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American University of Sharjah
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EDUCATION

Brown University, Providence, RI

Ph.D. in Economics May 2006

A.M. in Economics May 2001

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPI), Blacksburg, VA

M.A. in Economics May 1998

University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran

B.S. in Telecommunication Engineering August 1991

AREAS OF INTEREST

Regional and Urban Economics, Migration, Industrial Organization, Economics of Advertising, Discrete Choice Models, Location Decisions

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Real Estate Economics Fall 2013, 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2018, 2019, 2020
- Intermediate Microeconomics 2006–2017
- Urban and Regional Economics Fall 2017
- Industrial Organization Spring 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017
- Real Estate Market Analysis and Urban Economics Spring 2007, 2010
- Principles of Microeconomics 2005–2021
- Principles of Macroeconomics Spring 2006
- Graduate Econometrics, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Jinyong Hann Spring 2001
- Graduate Econometrics, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Tony Lancaster Fall 2000
- Urban Economics, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Vernon Henderson Spring 2000
- Graduate Microeconomics (at Virginia Tech), Teaching Assistant Fall 1997–Spring 1998

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Associate Professor, Department of Economics, American University of Sharjah 2014–Present
- Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, American University of Sharjah 2005–2013 (tenured/rolling contract since August 2010)

- Researcher at U.S. Census Bureau, Boston Census Research Data Center (BRDC), conducting academic research with Economic Census microdata, such as SSEL, BES, ASM, LRD, LBD 2000–2013
- Research Scholar at National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Cambridge, MA 2007–2012
- Visiting Scholar at Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, Belfer Center, Dubai Initiative, Cambridge, MA Aug 2007–Aug 2008
- Visiting Assistant Professor, Brown University, Population Studies and Training Center, Providence, RI May 2006–Aug 2006
- Visiting Assistant Professor, Brown University, Population Studies, and Training Center, Providence, RI Dec 2005–Feb 2006
- Research consultant for the World Bank project on China, Brown University, Providence, RI Jan 2000–Feb 2000
- Long-term research consultant for a project investigating corruption in Pakistan at OCER division of The World Bank, Washington, DC Jun 1999–Sep 1999
- Long-term research consultant and core team member of World Development Report 1999/2000, The World Bank, Washington, DC May 1998–Jun 1999
- Economic advisor in the Investment Services Department of Qeshm Free Trade Zone, Iran 1995–1996
- Researcher, Iranian household data, IRPD, Tehran, Iran July 1995–Aug 1995
- Computer programmer, Microsoft affiliate company (Seftwar), Tehran, Iran 1991–1994

RESEARCH PROJECTS AND CONSULTING

- Economic Impact of Air Arabia on Sharjah, UAE, 2015.
- Principal Investigator of the U.S. Census Bureau, CES Project 607, “Scale and Scope Economies and the Organization of the U.S. Advertising and Marketing Services Industry,” , with Alvin Silk (Harvard) and Ernst Berndt (MIT), Boston Census Research Data Center, Cambridge, MA, 2007-2012.
- Principal Investigator of the U.S. Census Bureau, CES project 361, “Outsourcing, Firm Structure, and Headquarter Location,” with Yukako Ono (Chicago Fed) and Vernon Henderson (Brown) at Chicago Census Research Data Center, Chicago, IL and Boston Census Research Data Center, Cambridge, MA, 2006-2010.
- Principal Investigator of the U.S. Census Bureau, CES project 189, “Location, growth, and productivity in the manufacturing and service sectors” with Yukako Ono (Chicago Fed) and Vernon Henderson (Brown) at Boston Census Research Data Center, Cambridge, MA, 2001-2005.

PUBLICATIONS

“Why Countries Are Fiscally Decentralizing,” with Vernon Henderson, *Journal of Public Economics*, 89(7), July 2005, pp. 1157 – 1189.

“Location, growth and productivity in the manufacturing and service sectors,” (No. 05-04). Center for Economic Studies, US Census Bureau, 2005.

“Networking off Madison Avenue,” with Vernon Henderson, *Review of Economic Studies*, 75(4), October 2008, pp. 1011 – 1038.

“A Confidence Interval Test for the Detection of Structural Breaks,” with Ismail Genc, *Journal of the Franklin Institute*, 348(7), September 2011, pp. 1615–1626.

“The Unbundling of Advertising Agency Services: An Economic Analysis,” with Ernst R. Berndt, James C. Davis, and Alvin J. Silk, *Review of Marketing Science*, 10(1), December 2012.

“Migration as a Way to Diversify: Evidence from Rural to Urban Migration in the US,” with Anil Rupasingha, *Journal of Regional Science (Impact Factor 1.94)*, 45, October 2013.

“On the accuracy of Blue Chip forecasts of interest rates and country risk premiums,” with Hamid Baghestani and Ilker Kaya, *Applied Economics (ADBC: A)*, 47(2), January 2015.

“How price inelastic is the demand for gasoline in fuel-subsidizing economies?” with Jay Squalli, *Energy Economics (Impact Factor 5.21)*, 50, July 2015, pp. 117 – 124.

“No taxation, no representation: An investigation of the relationship between natural resources and fiscal decentralization,” with Andrew Balthrop, *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space (Impact Factor 2.38)*, 36(7), November 2018, pp. 1234-1255.

Non-Refereed

“Silver Linings in the Toronto Housing Market,” *Dadgar Magazine*, November 2015.

“Subsidy Reform in Iran,” (in Persian based on the presentation at IBC, Dubai, UAE, Feb 2011), *Iranian Business Council Monthly*, March 2011.

“Advances in Urban Economics,” (in Persian based on the presentation at Sharif University, Tehran, Iran, Jan 7, 2007), Special Issues on Urban Economics, *Journal of Municipal Association*, March 2007.

“Economic Factors Underlying the Unbundling of Advertising Agency Services,” with Ernst Berndt, James Davis, and Alvin Silk, NBER Working Paper No. 14345, Issued in September 2008.

WORKS UNDER REVIEW, WORKING PAPERS, AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Clustering and Hotel Room Prices in Dubai, with Ismail Genc and Shaahana Nick, May 2021.
- Decentralization and Internal Conflict, with Khusrav Gaibulloev, March 2021.
- Impact of the Fuel Subsidy on Energy Efficiency, with Jay Squalli, February 2021.
- How Effective Are IVs in Estimating the Gasoline Demand Elasticity?, December 2016.
- Migration, Job Search, and Industrial Similarity, June 2019.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Member of the Editorial Board of the *Lahore Journal of Economics* (listed in JEL) 2007–Present
- Reviewed three proposals for the U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Research 2005–2012
- Referred papers for *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Lahore Journal of Economics*, etc.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS MEMBERSHIPS

- American Economic Association 2001–Present
- Canadian Economic Association 2011–Present
- **Economic Research Forum** 2006–Present
- Dubai Land Department-Real Estate Brain Trust 2019–Present
- Researcher at U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies 2000–2012
- Visiting Researcher at National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) 2007–2012
- Urban Economics Association 2005–2011
- Regional Science Association International 2003–2009
- Western Regional Science Association 2007–2009
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HONORS AND AWARDS

- **Ranked 54 in the IDEAS/RePEc rankings of the Top 100 Young Economist** 2009
- Ranked 18 by IDEAS/RePEc among economists in the UAE, the highest rank among the AUS economists (as of May 2021)
- Research Fellowship, Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, Belfer Center, Dubai Initiative 2007–2008
- Invitation to the NBER Summer Sessions Summers 2006–2012
- Award winning papare and presentation in the Second Quantitative Research Symposium, Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, UAE March 2016
- Brown University Graduate School W. Randolph Burgess in International Affairs Dissertation Fellowship 2003–2004
- Compton Foundation Fellowship, Population Studies & Training Center, Brown University 2001–2003
- Brown University Graduate School Teaching Fellowship 2000–2001
- Brown University Graduate School Teaching Assistantship 1999–2000
- Virginia Tech Graduate School Teaching Assistantship 1996–1998
- IRPD Fellowship Award for the Best Graduate Student 1995–1996

PRESENTATIONS

- Clustering and Hotel Room Prices in Dubai, Economic Seminar Series, AUS, UAE December 2020
- Clustering and Hotel Room Prices in Dubai, North America Regional Scinces Association, 67th Annual International Meeting (virtual), USA. November 2020
- Determinants of Hotel Prices in Dubai, Economics Seminar Series, AUS, UAE October 2019
- Industrial Similarity, Education, and Migration, The Forum for Economists International, 11th Global Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands May 2019
- Does Fiscal Decentralizaiton Mitigate Internal Conflict, EBES, 25th Conference, FOM University of Applied Science, Berlin, Germany May 2018
- Does Fiscal Decentralizaiton Mitigate Internal Conflict, Economics Seminar Series, AUS, UAE November 2017
- Industrial Similarity, Education, and Migration, with Anil Rupasingha, 19th EBES, Istanbul, Turkey May 2016
- Industrial Similarity, Education, and Migration, with Anil Rupasingha, Second Quantitative Research Symposium, Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, UAE **(The paper won an award in Economics track.)** March 2016
- No Taxation, No Representation: An Investigation of the Relationship between Natural Resources and Fiscal Decentralization with Andrew Balthrop, Canadian Economic Association (CEA), Toronto, ON May 2015
- A Model of Knowledge Sharing and Network Formation among Advertising Agencies, First Quantitative Research Symposium, Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, UAE March 2015
- Industrial Similarity, Education, and Migration with Anil Rupasingha, Canadian Economic Association (CEA), Vancouver, BC May 2014

- Industrial Similarity, Education, and Migration with Anil Rupasingha, Economic Seminar Series, AUS, Sharjah October 2013
- Migration as a Way to Diversify: Evidence from Rural to Urban Migration in the US with Anil Rupasingha, Canadian Economic Association (CEA), Montreal, QC June 2013
- Estimating Gasoline Demand in Fuel-Subsidizing Economies, with Jay Squalli, EBES 2013, Istanbul, Turkey May 2013
- Networking in Advertising Industry, 5th Research Symposium in Business and Economics, American University of Sharjah May 2013
- The Unbundling of Advertising Agency Services: An Economic Analysis with Ernest Berndt, James Davis, and Alvin Silk, Canadian Economic Association (CEA), Calgary, Alberta June 2012
- Internal Conflict: Decentralization vs. Terrorism with Javed Yousef, EBES 2012, Istanbul, Turkey May 2012
- Port City Growth, with Ismail Genc, 3rd Research Symposium in Business and Economics, Abu Dhabi University February 2011
- Migration as a Way to Diversity, with Anil Rupasingha, EBES 2010 Conference, Istanbul, Turkey May 2010
- The Economics Underlying the Unbundling of Advertising Agency Services, with Ernest Berndt, James Davis, and Alvin Silk, U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies Seminar Series, Washington, DC June 2009
- Port City Growth, with Ismail Genc, American University of Sharjah, Department of Economics Seminar Series April, 2009
- The Economics Underlying the Unbundling of Advertising Agency Services, with Ernest Berndt, James Davis, and Alvin Silk, American University of Sharjah, Department of Economics Seminar Series October, 2008
- Migration as a Way to Diversity, with Anil Rupasingha, Brown University, Providence, RI April, 2008
- The Economics Underlying the Unbundling of Advertising Agency Services, with Ernest Berndt, James Davis, and Alvin Silk, NBER Productivity Seminar Series, National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, MA April, 2008
- Urban Resurgence, with Davis, James C., Western Regional Science Association 47th Annual Meeting The Big Island of Hawaii, HI, USA February 2008
- Is Dubai a Deviant?, with Jeffery Williamson, Port Cities Workshop, Harvard University and Dubai Initiative Cambridge, MA, USA February 2008
- Migration as a Way to Diversity, with Anil Rupasingha, 54th Annual North American Meeting of the Regional Science Association International, Savannah, GA November 2007
- Urban Resurgence, with Davis, James C., 53rd Annual North American Meeting of the Regional Science Association International, Toronto Ontario, Canada November 2006
- Networking Off Madison Avenue, with Vernon Henderson, NBER Summer Session on Real Estate July 2006

- Quality Sorting and Networking: Evidence from the Advertising Agency Industry, U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies Seminar Series, Washington DC June 2006
- Spatial Mobility and Geographic Concentration, NBER-CRIW Conference on Producer Dynamics: New Evidence from Micro Data, Bethesda, MD Apr 2005
- Quality Sorting and Networking: Evidence from the Advertising Agency Industry, 51st Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, Seattle, WA Nov 2004
- Knowledge Spillovers vs. Knowledge Sharing: Advertising Agencies in Manhattan, 50th Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, Philadelphia, PA Nov 2003