Discussion of

Observing Unobservables: Identifying Informational Asymmetries with a Consumer Credit Field Experiment

&

A Reexamination of the Role of "Relationships" in the Loan Granting Process

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Economists have identified some informational asymmetries that may exist in the market for loans

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 Adverse selection: the quality of the "project" that underlies the loan unknown Economists have identified some informational asymmetries that may exist in the market for loans

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- Moral Hazard: how hard borrower willing to work to payoff loan unknown

Are these information asymmetries something that a banker should be concerned about?

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Yes ... if they exist

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- Charges interest rate associated with "average" quality project
- Average interest rate attracts only low quality projects
- Banks will lose money on these loans

Questions

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1. Do informational asymmetries exist in the loans market?

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- 2. If yes, how do bankers deal with them?

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- Adverse selection: females
- Moral Hazard: males

Implications:

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- Offering different contracts problematic ... discriminatory

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Relationships (Chakravarty and Yilmazer)

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Relationships (Chakravarty and Yilmazer)

Overtime informational problems decrease

Chakravarty and Yilmazer

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• "Discrimination" occurs at the loan application and loan approval stages

Chakravarty and Yilmazer

- "Discrimination" occurs at the loan application and loan approval stages
- Bad types weeded out at these stages ... survivors get same loan rate

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- Bankers (in a relationship) seem to be throwing away valuable information (and profits!)
- Instead of rejecting loan, why not charge higher interest rate?