

Matthew J. Baker

Hunter College

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Education

B.A. Economics, Wesleyan University, 1993.

M.A. Economics, University of Connecticut, 1996.

Ph.D. Economics, University of Connecticut, 2000.

Dissertation: Three topics in the economics of hunter-gatherer and indigenous peoples

Advisor: Thomas Miceli.

Employment

Visiting Instructor, Department of Economics, Wesleyan University 1998-2000.

Assistant Professor, United States Naval Academy, 2000–2005.

Associate Professor, United States Naval Academy, 2005–2006.

Associate Professor, Hunter College and the Graduate Center, CUNY, 2006–Present.

Teaching and Research Fields

Research fields: Microeconomic Theory, Law and Economics, Industrial Organization, Economics of Organization, Economic Anthropology, Real Estate Economics

Current interests: Econometric applications of game theory, simulation-based estimation, spatial econometrics

Courses currently taught: Statistics, Law and economics, Ph. D. Microeconomic theory II (Graduate Center).

Publications

Journal Articles

Baker, Matthew. 2014. "Adaptive Markov chain Monte Carlo sampling and estimation in Mata," *Stata Journal*, forthcoming.

Baker, Matthew, Metin Cosgel, and Thomas J. Miceli. 2012. "Debtors' prisons in America: An economic analysis," *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 84(1): 216-228.

- Baker, Matthew, Erwin Bulte, and Jacob Weisdorf, 2010. The origins of governments: from anarchy to hierarchy, *Journal of Institutional Economics* 6(2), 215-42.
- Baker, Matthew, and Lisa George, 2010. The role of television in household debt: evidence from the 1950's, *The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy* 10(1) 41 pages. **Popular Press Coverage:** *New York Times* Economix blog, August 11, 2010. "TV Ads Work. Ask a Debtor," by Catherine Rampell
- Baker, Matthew, and Erwin Bulte, 2010. Kings and Vikings: on the dynamics of competitive agglomeration, *Economics of Governance* 11(3): 207-27.
- Baker, Matthew, and Brendan Cunningham, 2009. Law and Innovation in Copyright Industries. *Review of Economic Research on Copyright Issues* 6(1) 61-82.
- Baker, Matthew, 2008. A structural model of the transition to agriculture, *Journal of Economic Growth* 13(4) 257-92.
- Baker, Matthew, Thomas Miceli, and C.F. Sirmas, 2008. An economic theory of mortgage redemption laws, *Real Estate Economics* 36(1): 31-45.
- Baker, Matthew, and Joyce Jacobsen, 2007. A human-capital based theory of post-marital residence rules, *Journal of Law, Economics, & Organization* 23(1): 208-41.
- Baker, Matthew, and Joyce Jacobsen, 2007. Marriage, specialization, and the gender division of labor, *Journal of Labor Economics* 25: 763-93.
- Baker, Matthew, and Brendan Cunningham. Court decisions and equity markets: estimating the value of copyright protection, *Journal of Law and Economics* 49(2): 567-96.
- Baker, Matthew and Thomas Miceli, 2005. Land inheritance rules: theory and cross-cultural analysis, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 56(1): 77-102.
- Baker, Matthew and Thomas Miceli, 2005. Credible criminal enforcement. *European Journal of Law and Economics* 20(1): 5-15.
- Baker, Matthew and Thomas Miceli, 2004. The old ball game: the organization of 19th century professional base ball clubs, *Journal of Sports Economics* 5: 277-91.
- Baker, Matthew, 2003. An equilibrium conflict model of land tenure in hunter-gatherer societies, *Journal of Political Economy* 111(1): 124-73.
- Baker, Matthew, Thomas Miceli, C.F. Sirmans, and Geoffrey Turnbull, 2002. Optimal title search. *Journal of Legal Studies* 31(1): 139-58.
- Baker, Matthew, Thomas Miceli, C.F. Sirmans, and Geoffrey Turnbull, 2001. Property rights by squatting: land ownership risk and adverse possession statutes, *Land Economics* 77(3): 360-370.
- Baker, Matthew, Betsy Bradley, and William Gallo. 2001. Factors associated with home versus institutional death among Connecticut cancer patients, *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* 49(6): 771-7.
- Baker, Matthew, and Thomas Miceli, 2000. Statutes of limitations for accident cases: theory and evidence, *Research in Law and Economics* 19: 47-67.

(Unpublished) Working Papers

Baker, Matthew, and Ingmar Nyman. 2012. Job hoarding. *Hunter College Department of Economics Working Papers 437*, Hunter College: Department of Economics. *Under review*

Baker, Matthew, and Ingmar Nyman. 2009. Competitive pressure and lying in search markets. *Hunter College Department of Economics Working Papers 426*, Hunter College: Department of Economics.

Baker, Matthew, Christa Brunnschweiler, and Erwin Bulte. 2008. Did history breed inequality? Colonial factor endowments and modern income distribution. *CER-ETH Economics working paper series 08/86*, CER-ETH Center of Economic Research at ETH Zurich.

Baker, Matthew, and Pamela Schmitt. 2003. Mergers with quality differentiated products. *Department Working Papers 3*, United States Naval Academy Department of Economics.

Edited Volumes

Baker, Matthew and Thomas Miceli, eds. 2013. *Research Handbook on Economic Models of Law*. Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar.

Baker, Matthew and Thomas Miceli, eds. 2014 (Expected) *Economic Models of Law*. Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar.

Papers in Edited Volumes

Baker, Matthew and Niklas Westelius. 2013. Crime, expectations, and the deterrence hypothesis. In: *Research Handbook on Economic Models of Law*, M. Baker and T. Miceli, eds. Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar, pp. 235-80.

Baker, Matthew and Thomas Miceli, 2013. Introduction. In: *Research Handbook on Economic Models of Law*, M. Baker and T. Miceli, eds. Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar, pp. 1-13.

Book Reviews

Baker, Matthew. 2002. Review of "A burning issue: a case for the abolition of the U.S. Forest Service" by Richard Nelson, in *Constitutional Political Economy* 13(3): 291-2.

Other

Baker, Matthew. 2014. INTSOLVER: A package for finding all solutions to nonlinear systems. Software package for Stata.

Baker, Matthew. 2014. ROWMAT_UTILS: A package for performing computations on many small matrices in parallel. Software package for Stata.

Baker, Matthew. 2014. INT_UTILS: A package for interval computations. Software package for Stata.

Baker, Matthew. 2013. AMCMC: A package for adaptive Markov-Chain Monte Carlo. Software package for Stata.

Baker, Matthew. 2013. MCMCCQREG: A package for simulation-based estimation of censored quantile regression. Software package for Stata.

Baker, Matthew. 2013. BAYESMLOGIT: A package for simulation-based estimation of Bayesian multinomial logit. Software package for Stata.

Articles in Progress

The News Hour: estimating the value of local news (with Lisa George). Description: Using state of the art econometric methods, we estimate a structural model of television viewership, advertising pricing, and strategic interaction among stations. We then use this model to assess whether the timing and quantity of local news broadcasts best satisfies the interests of viewers, advertisers, and stations.

A structural approach to Galton's problem with application to marriage and marital residence rules. Description: Galton's problem refers to the difficulty of separating the impact of borrowing, historical dependence, and environmental adaption in assessing predictors of cultural variety. I propose a simulation-based method for attacking this problem that begins with estimating distributions over past histories using current location and linguistic information. Then, a structural model is estimated in which, for given model parameters histories are simulated, and then the model is reestimated. I demonstrate how the model works using marriage rules, but the method is applicable more generally. Moreover, even though the data are static, the model allows one to simulate the underlying dynamics, lending insight into the speed and form of cultural evolution.

Technology adoption on the Russian Frontier: Kin Networks, Farming and Nomadism among the Kazhaks (with Gani Aldashev and Catherine Gurkinger) Description: This research focuses on a novel dataset obtained from Russian imperial records describing nomadicism and kin networks among Kazhak nomads at the beginning of the 20th century. Through the use of a blend of spatial and structural econometrics, we seek to understand the role that kin networks played in either adopting new agricultural technologies introduced by the empire, or in maintaining the traditional nomadic lifestyle.

General purpose methods for solving discrete-action games. Description: This research develops software for finding all solutions to nonlinear equation systems using interval arithmetic in Stata. The software is extended to allow for finding all equilibria of discrete action games. The software can then be used to analyze the number and nature of solutions to a wide variety of games.

Other Work in Progress

GENQREG and QREGPD: Generalized quantile regression and panel data regression with fixed effects (with David Powell and Travis Smith). Software package for Stata.

DAGSOLVE: Finding all solutions to discrete action games. Software package for Stata.

Professional Activities

Associate Editor, *Information Economics and Policy*, 2011–Present.

Editor, *New Papers in Evolutionary Economics (nep-evo)*, a web dissemination service for new papers appearing on RePEc. 2001–Present.

Professional Membership

American Economic Association

American Mathematical Association

Recent Presentations and Seminars

Boston Stata users' group (Summer 2014), Hunter College (Spring 2007, Fall 2010, Fall 2012, Spring 2014), University of Connecticut (Fall 2010, Fall 2013), Wesleyan University (Fall 2009), Fordham University (Fall 2013), ASSA Meetings (Fall 2009), Namur University (Spring 2014), Conference on early economic developments (Simon Fraser University, Spring 2009), SUNY-Bingmampton (Fall 2010).

Last updated: September 16, 2014