

Matthew J. Baker

Hunter College

Department of Economics
1532 Hunter West
695 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Phone: (212) 772-4217
Fax: (212) 772-5398
Email: matthew.baker@hunter.cuny.edu
Web: <http://econ.hunter.cuny.edu/people/economics-faculty/mbaker>
RePEc: <http://ideas.repec.org/e/pba114.html>
GitHub: <https://github.com/mbaker21231>

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, History of economic thought, Ph. D. Microeconomic theory II (Graduate Center), Introduction to Economics

Data

Google Scholar Citations: 932

Repec: Top 3%: Journal Pages (author and and impact factor weighted).

Repec: Top 2%: Abstract views

Repec: Top 1%: Downloads, downloads last 12 months.

Forthcoming Works

Software Items

Baker, Matthew J. 2021. DAGSOLVE: A package for finding all solutions to N-player, discrete action games. Software package for Stata.

Papers Under Review or being prepared for submission

Baker, Matthew J. and Lisa George. 2017. The News Hour: Welfare Estimation in the Market for Local TV News. *Revised and resubmitted.*

Baker, Matthew J. and Joyce Jacobson. Technology, Tradition, and Treatment of the Elderly. Preparing for submission to refereed journal.

Baker, Matthew J. and Jonathan Conning. 2020. A model of Enclosures: Coordination, Efficiency, and Conflict. Preparing for submission to refereed journal.

Publications

Journal Articles

Baker, Matthew J. 2021. Foundations of the Age-Area Hypothesis. *Nature: Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* 8, 311. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-021-00991-8>

Baker, Matthew J. and Thomas Miceli. 2021. Crime, Credible Enforcement, and Multiple Equilibria. *International Review of Law and Economics* 68(1): 106030.

Baker, Matthew J. and Kurtis J. Swope. 2021. "Sharing, gift-giving, and optimal resource use in hunter-gatherer society. *Economics of Governance* 22(2): 119-138.

Baker, Matthew J. 2018. "Was Civil War Surgery effective?" *Historical Methods: A Journal of Quantitative and Interdisciplinary History*, 51(1): 49-61.

Baker, Matthew J. and Ingmar Nyman. 2017. "Job Hoarding," *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics*, 173(4): 688-722.

Baker, Matthew J. 2014. "Adaptive Markov chain Monte Carlo sampling and estimation in Mata," *Stata Journal*, 14(3): 623-61.

Baker, Matthew J., 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 J., Erwin Bulte, and Jacob Weisdorf, 2010. The origins of governments: from anarchy to hierarchy, *Journal of Institutional Economics* 6(2), 215-42.

Baker, Matthew J., 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 J., and Erwin Bulte, 2010. Kings and Vikings: on the dynamics of competitive agglomeration, *Economics of Governance* 11(3): 207-27.

Baker, Matthew J., and Brendan Cunningham, 2009. Law and Innovation in Copyright Industries. *Review of Economic Research on Copyright Issues* 6(1) 61-82.

- Baker, Matthew J., 2008. A structural model of the transition to agriculture, *Journal of Economic Growth* 13(4) 257-92.
- Baker, Matthew J., Thomas Miceli, and C.F. Sirmas, 2008. An economic theory of mortgage redemption laws, *Real Estate Economics* 36(1): 31-45.
- Baker, Matthew J., 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 J., and Joyce Jacobsen, 2007. Marriage, specialization, and the gender division of labor, *Journal of Labor Economics* 25: 763-93.
- Baker, Matthew J., 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 J. and Thomas Miceli, 2005. Land inheritance rules: theory and cross-cultural analysis, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 56(1): 77-102.
- Baker, Matthew J. and Thomas Miceli, 2005. Credible criminal enforcement. *European Journal of Law and Economics* 20(1): 5-15.
- Baker, Matthew J. 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 J., 2003. An equilibrium conflict model of land tenure in hunter-gatherer societies, *Journal of Political Economy* 111(1): 124-73.
- Baker, Matthew J., Thomas Miceli, C.F. Sirmans, and Geoffrey Turnbull, 2002. Optimal title search. *Journal of Legal Studies* 31(1): 139-58.
- Baker, Matthew J., 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 J., 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 J., 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 J., 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 J., and Pamela Schmitt. 2003. Mergers with quality differentiated products. *Department Working Papers 3*, United States Naval Academy Department of Economics.

Technical Reports

- Using bayesmixedlogit and bayesmixedlogitwtp in Stata. Hunter College Economics, Technical Report. March 2, 2021.

Edited Volumes

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

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

Papers in Edited Volumes

Baker, Matthew J. 2015. Crime (Organized) and the Law. In: *Encyclopedia of Law and Economics*, Jürgen Backhaus, ed. New York: Springer. pp. 1-6.

Baker, Matthew J. 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 J. 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 J. 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 J., David Powell, and Travis Smith. 2016. GENQREG: Stata module to perform Generalized Quantile Regression.

Baker, Matthew J., David Powell, and Travis Smith. 2016. QREGPD: Stata module to perform Quantile Regression for Panel Data.

Baker, Matthew J. 2015. BAYESMIXEDLOGITWTP: Stata module for Bayesian estimation of mixed logit model in willingness-to-pay space.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Works in Progress

A method for the analysis of cultural evolution. 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 cultural histories using current location and linguistic information. This engenders a method for correctly controlling for the past interaction and co-evolution of cultures in determining their present characteristics. I demonstrate how the model works using marriage rules. Even though cross-cultural data are typically static snapshots of cultures, the model allows one to simulate underlying dynamics, lending insight into the speed and form of cultural evolution.

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.

Small-area prediction of Health Data Description: This research develops methods and computer programs for building data sets from satellite imagery and using this information to project this incidence of health problems that are easily and cheaply corrected (such as cataracts). The purpose of the research is to better inform charitable medical missions on potential destinations.

Development policy and traditional land tenure in Africa: an appraisal (Joint with Jonathan Conning) Traditional land tenure systems exhibit tremendous diversity across the African continent, and these systems are under increasing pressure, both from within and without, to "modernize." Our research develops a theoretical model of tenure which allows us to elucidate both the pitfalls of, and the possibilities for, modernizing land tenure arrangements across Africa.

Other Work in Progress

Prewar disease burden and regional troop performance in the American Civil War.

Likelihood-based estimation of the share-form nested multinomial logit model.

Global games and the theory of crime and punishment

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

Software

Knowledge of Stata and Python.

Other

Hunter College Economics Recruiting Committee (2011, 2013, 2015), Hunter College Economics Curriculum Committee (2018-), Hunter College Undergraduate Economics Academic Advisor (2012-)

Recent Presentations and Seminars

Hunter College Economics Department Seminar (2022), Hunter College Roosevelt Panel on modelling the Pandemic (Spring 2021), Wesleyan University Hogendorn Lecture for distinguished alums in Economics (2018), Hunter College Economics Department Seminar (2018), Hunter Dept. of Applied Math (2016), CUNY Graduate Center (2015), 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-Binghamton (Fall 2010).

Last updated: December 16, 2022