Contact Information

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Course of Study

I am a 4th year economics Ph.D. student at NYU. My research interests include applied microeconomics, behavioral economics and development, and I have taken a range of courses in these areas.

In addition to courses, I am a co-organizer of both the Applied Micro Student Lunch and the Applied Micro Reading Group at NYU. The latter is a student reading group focused on recent papers and methods, covering topics such as methods for text as data.

Research

My broad research agenda is to examine the relationship between consumer information and market structure. Several projects that I am current involved with relate to digitization.

In one project, I am digitizing "The Negro Motorist Green Book", travel guidebooks published annually in the 1930s until 1960s that provided advice for African-American travelers at the time of Jim Crow laws. I plan to use the variation in locations covered over time in these guidebooks to test a theory that links consumer information and entry of firms. The editors of these books elicited entries from their readings, working like the Yelp and TripAdvisor before the Digital Age. I am testing whether the publishing, distribution and popularization of these books promoted local entrepreneurship at these travel destinations.

Related to the Green Book project, I am hoping to test the same theory using data from TripAdvisor. The existence of a platform that facilitated communication between past and current consumers not only benefits consumers, but also creates a credible channel of communication that was otherwise unavailable to small and/or nascent businesses.

Aside from encouraging entrepreneurship, provision of consumer information could also affect the pricing mechanism prevalent in a market. I have built a theoretical framework showing that a more informed population of buyers promotes posted price and discourages sellers from engaging in bargaining. The analysis of TripAdvisor Travel Board could act as a starting point to test this theory: past travelers often post on these

forums prices they paid for taxis, souvenirs, tours. These reference points for price change how sellers interact with new consumers.

In addition to my own projects, I am a research assistant for Prof. Hunt Allcott and Prof. Matthew Gentzkow in a project to understand smartphone addiction of college students. Digitization of screenshots from system apps Screen Time and Dashboard that participants send us regularly is a key component of the study, allowing us to keep track of phone usage and better understand the behavioral economics of smartphone use.

I have not proposed a dissertation or formed a committee but hope to do so soon.