

JOSEPH SIMMONS

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, May 2022 (expected)

Dissertation Title: *Three Essays in Macroeconomics*

Dissertation Committee: Adam Guren, Stephen Terry and Pascual Restrepo

M.A., Political Economy, Boston University, Boston, MA 2018

B.A., Economics, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH, 2015

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Macroeconomics, Monetary Economics, Industrial Organization

WORKING PAPERS

[“Real Rigidities Strike Back: Retailers, Sticky Basket Prices, and Monetary Non-neutrality,”](#)

September 2021. Job Market paper.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“The Structure of Pricing Zones” (joint with Ian Meeker)

PRESENTATIONS

Boston University Macro Dissertation Workshop, Boston, MA, 2021

Green Line Macro Meeting, Boston, MA, 2021

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Dean’s Fellowship, Boston University, 2015

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for Adam Guren: Summer 2017-Fall 2018

Research Assistant for Robert King: Summer 2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, EC 202: Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis, Department of Economics,
Boston University, Summer II 2021

Head Teaching Fellow, EC 102: Introductory Macroeconomics, Department of Economics,
Boston University, Spring 2021

Instructor, EC 445: Economics of Risk and Uncertainty, Department of Economics, Boston
University, Fall 2020

Instructor, EC 201: Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis, Department of Economics,
Boston University, Summer II 2020

Instructor, EC 445: Economics of Risk and Uncertainty, Department of Economics, Boston
University, Fall 2019

Instructor, EC 391: International Trade, Department of Economics, Boston University,
Summer II 2019

Teaching Assistant, EC 502: Macroeconomic Theory, Department of Economics, Boston
University, Spring 2019

Teaching Fellow, EC 102: Introductory Macroeconomics, Department of Economics, Boston
University, Spring 2017

Teaching Fellow, EC 102: Introductory Macroeconomics, Department of Economics, Boston
University, Fall 2016

LANGUAGES

English

COMPUTER SKILLS: R, Python, STATA, FORTRAN, MATLAB, LaTeX

CITIZENSHIP/VISA STATUS: US Citizen

REFERENCES

Professor Adam Guren
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Boston University
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JOSEPH SIMMONS

Real Rigidities Strike Back: Retailers, Sticky Basket Prices, and Monetary Non-Neutrality (Job Market Paper)

This paper demonstrates that retail-level real rigidity is both quantitatively important and consistent with facts on retail pricing. Rich retailer scanner data from Nielsen reveals that 1) product demand is lower when prices for other goods in the same store are higher and 2) overall store-level prices have low volatility from month to month. To account for these facts, this paper constructs a monopolistic competition model in which demand is organized by retailer and retailers face incentives to keep their overall "basket prices" near to those of competitors. Calibrating the price concavity of store-level demand to basket price volatility in the Nielsen data, the model predicts full price-level adjustment at 8 months following a small monetary policy shock. Critically, retailer-level real rigidity is compatible with high volatility of item-level prices, a fact shown to be incompatible with item-level real rigidity in a critique by Klenow and Willis.