

BENJAMIN HO

STANFORD GSB-PHD PROGRAM, 518 MEMORIAL WAY, STANFORD, CA 94305
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EDUCATION

Stanford University GSB

2001-present

PhD Candidate in Economics

- Research Interests: Applied Theory, Political Economy, Education, Social/Behavioral Economics
- Current Research: “The Economics of Apologies” - a functional analysis of the social institution of apologies. A signaling model where remorse, apologies and forgiveness are mechanisms by which relationships are maintained, and where the costs of apologies arise from information revelation about two dimensional types.

Stanford University

2001-2004

Master of Arts in Education

Master of Arts in Political Science

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

1996-2000

Masters of Engineering in Computer Science/Electrical Engineering

- Thesis: Open Source Innovation Practices in the Apache Web Server

Bachelor of Science in Economics

Bachelor of Science in Mathematics

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

WORKING PAPERS

Ben Ho: “The Economics of Apologies”

Abstract: Apologies are a previously unstudied social institution integral in the maintenance of relationships within society. Their application ranges from organizational design to political systems to legal settings and beyond. This paper formulates a game theoretic signaling model using rational agents that serves as a framework for understanding the use of apologies. I present a typology of apologies that models the mechanism using exogenous costs, social contracts, a model of empathy, and cheap talk with a multi-dimensional type-space. I finally consider evolutionary implications and offer a positive explanation of the fundamental attribution error from social psychology.

Jonah Berger, Chip Heath and Ben Ho: “Signaling Identity: Fads and Fashion”

Economists are aware that fashion comes and goes (Pesendorfer, 1995), and well aware that costly signals can convey information about type. What has largely been ignored is what types of behaviors are likely to become signals and which groups will become identified with various behaviors. Using a series of psychological experiments built around an economic game theoretic model, we examine why some groups signal by turning their hat sideways, some by the type of music they listen to, and some by painful tatoos.

WORK IN PROCESS

Ben Ho: “A Theory of Corporate Culture”
Eric Forister and Ben Ho: “Flexibility in Educational Investment”

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Recipient	2003-2006
Jaedicke Award - Stanford GSB <i>A fellowship given annually to recognize outstanding performance in the PhD program</i>	2003-2004
GSB Departmental Fellowship	2001-
Recipient, 2005 Summer Research Fellowship, John M. Olin Program in Law and Economics, Stanford Law School.	2005
Member of Sigma Xi – Scientific Research Honor Society	1999-
Member of Tau Beta Pi – Engineering Honor Society	2000-
Member of Eta Kappa Nu – Elec Eng/Comp Sci Honor Society	2000-

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Edward Lazear, Stanford GSB	2002-present
Research Assistant to Eric von Hippel, MIT Sloan	1999-2000
Undergrad Research Assistant to Xavier Gabaix, MIT Econ	1998-1999
Undergrad Research Assistant to Bonnie Berger, MIT LCS	1997-1998

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer – redesigned and taught Stanford’s undergraduate public economics • <i>incorporated topics from political economy, education, and behavioral economics</i>	Spring 2005
TA for Ed Lazear MBA Personnel Economics	Fall 2004
TA for Roger Noll’s Economics of Public Policy	Winter 2004
TA for Feinberg and Skrzypacz MBA Business Managerial Economics	Fall 2003
TA for Mark Wright’s Undergraduate Macroeconomics	Spring 2003

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Presented to Singapore’s Cabinet as member of Education Reform Commission	2002
Morgan Stanley – Analyst in Fixed Income Portfolio Research	2000-2001
Naidan – Consultant for Computer Security Startup	1999-2000

White House OMB (Economic Policy) – Consultant and Summer Intern 1999-2000

CONFERENCES / SUMMER SCHOOLS

European Science Days, Steyr (Austria) in Organizational Economics <i>presented poster on Rational Theory of Apologies</i>	Summer 2004
Summer School in Behavioral Economics, Trento (Italy) <i>presented paper on Rational Theory of Apologies</i>	Summer 2004
European Science Days, Steyr (Austria) in Personnel Economics	Summer 2003
Summer School in Behavioral Economics, Trento (Italy)	Summer 2003

PATENTS

A Factor Analytic Method of Bond Analytics with Robert Fuhrman, Morgan Stanley *pending*

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Columnist for Stanford Daily newspaper entitled “Irrational Exuberance”	2004-2005
Graduate Mentor for Stanford Freshman Mentor Program (weekly meetings with seven freshman)	2002-2003
Graduate Mentor for Stanford Asian American Activities Center	2003-2005
MIT Educational Councilor	2001-2005
Executive Committee Member MIT Club of New York	2000-2001

OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

American Economic Association, Econometric Society