
"Does disaggregated political risk act as a deterrent to bilateral trade flow across the border in the globe?" (with Gour Gobinda Goswami and Rafe R. Hannan, *Revise & Resubmit*)

"Investment brings change: Implications for news driven business cycles" (with William Blankenau, *Under review*).
Abstract: We provide a new and succinct means of generating comovement between consumption, investment, and labor hours in response to a news shock. Our model builds on insights regarding the importance of maintenance expenditure in explaining business cycles. Endogenous capacity utilization and maintenance expenditure jointly generate increasing returns to scale at the economy-wide level. This is the key enabler of comovement. Over a range of value governing the importance of maintenance spending, the model preserves saddle path stability while generating comovement. We show via impulse responses that an aggregate demand news shock increases current consumption, investment, and hours while a productivity news shock decreases each.

"Wage polarization, and college attendance," (with William Blankenau).
Abstract: We build a general equilibrium model with heterogeneous agents, showing how a fall in the price of computer capital can cause a decrease in the share of the population earning a college degree. Our findings are consistent with recent empirical data show a U-shaped wage growth pattern in the U.S. as well as a slower growth rate of college-educated workers despite the high returns of investing in education. Since technological improvement replaces routinized tasks, it harms the middle-income group, and they no longer find it advantageous to attend college. Our model has government policy implications for observed wage polarization. Our model is the first model in the literature to capture the impact of wage polarization on college education.

"Macroeconomic effects of news shocks to investment-specific technology: Evidence from disaggregated investment price data" (with Iqbal Ahmed).
Abstract: Innovations in information technology lead to reduced prices of IT equipment. Both the contemporaneous innovations in IT and news about future changes could contribute to reducing the price. In this paper, we identify IT news shock from the price data of IT equipment using maximum forecast error variance approach. We examine the macroeconomic consequences of the identified IT news shocks. We provide robust evidence that IT news shocks induce a co-movement in key macroeconomic aggregates, that is, on impact output, labor hours, consumption, and investment. Further, the forecast error variance analysis shows that news shocks about future IT significantly contributes to business cycle fluctuations. Our findings are consistent with the expectation-driven business cycle literature.

Work in progress
"Wage polarization and technology change "

Abstract: Increases in wage inequality that started at the end of the 1970s are now widespread in the US. This inequality trend is due to technology-related changes in the demand for skilled workers outweighing the growth of their supply. In this paper, using the US labor market data, I investigate the principal trends in wage and skill distribution of the US labor market. Then I develop a general equilibrium model to show that labor markets are polarized as jobs in the middle of the wage distribution shrinking while rising for those in the bottom and top third. I argue that this is because technology complements the most skilled tasks, but substitutes for routine tasks performed by middle-wage occupations such as clerks, leaving the demand for the lowest skilled service tasks mostly unaffected.

"Cross-country macroeconomic effects of U.S. tax news shocks"
Abstract: An anticipation about the future change in the economy not only affects the domestic country's macroeconomic activities but also alter cross border interests. This study develops an open economy neo-classical model that captures cross country news-driven business cycles in response to future tax news. Given the state of the current expectation- driven business cycle literature, the contribution of this paper is three-fold. First, this is the first model to demonstrate the transmission mechanism of tax news shock to the global economy. Second, the model is able to comprehend the changes in macroeconomic behavior both in a domestic and foreign country due to tax news shock. Third, the study identifies the tax news shock of the U.S. economy and empirically examines the transmission mechanism of the identified tax news shock on the Canadian economy.

Other publications (policy paper):
"Linking research to policy and practice: Agriculture subsidies in Bangladesh," 2009, with Iqbal Ahmed, South Asia Evidence-based Policy in Development Network, an initiative of the Global Development Network.

Professional service

Service to Department of Economics, UW - La Crosse Aug.2018- present
Undergraduate Student Advisor (150 students in 2 years)
Core Course Coordinator-Macroeconomics
Merit Commitee
Macroeconomics Textbook Selection Committee
Economics Scholarship Committee
Library Liaison
Referee activities: Economic Modelling.
Service to professional conferences:
Discussant, Western Economic Association International, 94^{th} Annual Conf., CA.
Discussant, Midwest Economic Association, 83^{th} Annual Meeting, MO.
Discussant, Missouri Valley Economic Association, 54^{th} Annual Meeting, KS.
Discussant, Missouri Valley Economic Association, 53^{rd} Annual Meeting, MO.
Discussant, Midwest Economic Association, 80^{th} Annual Meeting, IL
Service to Department of Economics, Kansas State University: Member, Five Year Review Committee of Department Head.

Awards, honors and scholarships

Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Department of Economics,
Kansas State University (KSU).
John A. Nordin Memorial Scholarship in recognition of outstanding performance in

economic theory, Department of Economics, KSU.
Carroll B. Greene Memorial Scholarship in recognition of outstanding female graduate student for high academic performance, Department of Economics, KSU.
Dr. James Regan Memorial Scholarship in recognition of outstanding academic achievement, Department of Economics, KSU.
College of Arts & Sciences Graduate Student Research Travel Award, KSU.
Graduate Student Council Travel Award, KSU.
Department of Economics Travel Grant, KSU.
York Graduate Scholarship, York University.
Graduate Bursary Scholarship, York University.

Invited seminar

Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin - La Crosse	2019
Department of Economics, University of Kansas	2017

Conference presentations

Western Economic Association International, 94^{th} Annual Conference, San Francisco, California	2019
Midwest Economic Association, 83^{th} Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO	2019
Missouri Valley Economic Association, 54^{th} Annual Meeting, Kansas City, KS	2017
Midwest Economic Association, 80^{th} Annual Meeting, Evanston, IL	2016
Missouri Valley Economic Association, 53^{rd} Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO	2016
Governance of Climate Change Finance, Bangkok, Thailand	2008
Workshop on Development Finance, Manila, Philippines	2008
Climate Justice Conference, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand	2008

Professional training

Workshops and seminars organized by Center for Advancing Teaching and Learning, University of Wisconsin - La Crosse.
Teaching Assessment Workshops organized by College of Business Administration, University of Wisconsin - La Crosse.
Graduate Teaching Assistant Recognition of Achievement in Professional Development, awarded by Teaching & Learning Center, Kansas State University.
Certificate Course on 'Applied economics: Theory and empirics', organized by Economic Research Group, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
Certificate Course on 'Computable General Equilibrium (CGE)', organized by Economic Research Group and East West University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
Certificate Course on 'Advance lecture on Bangladesh economy', organized by Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Professional affiliations

American Economic Association, Midwest Economic Association, Western Economic Association.

Computer skills

Econometric Software: Matlab, Dynare, Gauss, STATA, R, SAS, E-views
Typography: Scientific workplace, Overleaf, Microsoft office.