Christopher König

May 2020

Contact

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Education

LMU Munich, Germany — Since 2018
MSc. Quantitative Economics (funded by Elitenetwork Bavaria)
Primary Field: Labor and Innovation Economics
Secondary Field: Causal Inference for Policy Evaluation

UC Berkeley, USA — Fall 2019
Visiting Graduate Student, Department of Economics
Courses: Labor, Econometrics, Applied Econometrics

University of Cologne, Germany — 2015 – 2018
BSc. Business Administration (Final Grade: 1.4)
Exchange semester University College Dublin, Ireland

Research Assistance

Chair of Prof. Monika Schnitzer, LMU Munich — Since 2018
Empirical research on migration and labor economics
Developed a general script for IV projects in Stata
Independent data analysis, simulations in Matlab

Department of Finance, University of Cologne — 2017 – 2018
Empirical research on corporate governance

Institute for Econometrics and Statistics, Cologne — Fall 2016
Teaching Assistant in statistics

Awards, Grants

German Academic Scholarship Foundation, full study grant

Erasmus Scholarship, study grant for exchange term at Univ. College Dublin

Dean's Award for outstanding achievements in undergraduate studies

German Mathematical Society, distinction in math exams (Abitur)

Seminars, Workshops

LMU-CRC Innovation Reading Workshop, Munich	2020
Transatlantic Sync (Digital Future), Mountain View (CA)	2019
Munich Summer Institute, Munich	2019
Review of Economic Studies Tour, Cologne/Bonn	2017

Skills

Python, R, Stata, Matlab, LaTeX, Java

Interests

Utilizing novel approaches in **Causal Inference** and **Machine Learning** to provide insights into the **Future of Work**.

Ideas

Human Capital of AI. Whether AI or workers will do a task will depend on comparative advantages. Why don't we treat AI agents theoretically as labor input, that accumulates human capital through training – just as workers do? Using data on costs of training AI agents this could help predict where AI will be used *first*.

Returns to ML education. ML classes in universities are notoriously overbooked so that allocation is partly based on random draws. This could be used for estimating the causal effect of ML skills on labor market outcomes and the value of offering additional ML classes.

Technology Displacement. What happens to workers displaced by technologies? Constructing a measure of job flexibility using the task content of jobs could give insights on the labor market prospects of workers in jobs that AI will displace.

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Motivation for AI

The recent surge in protectionism and right-wing parties shows that disruptions in the labor market pose fundamental threats on societies. While globalization is still ongoing a new disruption is just around the corner: Artificial Intelligence – but this one has the potential to change the world of work in an unprecedented manner. Beyond a doubt: this technology will produce great enhancements. From specific applications like breast cancer diagnosis to the reversal of the burden of knowledge, there is much to hope for. However, if policy management fails, if the structural developments of globalization and automation continue to deteriorate our institutions, we might never enjoy the full benefits of this technology.

Economists and policy makers have long argued that everyone benefits from these developments if compensation is ensured. The dissatisfaction in society raises the question whether this is true. Utility gains from consumption might simply not be able to offset the costs of losing your job or being forced to move away from friends and family. As economists it is our responsibility to find solutions to these issues. We need to provide new perspectives on the relationship of income and occupation, worker flexibility, and lifelong learning. Even with displacement of workers through AI: people *can* live meaningful lives, but the shift in perspective requires guidance.

To manage the impact of AI on the labor market a lot of questions need to be asked. Whose jobs are at risk? What jobs are feasible for displaced workers? How can we retrain people to match these requirements? How can we compensate those who are unable to adapt? With my research I want to provide answers to these questions. I cannot wait to delve deeply into these topics and join the discussion about the future of work at the NBER PhD Workshop on AI.