

Sentimental Business Cycles

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Sources of fluctuations in the economy: Much work estimates impact of '**fundamental shocks**' on the economy:

- Technology shocks / investment specific shocks.
- Monetary/ fiscal/ credit/ trade policy shocks.
- Oil price shocks/ commodity price shocks.
- TFP uncertainty shocks/ policy uncertainty shocks.

Other shocks: Large share of the variances of macro aggregates remains unaccounted for:

- News (about fundamentals) shocks.
- Animal spirits / expectational shocks / non-fundamental shocks.

Key Challenge: How to estimate causal effects?

- Sentiments hard to translate into observables.
- **Multiple equilibria:** Some attempts using structural models.
- **Animal spirits:** Variety of recent attempts
 - Barsky and Sims (2012),
 - Levchenko and Pandalai-Nayar (2018), Forni et al. (2013)
 - Mian, Sufi and Khoussou (2015), Benhabib and Spiegel (2016), Feve and Guay (2018), Lagerborg (2017)

This paper: Central Contributions

- 1. Empirics:** Estimate the dynamic causal effects of **sentiment** shocks:
 - Propose IV strategy for estimation.
 - Combine IV with SVAR to estimate dynamic causal effects.
- 2. Theory:** Build model and apply it for structural analysis:
 - Incomplete information and Bayesian learning.
 - Heterogeneous Agents New Keynesian with Search and Matching in labor market.
 - HANK&SAM provides amplification mechanism.
- 3. Quantification:** Estimate key structural parameters:
 - Simulation based estimates of structural parameters.

This paper: Key Findings

1. **Empirics:** A deterioration in consumer confidence:

- raises unemployment, decreases industrial production and consumption persistently
- reduces the nominal interest rate and is non-deflationary

Sentimental Business Cycles: Sentimental shocks explain between 16 and 28 % of variance of unemployment and 10 to 20 % of fluctuations in industrial production at business cycle frequencies.

2. **Theory:** Shocks to sentiments induces a powerful supply-demand feedback mechanism:

- Countercyclical risk wedge important for amplification of negative demand effects.
- Monetary policy can moderate demand effects.
- Non-deflation results from interaction of supply-demand feedback.

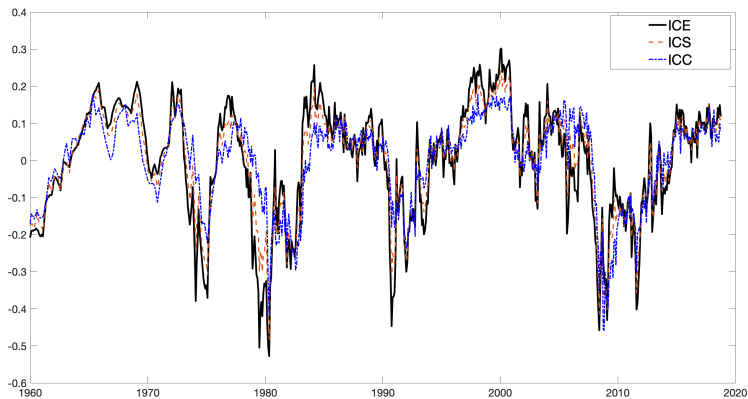
Sentiments: Draw data from **University of Michigan Survey of Consumer Confidence:**

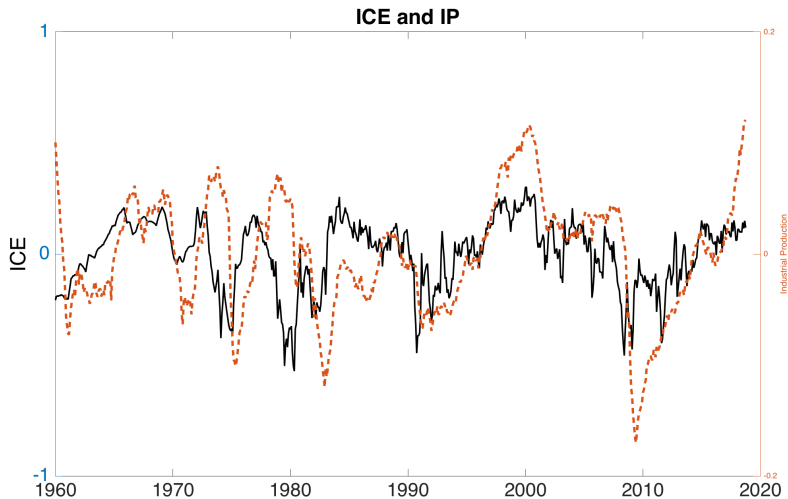
- Conducted since late 1940's;
- Monthly since 1977 (quarterly since 1952);
- 500 randomly drawn persons are interviewed per month;
- Asked about own situation and about US economy;

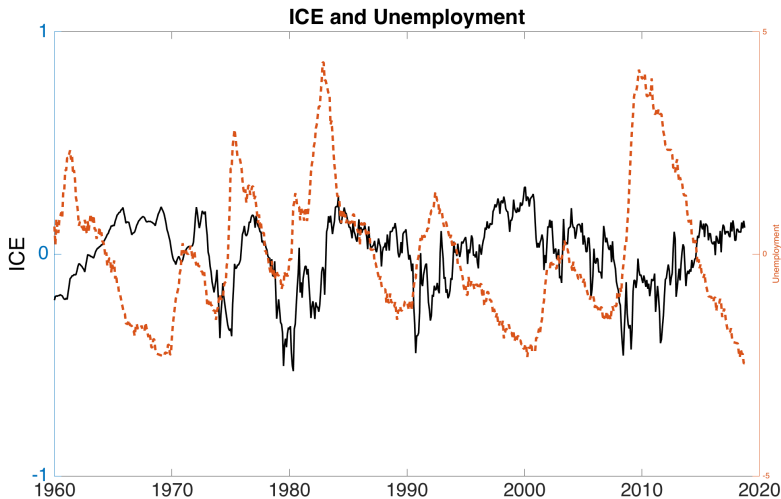
Three broad **indices:**

- **Index of Consumer Sentiment (ICS):** A mix of:
- **Index of Current Economic Conditions (ICC),** and
- **Index of Consumer Expectations (ICE).**

Empirics







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- **Problem**: Predictive power / Granger causality - no causal interpretation, could be due to news about fundamentals.

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- Can be estimated with 2SLS or 3SLS.

Empirical Approach

Assume that the dynamics of observables is:

$$\mathbf{X}_t = \mathbf{A}(L) \mathbf{X}_{t-1} + \underbrace{\mathbf{u}_t}_{\text{innovations}}$$

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- Order $\mathbf{C}\mathbf{I}$ (wlog) first

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- Allows for measurement errors and one can correct for scaling issues

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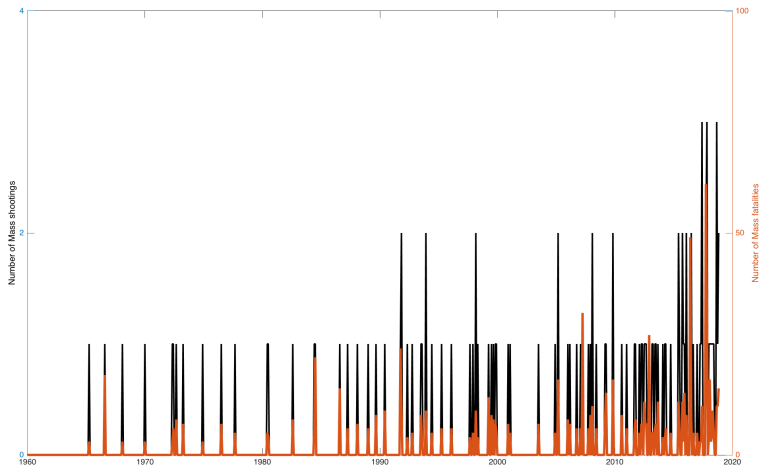
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- Mass shootings are unpredictable over time.
- Each event unlikely to bear much in terms of direct costs.

Mass Shootings with 12 or More Fatalities

Incident	Location	Date	Fat.	Inj.
U. of Texas Tower shooting	Austin, Tx	Aug 1966	18	31
San Ysidro's McD massacre	San Ysidro, Cal	Jul 1984	22	19
U.S. Postal Service shooting	Edmond, Okl	Aug 1986	15	6
Luby's massacre	Killeen, TX	Oct 1991	24	20
Columbine High massacre	Littleton, Col	Apr 1999	13	24
Virginia Tech massacre	Blacksburg, VA	Apr 2007	32	23
Binghampton shootings	Binghampton, NY	Apr 2009	14	4
Fort Hood massacre	Fort Hood, TX	Nov 2009	13	30
Aurora Theatre shooting	Aurora, Col	Jul 2012	12	70
Sandy Hook massacre	Newtown, Conn	Dec 2012	28	2
Wash. Navy Yard shooting	Washington, D.C.	Sep 2013	12	8
San Bernadino mass shooting	San Bernadino, Cal	Dec 2015	14	21
Orlando Nightclub massacre	Orlando, FL	Jun 2016	49	53
Las Vegas Strip massacre	Las Vegas, Nevada	Oct 2017	58	546
Texas First Baptist Church mass.	Sutherland Springs, TX	Nov 2017	26	20
Marjory Stonemann Douglas High School	Parkland, FL	Feb 2018	17	17

Fatalities in Mass Shootings



Mechanism: Shooting -> News -> Confidence

Incident	Year	TV cov.	TV time	Articles	Words
Sandy Hook	2012	168	15:57:10	130	118,354
Fort Hood sh.	2009	31	05:05:00	36	35,097
Virginia Tech shooting	2007	59	06:12:12	36	33,473
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- Lankford (2018): Mass killers (7 biggest shootings since 2012) received more news coverage than top sports stars and celebrities.

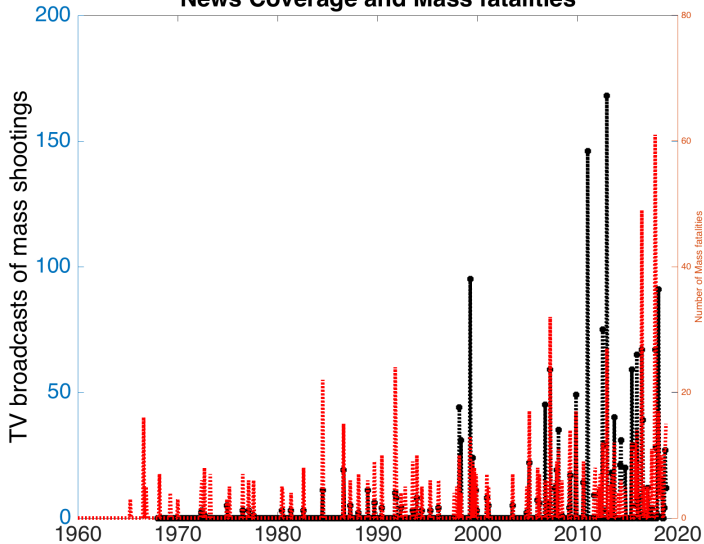
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- Mass shootings impact on psychological well-being: PTSD symptoms (Hughes et al, 2011), subjective well-being (Clark and Stancanelli, 2017) - potential for direct impact on confidence.

News Coverage and Mass fatalities



Implementation: US time series data:

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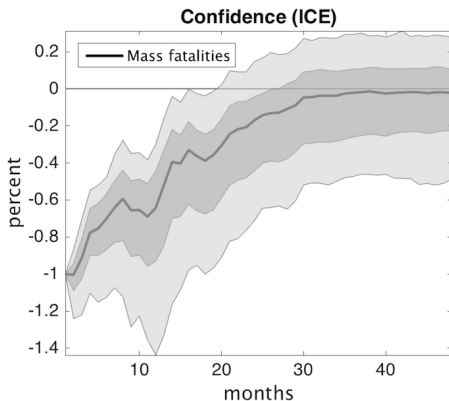
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- Instrument: Detrended fatalities or TV media coverage

Weak Instrument tests, VAR with 18 lags

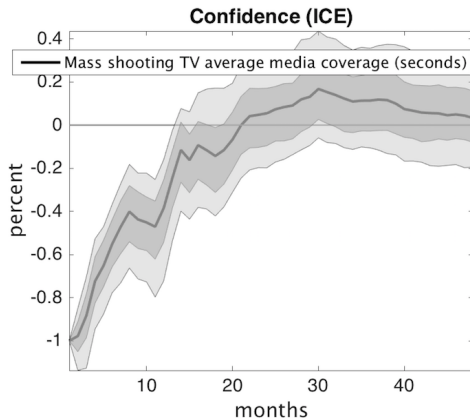
Sample	Instrument			
	Fatalities		News coverage*	
	F^{hom}	F^{MOP}	F^{hom}	F^{MOP}
1960-2015:1	12.43	6.76	-	-
1968-2015:1	-	-	15.83	52.20
1960-2017:6	11.13	6.36	-	-
1968-2017:6	-	-	11.15	3.53
1960-2007:9	5.50	4.30	-	-
1968-2007:9	-	-	3.5	34.82

*Logistic transformation

- Use Montiel Olea, Stock and Watson (2017) parametric bootstrap with Newey-West HAC-robust covariance matrix



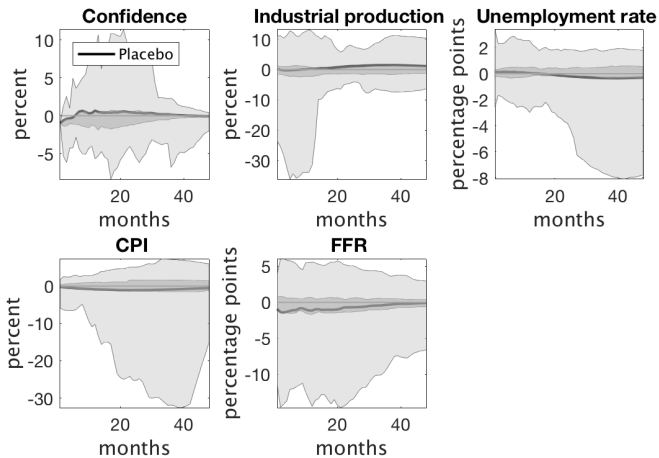
- Significant drop in ICE for approximately 2 years.
- **Relevance** ✓



- Slightly more precisely estimated for full sample
- **Relevance** ✓

Placebo: Random Reshuffling of Shootings

IV with random reshuffling of mass fatalities



Dynamic Causal Effects: Now look at dynamic causal effects of autonomous changes in consumer sentiments.

- Normalization: 1 percent drop in consumer confidence.

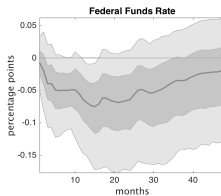
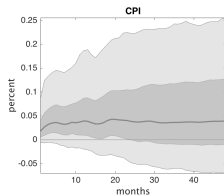
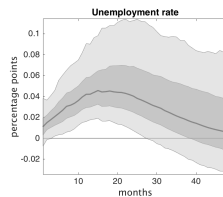
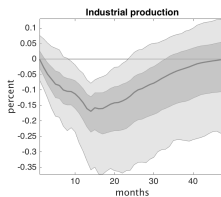
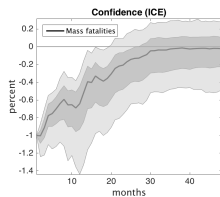
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- Augment with other variables.
- Look at relationship to other shocks.

Benchmark VAR



More Results

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- Robust to using news coverage.

Other variables:

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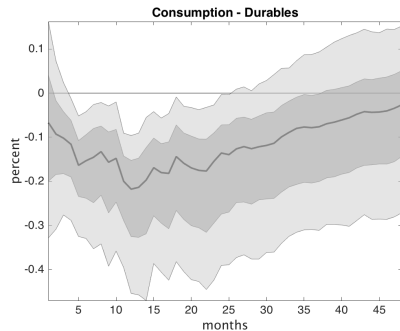
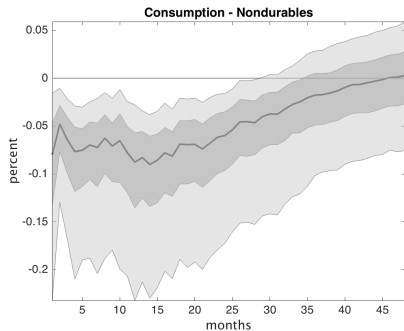
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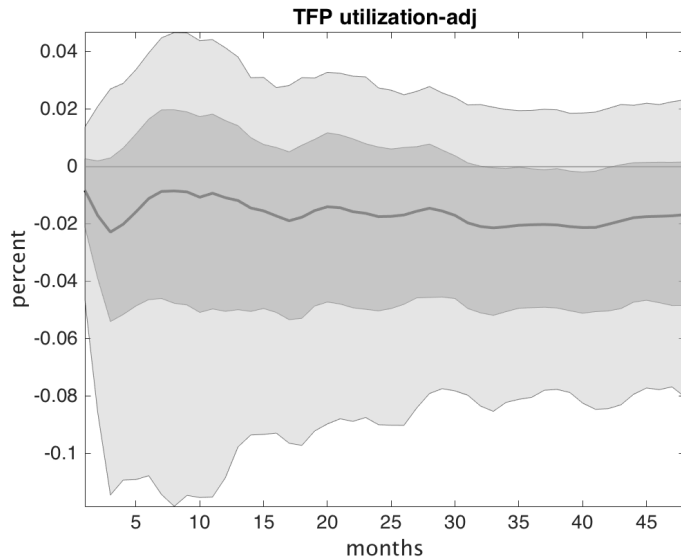
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- Nominal exchange rate depreciates.
- TFP: No impact.
- Relationship to uncertainty: No significant impact.

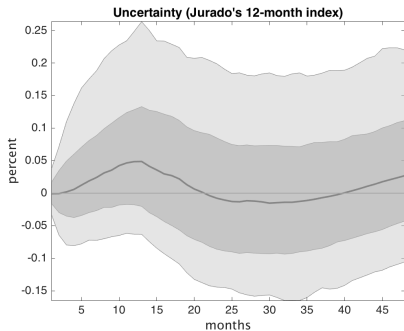
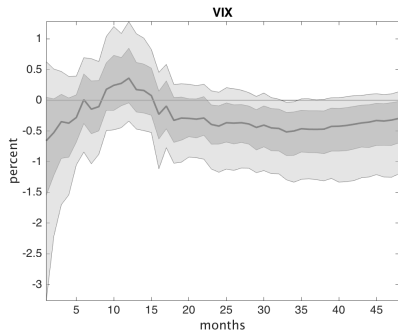
Consumption



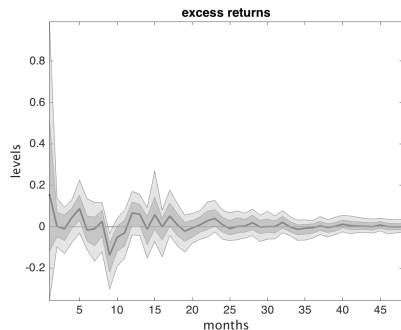
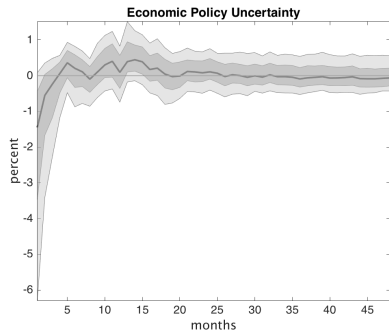
Fernald Capacity Util. Adj. TFP



Uncertainty



EPU and Stock Market Returns



Contribution to Business Cycles:

Horizon	Variable							
	ICE	IP	U	CPI	FFR	Hrs	TIGHT	V
1	65	3	21	21	3	1	38	9
3	61	6	19	24	6	1	35	7
6	59	9	20	21	8	2	35	7
12	59	17	26	16	11	6	37	13
24	49	21	28	11	15	6	35	14
48	45	13	16	8	12	6	30	13

- Important for labor market

Households:

- Search for jobs.
- Face uninsurable unemployment risk.
- Save in bonds and equity.

Firms:

- Monopolistically competitive.
- Face Rotemberg (1982) quadratic price adjustment costs.
- Hire labor in frictional matching market.

Monetary Authority:

- Sets short term nominal interest rate.

Fundamental Shocks:

- Persistent aggregate productivity shocks.
- Transitory aggregate productivity shocks.
- Monetary policy shock.

Information:

- Imperfect common information: Only sum of productivity shocks observed.

Non-fundamental shock:

- Noisy signal about persistent productivity shock.

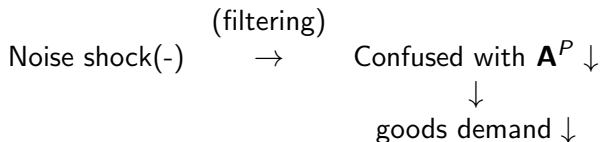
Theory: The main mechanism

Countercyclical Endogenous Risk:

Noise shock(-) $\xrightarrow{\text{(filtering)}}$ Confused with $\mathbf{A}^P \downarrow$

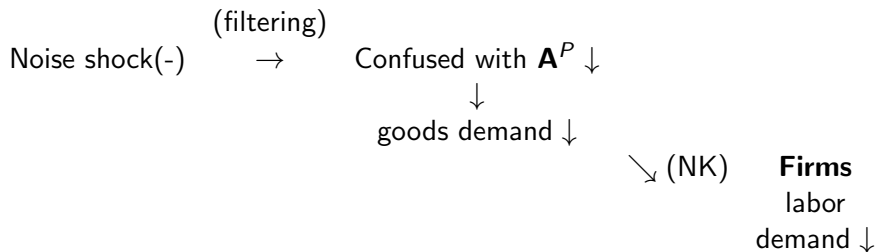
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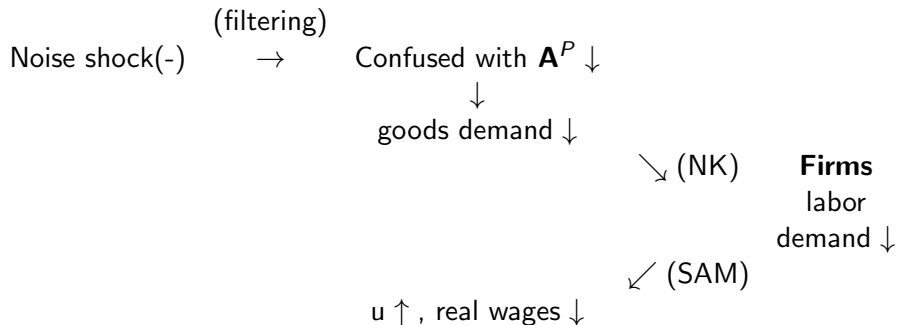
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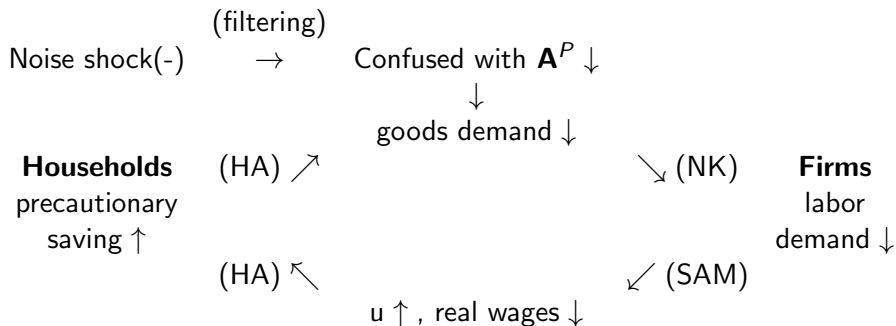
Theory: The main mechanism

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Countercyclical Endogenous Risk:



Composition: Continuum of single-member households.

Preferences:

$$\mathcal{V}_{it} = \max \hat{\mathbb{E}}_t \sum_{s=t}^{\infty} \beta^{s-t} \left(\frac{\mathbf{c}_{i,s}^{1-\mu} - 1}{1-\mu} - \zeta \mathbf{n}_{i,s} \right),$$

Consumption:

$$\mathbf{c}_{i,s} = \left(\int (c_{i,s}^j)^{1-1/\gamma} dj \right)^{1/(1-1/\gamma)}$$

Employment Status and Earnings:

$$\mathbf{n}_{i,s} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if not employed at date } s, \text{ home production } \vartheta \\ 1 & \text{if employed at date } s, \text{ earns wage } w_{i,s} \end{cases}$$

Technology:

$$\mathbf{y}_{j,s} = \exp(\mathbf{A}_s) (\mathbf{z}_{j,s} \mathbf{k}_{j,s})^\tau \mathbf{n}_{j,s}^{1-\tau}$$

Employment Dynamics:

$$\mathbf{n}_{j,s} = (1 - \omega) \mathbf{n}_{j,s-1} + \mathbf{h}_{j,s}$$

Hiring:

$$\mathbf{h}_{j,s} = \mathbf{q}_s \mathbf{v}_{j,s}$$

- $v_{j,s} \geq 0$, flow cost $\kappa > 0$ per unit.

Capital accumulation:

$$\mathbf{k}_{j,s+1} = (1 - \delta(\mathbf{z}_{j,s})) \mathbf{k}_{j,s} + \mathbf{i}_{j,s}$$

Matching technology

Timing: (i) job losses, (ii) hiring, (iii) production.

Matching function:

$$\mathbf{M}_s = \bar{m} \mathbf{u}_s^\alpha \mathbf{v}_s^{1-\alpha},$$
$$\mathbf{v}_s = \int_j \mathbf{v}_{j,s} dj$$

Matching rates: Let $\theta_s = \mathbf{v}_s / \mathbf{u}_s$ denote labor market tightness:

$$\text{job finding rate: } \eta_s = \frac{\mathbf{M}_s}{\mathbf{u}_s} = \bar{m} \theta_s^{1-\alpha}$$

$$\text{vacancy filling rate: } \mathbf{q}_s = \frac{\mathbf{M}_s}{\mathbf{v}_s} = \bar{m}^{1/(1-\alpha)} \eta_s^{-\alpha/(1-\alpha)}$$

Price Setting: Monopolistically competition firms, price adjustment costs:

$$\max \widehat{\mathbb{E}}_t \sum_{s=t}^{\infty} \Lambda_{j,t,s} \left[\frac{\mathbf{P}_{j,s}}{\mathbf{P}_s} \mathbf{y}_{j,s} - \mathbf{w}_s \mathbf{n}_{j,s} - \kappa \mathbf{v}_{j,s} - \mathbf{i}_{j,s} - \frac{\phi}{2} \left(\frac{\mathbf{P}_{j,s} - \mathbf{P}_{j,s-1}}{\mathbf{P}_{j,s-1}} \right)^2 \mathbf{y}_s \right]$$

subject to:

$$\mathbf{y}_{j,s} = \exp(\mathbf{A}_s) (\mathbf{z}_{j,s} \mathbf{k}_{j,s})^\tau \mathbf{n}_{j,s}^{1-\tau}$$

$$\mathbf{n}_{j,s} = (1 - \omega) \mathbf{n}_{j,s-1} + \mathbf{h}_{j,s}$$

$$\mathbf{k}_{j,s+1} = (1 - \delta (\mathbf{z}_{j,s})) \mathbf{k}_{j,s} + \mathbf{i}_{j,s}$$

$$\mathbf{y}_{j,s} = \left(\frac{\mathbf{P}_{j,s}}{\mathbf{P}_s} \right)^{-\gamma} \mathbf{y}_s$$

- $\Lambda_{j,t,s}$: firm owners' intertemporal discount factor.

Wages: Wage function:

$$\mathbf{w}_s = \bar{\mathbf{w}} \left(\frac{\eta_s}{\bar{\eta}} \right)^\chi$$

- Simplifies marginally by avoiding having wealth dependent wages.
- Correspond to Nash bargaining solution depending on parameters.

Monetary Policy: Interest Rate Rule:

$$\mathbf{R}_s = \mathbf{R}_{s-1}^{\delta_R} \left(\bar{\mathbf{R}} \left(\frac{\Pi_s}{\bar{\Pi}} \right)^{\delta_\pi} \right)^{1-\delta_R} \exp \left(\mathbf{e}_s^R \right)$$

Assets and Borrowing Constraints: Limited participation

Bonds: $b_{i,s}$ - in zero net supply.

Equity: $x_{i,s}$ - positive net supply - only held by small subset of rich entrepreneurs

Euler Equations:

$$c_{r,s}^{-\mu} \geq \beta \hat{\mathbb{E}}_s \frac{R_s}{\Pi_{s+1}} c_{r,s+1}^{-\mu},$$

$$c_{u,s}^{-\mu} \geq \beta \hat{\mathbb{E}}_s \frac{R_s}{\Pi_{s+1}} \left((1 - \eta_{s+1}) c_{u,s+1}^{-\mu} + \eta_{s+1} c_{e,s+1}^{-\mu} \right),$$

$$c_{e,s}^{-\mu} \geq \beta \hat{\mathbb{E}}_s \frac{R_s}{\Pi_{s+1}} \left(\omega (1 - \eta_{s+1}) c_{u,s+1}^{-\mu} + (1 - \omega (1 - \eta_{s+1})) c_{e,s+1}^{-\mu} \right),$$

- Entrepreneurs face no idiosyncratic risk.
- Asset poor unemployed will be in a corner.
- Asset poor employed will be on their Euler equation.
- Asset poor employed price the bonds.

Shocks and Information

Technology: Sum of persistent and transitory component:

$$\mathbf{A}_s = \mathbf{A}_s^P + \varepsilon_s^T, \quad \varepsilon_s^T \sim \text{nid}(0, \sigma_T^2)$$
$$\mathbf{A}_s^P = \rho_A \mathbf{A}_{s-1}^P + \varepsilon_s^P, \quad \varepsilon_s^P \sim \text{nid}(0, \sigma_P^2)$$

Information: Imperfect common information.

- $\mathbf{A}_s \in I_s$ but $\mathbf{A}_s^P, \varepsilon_s^T \notin I_s$.

Monetary Policy:

$$\mathbf{e}_s^R = \varphi \varepsilon_s^S + \varepsilon_s^R, \quad \varepsilon_s^R \sim \text{nid}(0, \sigma_R^2)$$

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- Sentiments impact **directly** and **indirectly** on monetary policy.

The Endogenous Risk Channel

Endogenous earnings risk: log-linearized Euler equation:

$$-\hat{c}_{e,t} + \beta \bar{R} \hat{\mathbb{E}}_s \hat{c}_{e,t+1} = \frac{1}{\mu} \left(\hat{R}_t - \mathbb{E}_t \hat{\Pi}_{t+1} - \beta \bar{R} \Theta^F \mathbb{E}_t \hat{\eta}_{t+1} \right)$$

- 1 **Discounting:** $\hat{c}_{e,s+1}$ enters with coefficient $\beta \bar{R} < 1$.

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- **countercyclical** if $\Theta^F > 0$: **Amplification/Propagation**
- **acyclical** if $\Theta^F = 0$: No endogenous risk feedback.

The Endogenous Risk Channel

- Countercyclical risk: **Amplification**

The Endogenous Risk Channel

- **Countercyclical risk: Amplification**
- recession \Rightarrow lower job finding rate \Rightarrow higher precautionary savings demand \Rightarrow demand contracts at the current real interest rate \Rightarrow real interest rate must decline \Rightarrow inflation must decline \Rightarrow marginal costs must decline \Rightarrow firms post fewer vacancies \Rightarrow job finding rate declines - diabolical loop.

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- **Procyclical risk: Stabilization**
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- Hence, key to the endogenous risk channel is whether unemployment risk or wage risk matters most.

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- $\hat{\Lambda}_T^d$: Moments that are matched:

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- $\Lambda_T^m(\Theta_2 | \Theta_1)$: Model equivalents of $\hat{\Lambda}_T^d$ obtained by simulation.

Simulation estimator

- 1 Simulate model to generate:

$$\mathbf{x}_t^{theory} = \begin{pmatrix} C I_t & (\text{log consumer confidence}) \\ Y_t & (\text{log industrial production}) \\ U_t & (\text{unemployment rate}) \\ P_t & (\text{log CPI}) \\ R_t & (\text{Federal funds rate}) \end{pmatrix}$$

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- 5 Repeat N times and average:

$$\Lambda_T^m (\Theta_2 | \Theta_1) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \Lambda_T^m (\Theta_2 | \Theta_1)_i$$

Calibrated parameters (monthly)

Parameter	Meaning	Value
\bar{u}	st.st. unemployment rate	6 percent
$\bar{\eta}$	st.st. job finding rate	34 percent
$(\kappa/\bar{q}) / (3\bar{w})$	st.st. hiring cost	4.5 percent
$\bar{R}/\bar{\Pi}$	st.st. gross real rate	$1.04^{1/12}$
$\bar{\Pi}$	st.st. gross inflation rate	1
δ_R	interest rate smoothing	0.25
σ_m	st. dev., monetary pol. shock	0.1 percent
γ	elasticity of substitution	8
μ	CRRA parameter	2
α	matching function parameter	0.5
τ	output elasticity to capital	0.35
$\xi_{\delta,z}$	elast. of depr. rate to cap.ut.	1
δ	depreciation rate (annually)	7.1 percent
$(c_e - c_u) / c_e$	st.st. cons. drop upon unempl.	12 percent

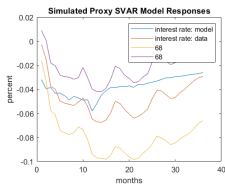
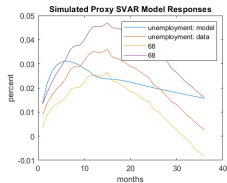
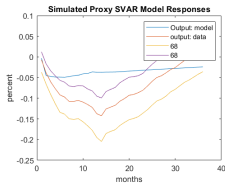
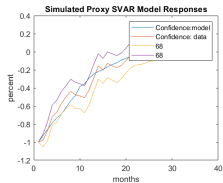
Estimated Parameters - Preliminary

Parameter	Meaning	Estimate
ϕ	price adj. cost	401
χ	real wage elasticity	0.04
ρ_A	persistence of TFP shocks	0.99
δ_Π	interest rate resp. to infl.	1.32
ψ	impact of noise on mon.pol.	0.004
β	implied disc. factor (annually)	0.870
Θ^F	implied risk wedge	0.0026 > 0
ζ	average price contract length	7.82 months

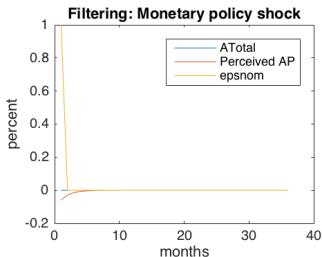
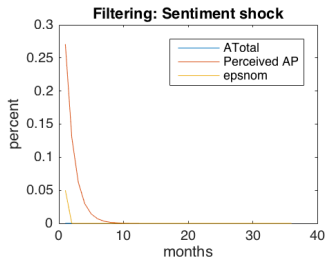
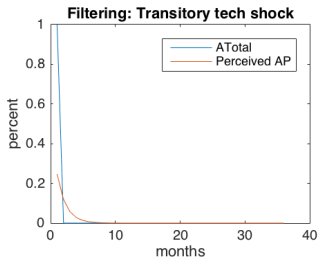
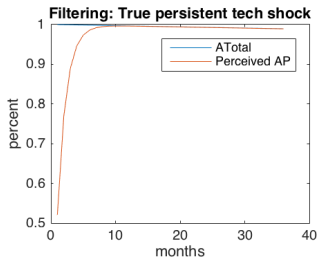
Estimated Parameters - Preliminary

Parameter	Meaning	Estimate
σ_T	std., transitory TFP shock	0.50 percent
σ_P	std., innov. to perst. TFP	0.05 percent
σ_S	std., sentiment shock	0.19 percent
ρ_{CI}	confidence persistence	0.960
θ_1	confidence parameter	1.019
θ_2	confidence parameter	7.968
σ_{CI}	measurement error, confidence	0.15 percent
σ_{m_2}	measurement error, proxy	1.6 percent

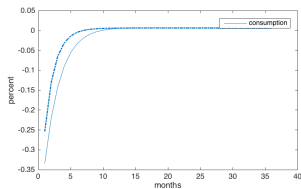
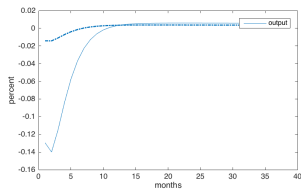
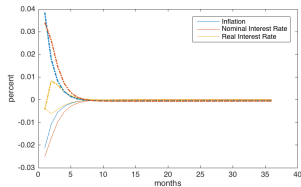
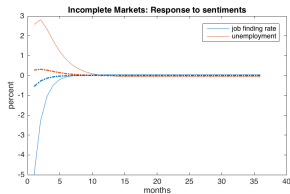
Matched VAR IRFs - Preliminary



True Model IRFS - Preliminary



True Model IRFS



Contribution to Business Cycles: Forecast error variance decomposition

Horizon	Variable						
	ICE	IP	U	CPI	FFR	TIGHT	V
1	30	0.7	19	34	0.3	18	18
3	18	1.3	16	28	0.6	9.3	8.2
6	10	8.4	12	19	0.8	2.7	2.9
12	2.5	0.7	4.2	5.7	1.1	0.7	1.0
24	0.7	0.2	0.8	1.2	0.7	0.2	0.3
48	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1

Key contributions:

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- Find countercyclical risk wedge to be important

ICE is derived from answers to three questions (each given 1-5 score):

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- Responses tend to be bimodal (either 1 or 5).
 - **ICE** = $100 + \text{“\% positive respondents”} - \text{“\% negative respondents”}$ (normalized to 1966 base).

Confidence and Sentiments: Think of consumer confidence as:

$$CI = F(\text{fundamentals, news, noise, sentiments})$$

- How can one isolate the expectational/non-fundamental component?

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Barsky and Sims: Construct NK model with imperfect information.

- TFP follows:

$$a_t = a_{t-1} + g_{t-1} + \varepsilon_{a,t}$$

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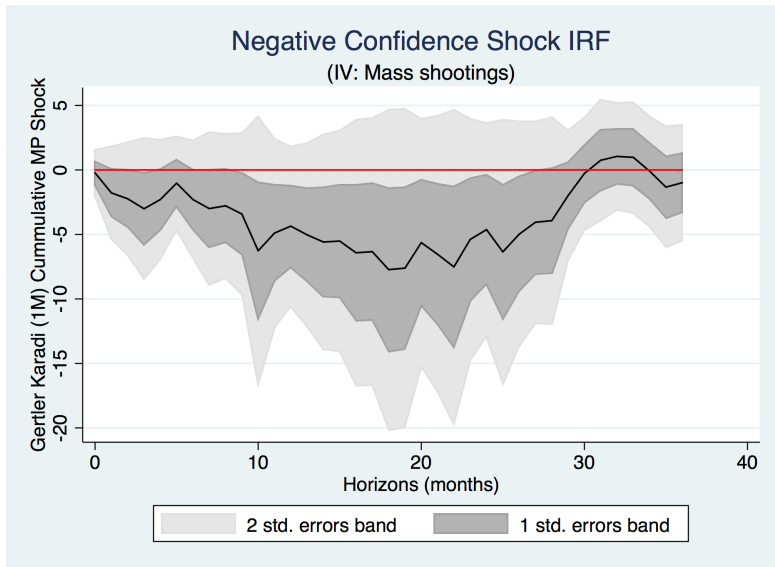
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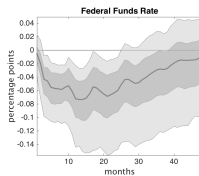
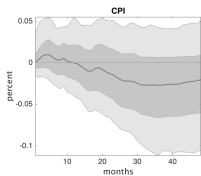
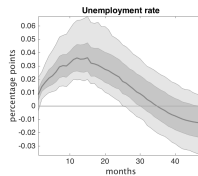
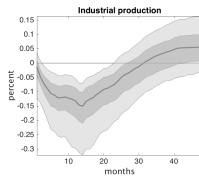
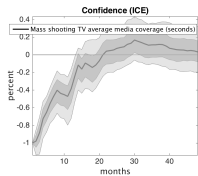
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- Barsky-Sims model-equivalent of \mathbf{CI}_t is:

$$\mathbf{CI}_t = \zeta_1 (a_t - a_{t-1} - g_{t|t-1}) + \zeta_2 (g_{t|t} - \rho_a g_{t|t-1}) + \zeta_2 \varepsilon_{c,t}$$

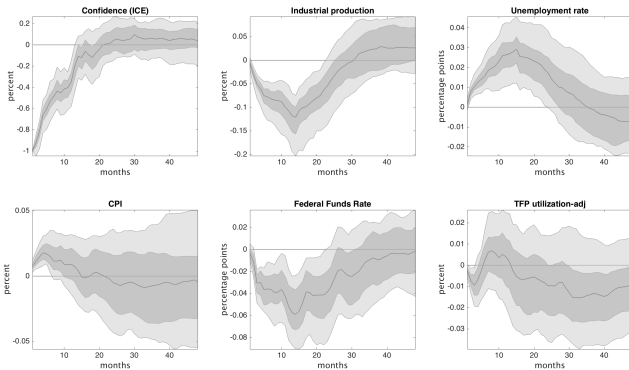
Impact on Gertler-Karadi MP Shock



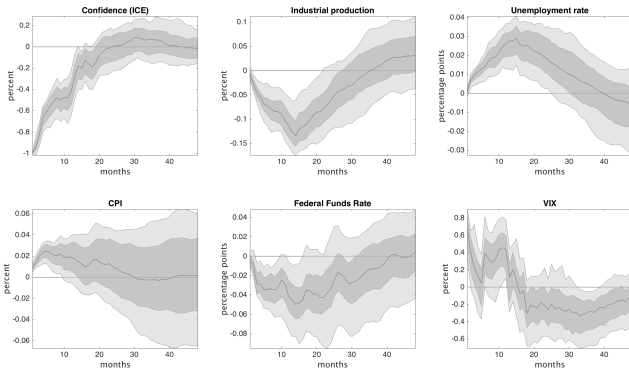
Alternative IV



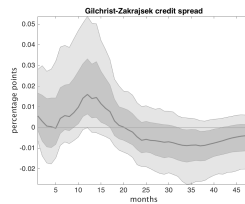
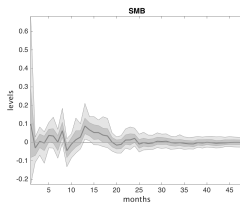
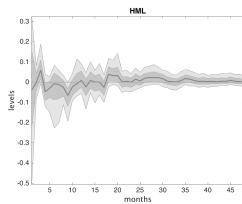
Cholsey TFP



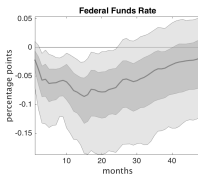
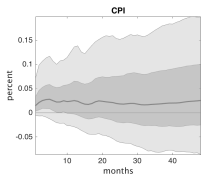
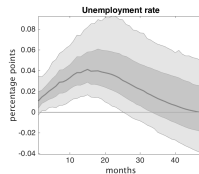
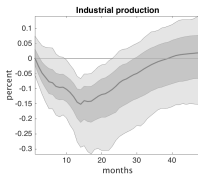
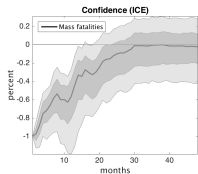
Cholseky VIX



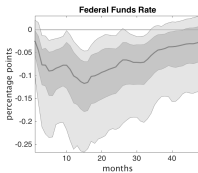
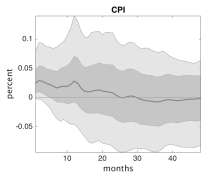
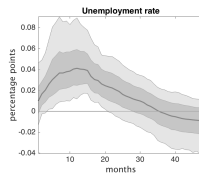
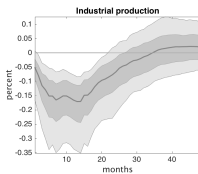
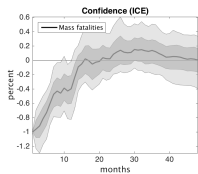
Other stock market variables



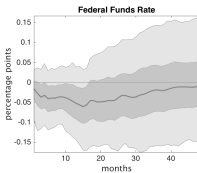
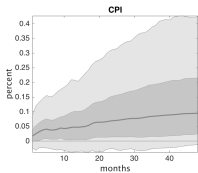
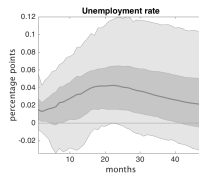
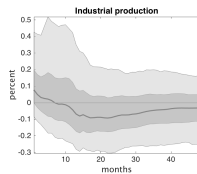
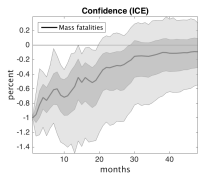
No detrending of mass fatalities



Before the Great Recession



Whole Sample



Whole Sample Alternative IV with TV coverage

