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Undergraduate Studies:

BA, Economics, Hebrew University, *summa cum laude*, 1999
MA, Economics, Hebrew University, *summa cum laude*, 2001

Graduate Studies:

Harvard University, 2002 to present
Thesis Title: "Essays in International Finance."
Expected Completion Date: June 2008

Thesis Committee and References:

Professor Kenneth Rogoff (Primary Advisor)
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Teaching and Research Fields:

Research Fields: International Finance, International Trade

Teaching Fields: Macroeconomics

Teaching Experience:

Spring, 2005	American Economic Policy, Harvard University, teaching fellow for Professors Martin Feldstein and Jeffrey Liebman
Spring, 2005	International Financial and Macroeconomic Policy, Harvard University, teaching fellow for Professor Gita Gopinath
Fall, 2004	India in the Global Economy, Harvard University, teaching fellow for Professor Kaushik Basu
Spring, 2004	Macroeconomic Theory, Harvard University, teaching fellow for Professors Philippe Aghion and Francesco Caselli

Research Experience and Other Employment:

Fall, 2007 Harvard University, undergraduate academic advisor

2005-2006 Harvard University, research assistant to Professor Kenneth Rogoff
Summer, 2003 Center for Global Development (Washington DC), consultant

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2007-2008 Institute of Humane Studies Fellowship
2006-2007 Harvard Graduate Dissertation Completion Fellowship
2003-2004 Dillon Fellowship
2002-2004 Harvard Economics Graduate Fellowship
2000-2002 Hebrew University Rector's Research Fellowship

Publications:

"Have Educational Gaps Narrowed?", *The Economic Quarterly*, March 2002 (with Samuel Shye, Momi Dahan & Natalie Mironichev) (*in Hebrew*)

"Israeli Equivalence Scales – Another Look", *The Economic Quarterly*, December 2000 (with Amir Barnea) (*in Hebrew*)

Job Market Paper:

"Globalization, Optimal Auctions, and Exchange Rate Pass-Through"

I present a model of globalized production in which trade is conducted through optimal procurement auctions. In the model, brand owning firms choose suitable producers for their goods out of a worldwide pool of potential suppliers. Under assumptions of asymmetric information and supplier heterogeneity, a discriminatory auction is the profit maximizing mechanism for brand owners. In particular, I show that in the optimal auction suppliers who are adversely affected by an exogenous shock receive a boost to their chances of winning, while suppliers who stand to gain from the same shock see their winning chances reduced. Using discrimination in this way, the brand owning firms effectively smooth the effects of shocks across their suppliers, thus limiting the exposure of both their suppliers and their consumers. Therefore when suppliers are subject to volatile costs, discriminatory auctions can serve as automatic stabilizers, not only of import and consumer prices, but also of producer profits. As an implication, the finding that import prices are unresponsive to exchange rate shocks, especially in the U.S., need not indicate excessive vulnerability of exporters' profits to these shocks. In a globalized production environment, stability of import prices and of export profits can go hand in hand.

Research Papers in Progress:

"Oil Prices and Global Growth" (with Kenneth Rogoff) (*in revision*)

Recent developments in the oil market (and in commodity markets more generally) have focused attention on uncertainty about future global growth, particularly growth emanating from China and India, which together accounted for a third of global growth in 2006 (PPP). We develop a model of commodity markets in which expectations regarding long-term trends are shown to be a crucial, though hitherto neglected, factor in explaining price behavior. Our framework is a generalized version of the canonic storage model (Deaton and Laroque [1992, 1996]). We show that when expectations of future conditions are properly taken into account, forward looking agents will adjust their demand for storage, and consequently cause an adjustment of prices, not only in response to shocks but also in response to uncertainty regarding the distant future. We show that, in accordance with the model's predictions, the prices of oil and other commodities have not become less volatile even though demand's volatility has declined. The growing importance, and uncertain nature, of long-term growth in developing countries (as well as uncertainty regarding a host of related long-term issues such as the extent of conservation and the development of alternative technologies) is therefore likely to be the dominant factor in oil market volatility today.

“Does Short-Term Debt Increase Vulnerability to Crisis? Evidence from the East Asian Financial Crisis”
(with Efraim Benmelech)

We ask whether the prevalence of short term debt on the balance sheets of East Asian firms prior to the 1997 financial crisis was in itself a contributing factor. To answer this question, we construct a database of financial and non-financial firms in the five Asian countries who were most affected by the crisis. We match data on firms' debt obligations with information on outcomes following the crisis (bankruptcy, merger, etc.) Firms' maturity structure is endogenous, with riskier firms borrowing more short term debt. We therefore use scheduled repayments for long term debt as an instrument for vulnerability to a sudden stop of financial flows. Since repayment schedules are set in advance, their incidence should be uncorrelated with firms' perceived vulnerability. Our results show that firms who had a scheduled repayment in 1997 were more likely to fail, implying that the perceived contributing role of short term debt is not driven by endogeneity.