

Curriculum Vitae

Michael Bar

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Economics Department

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Major Fields of Concentration

Macroeconomics, Economic Growth, Demographic Economics.

Education

<i>Degree</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Year</i>
Ph.D.	Economics	University of Minnesota	2005
B.A.	Economics	University of Haifa (Israel)	1997

Dissertation

Title: *On Labor Force Participation of Married Women: The Case of the U.S. since 1959.*
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Larry E. Jones

Professional Experience

Current Position (from August 2005)

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, San Francisco State University.

Previous Positions

- 2001-2005 *Instructor*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
2000-2001 *Teaching Assistant*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
1996-2000 *Teaching Assistant*, Department of Economics, Haifa University, Israel.
1996-2000 *Teaching Assistant*, Western Galilee College, Acre, Israel
1997-1998 *Lecturer*, College of Management, Kiriath Bialik, Haifa, Israel.
1997-1998 *Teaching Assistant*, Emek Izrael College, Emek Izrael, Israel.
1997-1998 *Lecturer*, Pre-Academic Unit, University of Haifa, Israel.
1997-1998 *Lecturer*, Atid College, Maalot, Israel.

Papers Under Review

- “Demographic Transition and Industrial Revolution: A Macroeconomic Investigation” with Oksana Leukhina (revise and resubmit in *Review of Economic Dynamics*)

All industrialized countries have experienced a transition from high birth rates and stagnant standards of living to low birth rates and sustained growth in per capita income. What contributed to these transformations? Did economic and demographic changes transpire through common or distinct channels? We construct a general equilibrium model with endogenous fertility and two sectors of production in order to quantitatively investigate the case of England. We find that young-age mortality decline significantly influences birth rates, while increased productivity has a negligible effect on birth rates but accounts for nearly all of the increase in per capita output, industrialization, urbanization, and the decline of land share in total income. Our findings suggest that the quantitatively relevant channels through which the demographic and economic transformations transpired were distinct in the case of England. The quantitative assessment of the young-age mortality and productivity channels conducted in this paper also sheds light on the relative importance of several theoretical mechanisms developed in this field.

- “To Work or not to Work: Did Tax Reforms Affect Labor Force Participation of Married Women?” with Oksana Leukhina. (conditionally accepted to *The B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics*)

During the period 1960-2000, the proportion of two-earner couples among married couples in the U.S. more than doubled, while tax laws underwent numerous changes, with major reforms taking place in the 1980s (flattening of the tax schedule) and in the 1990s (major expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit). We build a model of family decision making with heterogeneous couples and discrete work choice in order to quantitatively assess the impact of tax reforms on married couples’ labor force participation. For every couple in the model, a tax simulator software package is used in conjunction with the Internal Revenue Service Income Statistics to compute the federal income and FICA tax liability associated with each possible time allocation decision (only the husband works, only the wife works, and both work). These calculations are used jointly with the U.S. Census data to parameterize the model and then to investigate the impact of tax reforms. Our main finding is that changes in tax laws account for as little as 8% of the increase in the proportion of two earner couples in the 1980s, although this value masks a greater impact experienced by groups of couples, differentiated by income. Tax laws cannot account for the observed patterns in the other decades. Another important finding is that the Earned Income Tax Credit substantially discourages work participation among married couples and drives a reversal from negative to positive values of the correlation of wives’ participation and husbands’ income for low levels of the husband’s income.

- “Accounting for Labor Force Participation of Married Women: The Case of the U.S. since 1959”, with Oksana Leukhina. (under review at *The Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*).

Using a model of family decision-making with home production and individual heterogeneity, we quantitatively investigate the role of changes in several aspects of the joint earnings distribution of husbands and wives (gender earnings gap, gender-specific inequality and assortativeness of matching) and the decline in prices of home appliances in accounting for the dramatic rise in labor force participation of married women since 1959. The implications of the factors examined are also tested against changes in participation for disaggregated groups of couples and leisure trends of married individuals, documented from the U.S. population census and time-use survey data. The key finding is that changes in the distribution of potential earnings account for nearly 90% of the observed increase in labor force participation of married females and in a manner consistent with the change in participation for groups of females differentiated according to the husband’s earnings and changes in group-specific leisure trends. Closing of the gender earnings gap is the main aspect of the distribution that underlies this result, although changes in assortative matching are partly responsible for the greater rise in

participation experienced by women with husbands at the top of the earnings distribution. Closing of the gender earnings gap, through increasing purchasing power, also generates a widespread use of home appliances, thus driving the home production revolution, which is commonly regarded as being a result of the fall in prices of home appliances alone. We find the effect of the decline in prices of home appliances on female participation to be quantitatively small.

Working Papers

- “The Role of Mortality in the Transmission of Knowledge”, with Oksana Leukhina.

This paper extends the existing literature on endogenous growth theory by linking accumulation of ideas with mortality. In the old days ideas were stored in human minds, and transmitted from master to apprentice. Adult mortality thus potentially played an important role in accumulation of ideas.

- “Growth and Fertility Accounting”, with Oksana Leukhina.

This paper presents a technique for identifying the relative importance of various channels of demographic and economic transition. The technique is similar to Chari, Kehoe and McGrattan (2006) accounting for sources of business cycles.

- "Empirical Investigation of Labor Market Inequality and Women's labor Supply".
- "Structural Transformation in Unified Growth Models".