Discussion of

'Inclusive Monetary Policy: How Tight Labor Markets Facilitate Broad-Based Employment Growth'

Nittai K. Bergman, David Matsa, and Michael Weber

Anna Rogantini Picco Sveriges Riksbank

ECB-CEPR Labour Market Workshop "Towards a New Labour Market?"

The opinions expressed in this presentation are the sole responsibility of the author and should not be interpreted as reflecting the views of Sveriges Riksbank.

Growing literature on heterogeneous effects of monetary policy

Growing literature on heterogeneous effects of monetary policy

+ Does monetary policy have heterogenous effects? if so, how big? who benefits proportionally more?

Growing literature on heterogeneous effects of monetary policy

- + Does monetary policy have heterogenous effects? if so, how big? who benefits proportionally more?
 - Various dimensions of heterogeneity:
 - Income and wealth (Coibion et al., 2017; Blomhoff Holm et al., 2020; Amberg et al., 2021; Andersen et al., 2021; Cantore et al, 2022)
 - Racial inequality (Bartscher, et al. 2021)
 - Firm and worker characteristics (Coglianese, et al. 2022)

Growing literature on heterogeneous effects of monetary policy

- + Does monetary policy have heterogenous effects? if so, how big? who benefits proportionally more?
 - Various dimensions of heterogeneity:
 - Income and wealth (Coibion et al., 2017; Blomhoff Holm et al., 2020; Amberg et al., 2021; Andersen et al., 2021; Cantore et al, 2022)
 - Racial inequality (Bartscher, et al. 2021)
 - Firm and worker characteristics (Coglianese, et al. 2022)
- + Should we take these effects into account when taking monetary policy decisions? Should monetary policy be 'more inclusive'?

This paper

 $+\,$ Focuses on differential effect of monetary policy:

- on people with different demographics (race, education, sex)
- depending on labor market tightness

This paper

 $+\,$ Focuses on differential effect of monetary policy:

- on people with different demographics (race, education, sex)
- depending on labor market tightness
- $+\,$ Using data on local labor markets shows that:
 - expansions have larger effects on employment of groups with low labor market attachment when labor markets are tighter
 - effect is persistent

This paper

+ Focuses on differential effect of monetary policy:

- on people with different demographics (race, education, sex)
- depending on labor market tightness
- + Using data on local labor markets shows that:
 - expansions have larger effects on employment of groups with low labor market attachment when labor markets are tighter
 - effect is persistent
- $+\,$ Uses a New Keynesian model with two types of workers to:
 - show benefits of AIT on attaining a more inclusive employment
 - show that with a flatter Phillips curve the tradeoff between output and inflation is smaller

My comments

- 1. Labor market tightness?
- 2. Other margins
- 3. Which monetary policy shock
- 4. State-dependent IRFs

Main goal of paper: study effects of MP on employment growth depending on 'tightness'...

...but never actually measures tightness (V/U)

Main goal of paper: study effects of MP on employment growth depending on 'tightness'...

...but never actually measures tightness (V/U)

Now: tightness measured as employment rate (E/N)

Main goal of paper: study effects of MP on employment growth depending on 'tightness'...

...but never actually measures tightness (V/U)

Now: tightness measured as employment rate (E/N)

+ Is employment rate (E/N) capturing the same frictions as tightness?

Main goal of paper: study effects of MP on employment growth depending on 'tightness'...

...but never actually measures tightness (V/U)

Now: tightness measured as employment rate (E/N)

 $+\,$ Is employment rate (E/N) capturing the same frictions as tightness?

• In aggregate high correlation (0.66, using Barnichon index)

Main goal of paper: study effects of MP on employment growth depending on 'tightness'...

...but never actually measures tightness (V/U)

Now: tightness measured as employment rate (E/N)

+ Is employment rate (E/N) capturing the same frictions as tightness?

- In aggregate high correlation (0.66, using Barnichon index)
- But E/N does not measure how difficult it is to fill a vacancy

Main goal of paper: study effects of MP on employment growth depending on 'tightness'...

...but never actually measures tightness (V/U)

Now: tightness measured as employment rate (E/N)

+ Is employment rate (E/N) capturing the same frictions as tightness?

- In aggregate high correlation (0.66, using Barnichon index)
- But E/N does not measure how difficult it is to fill a vacancy
- Population might include: active and inactive people

Main goal of paper: study effects of MP on employment growth depending on 'tightness'...

...but never actually measures tightness (V/U)

Now: tightness measured as employment rate (E/N)

 $+\,$ Is employment rate (E/N) capturing the same frictions as tightness?

- In aggregate high correlation (0.66, using Barnichon index)
- But E/N does not measure how difficult it is to fill a vacancy
- Population might include: active and inactive people
- $+\,$ Do you have data on unemployment?
 - Inclusive MP could expand labor force as inactive people start looking for jobs

Main goal of paper: study effects of MP on employment growth depending on 'tightness'...

...but never actually measures tightness (V/U)

Now: tightness measured as employment rate (E/N)

 $+\,$ Is employment rate (E/N) capturing the same frictions as tightness?

- In aggregate high correlation (0.66, using Barnichon index)
- But E/N does not measure how difficult it is to fill a vacancy
- Population might include: active and inactive people
- $+\,$ Do you have data on unemployment?
 - Inclusive MP could expand labor force as inactive people start looking for jobs
- + Model: could insert labor force margin
 - In current model labor force attachment captured by different levels of steady state employment

- People with low attachment more likely to have part-time jobs
- Main margin of adjustment could actually be hours instead of extensive margin

- People with low attachment more likely to have part-time jobs
- Main margin of adjustment could actually be hours instead of extensive margin
- + What about the firm's side?
 - In data, you see net employment. Is there any way to distinguish between hiring and firing?

- People with low attachment more likely to have part-time jobs
- Main margin of adjustment could actually be hours instead of extensive margin
- + What about the firm's side?
 - In data, you see net employment. Is there any way to distinguish between hiring and firing?
 - In model, you can distinguish between hiring and firing. Are they equally cyclical?

- People with low attachment more likely to have part-time jobs
- Main margin of adjustment could actually be hours instead of extensive margin
- + What about the firm's side?
 - In data, you see net employment. Is there any way to distinguish between hiring and firing?
 - In model, you can distinguish between hiring and firing. Are they equally cyclical?
 - This difference might be important when thinking about policies!

Comment 3: which monetary policy shocks?

 $+\,$ In the model, interesting analysis on size of shock

• Larger expansionary shocks more helpful for low types

Comment 3: which monetary policy shocks?

 $\,+\,$ In the model, interesting analysis on size of shock

• Larger expansionary shocks more helpful for low types

 $+\,$ In data, ELB in approx 1/3 of the sample, not much variation



Comment 3: which monetary policy shocks?

 $+\,$ In the model, interesting analysis on size of shock

· Larger expansionary shocks more helpful for low types

 $+\,$ In data, ELB in approx 1/3 of the sample, not much variation



Suggestion: Why not look directly at the FG and QE shocks?

+ Could follow Swanson (2017) identification of the shocks

 $+\,$ The way you achieve different levels of tightness is a bit ad hoc

- $+\,$ The way you achieve different levels of tightness is a bit ad hoc
- $+\,$ You do comparative statics by changing the support of productivity

- $+\,$ The way you achieve different levels of tightness is a bit ad hoc
- $+\,$ You do comparative statics by changing the support of productivity

Suggestion: Why not solve the model non-linearly? possible in dynare

- $+\,$ The way you achieve different levels of tightness is a bit ad hoc
- $+\,$ You do comparative statics by changing the support of productivity

Suggestion: Why not solve the model non-linearly? possible in dynare + With non-linear solution, IRFs are state-dependent

- $+\,$ The way you achieve different levels of tightness is a bit ad hoc
- $+\,$ You do comparative statics by changing the support of productivity

Suggestion: Why not solve the model non-linearly? possible in dynare

- $+\,$ With non-linear solution, IRFs are state-dependent
- $+\,$ Can run simulations from different levels of employment rate

+ Very topical paper: shows that labor market tightness is important in mediating how MP affects different parts of population

- + Very topical paper: shows that labor market tightness is important in mediating how MP affects different parts of population
- + Directly speaks to the debate on MP inclusiveness spurred by the Fed's Monetary Policy Review

- + Very topical paper: shows that labor market tightness is important in mediating how MP affects different parts of population
- + Directly speaks to the debate on MP inclusiveness spurred by the Fed's Monetary Policy Review
- + Expansionary MP particularly helpful for blacks, least educated, women, when labor markets are tighter

- + Very topical paper: shows that labor market tightness is important in mediating how MP affects different parts of population
- + Directly speaks to the debate on MP inclusiveness spurred by the Fed's Monetary Policy Review
- + Expansionary MP particularly helpful for blacks, least educated, women, when labor markets are tighter

+ Comments:

- 1. What is employment rate capturing (and what not)?
- 2. Think about intensive margin, hiring and firing
- 3. Explore effects of unconventional monetary policy
- 4. Solve the model non-linearly for state-dependent IRFs