





CELEBRATING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MACAU

Seminar on Economics:

Money, Credit and Imperfect Competition Among Banks

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17 Nov 2021, 11:00 - 12:00



SCAN FOR ZOOM



Abstract:

Using micro-level data for the U.S., we provide new evidence—at national and state levels—of a positive (negative) relationship between the standard deviation (coefficient of variation) and the average in bank lending-rate markups. In our quantitative theory, bank market power in lending is endogenous to monetary policy as an equilibrium phenomenon. The model rationalizes the empirically observed relationships between the dispersion measures and the average of loan-rate markups. Banks need not be welfare-improving if inflation is sufficiently low. At low inflation, banks tend to extract more markup rent from existing loan customers, instead of competing for loan customers. Normatively, under a given inflation target welfare gains arise if a central bank can use additional liquidity-provision (or tax-and-transfer) instruments to offset banks' market-power incentives.

