

Ori Katz

September 2016

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Personal Information

Date of Birth: 11/17/1981

Citizenship: Israel

Education

2011 - 2017	Ph.D. in Economics, Tel Aviv University Advisors: Omer Moav, Moshe Hazan Expected Completion Date: February 2017
2008 - 2011	MA in Economics, Tel Aviv University Advisor: Assaf Razin
2003 - 2007	B.Sc. in Industrial Engineering, Tel Aviv University

Fields of Interest

Economic Growth, Economic History, Economic Mobility

References

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Working Papers

The Effect of Industrialization on Fertility and Human Capital in the 19th Century: Evidence from the United States (Job Market Paper)

Abstract: During the period 1850-1900, the United States experienced a rapid process of industrialization. In this paper, I test for its effect on fertility and human capital. Using aerial distance from potential transportation routes as an instrument for industrialization, I find that the share of workers employed in manufacturing in a particular county had a significant negative effect on the ratio of children to adults in that county, and a significant positive effect on the proportion of literate adult males. The effect is robust to alternative specifications and measures of industrialization. A heterogeneity analysis suggests that the effect was larger in counties that were more industrialized in 1850, leading to a divergence between them and less developed counties.

Work in Progress

The Mobility of Immigrants in Israel: A Surname-based Approach

Abstract: This study examines the socioeconomic advantage of pre-WWII immigrants to Israel and their descendants over later migrants. I identify descendants of migrants from different origin countries and different time periods by using the distribution of surnames in Israel. Comparing immigrants from the same source countries, I find that the initial advantage of pre-WWII immigrants disappeared after a generation. I also find that the intergenerational mobility rate in Israel declined during the second half of the 20th century, and that the intergenerational mobility of “elite” groups was lower than the mobility in the general population.

Economic Mobility and the Sorting Hypothesis

Abstract: This study examines the factors that determine intergenerational income mobility, using an overlapping generations model of parents who transfer resources and inherit abilities to their children. After a change in the abilities needed in the job market or in the equality of opportunity there is a “sorting process” in which the correlation between ability and income grows. During the sorting process both the

potential for upward mobility in the low income quantiles and the potential for downward mobility in the high income quantiles declines. As a result mobility may decline while equality of opportunity rises, and cross-country comparisons or time-trends of mobility cannot tell us anything about the equality of opportunity in a given country at a specific time.

The Academic Matching of Field of Study Choices and the Ethnic Gap in Admission Rate (joint with Sigal Alon)

Abstract: Recent evidence suggests that field of study (FOS) is the most important determinant of future earnings, even after controlling for ability. While FOS choices are typically seen as a reflection of individual tastes and academic/vocational abilities, we may expect to find systematic differences between applicants in FOS choice sets because decisions and choices are partly shaped by the social identities. Such differences are important because they eventually determine the level of occupational segregation and economic inequality, and the chances for socioeconomic mobility . Using Israel as a case study, this study is designed to shed light on how individuals' placement on ethnic hierarchies shape their decisions regarding their preferred FOS at the college application stage.

Presentations

2017	Economic History Society, Annual Conference
2016	Applied Microeconomic Workshop, Tel Aviv University
2015	Economic History Association of Israel, Annual Conference
2014	Warwick Summer Workshop in Economic Growth

Teaching Experience

2008-2017	Introductory Economics (Instructor) Econometrics (Instructor) Macroeconomics (Teaching assistance)
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RA Experience

2015	Prof' Omer Moav
2011 - 2014	Dr. Sigal Alon
2010 - 2011	Prof' Kobi Glazer
2009 - 2011	Prof' Assaf Razin and Prof' Ephraim Zadka

Non-Academic Working Experience

2014 - present	Researcher at Aaron Institute for Economic Policy
2013 - present	Writing about economics for a general audience in Haaretz and TheMarker magazines (in Hebrew)
2008	Analyst at Visa-Cal
2006 - 2008	Consultant at TEFEN