

# ALESSANDRO SOVERA

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## BROWN UNIVERSITY

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### References

Professor **Emily Oster**  
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Professor **John N. Friedman**  
Department of Economics, Box B  
Brown University  
Providence, Rhode Island 02912  
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Professor **Brian Knight**  
Department of Economics, Box B  
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Providence, Rhode Island 02912  
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### EDUCATION

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<b>Brown University</b> Ph.D. Candidate in Economics Expected Completion Date: May 2024	Providence, RI, USA 2018 –present
<b>Universita' Bocconi</b> M.A. Economics	Milan, Italy 2015 –2017
<b>Universita' Bocconi</b> B.A. Economics	Milan, Italy 2012 –2015

### TEACHING AND RESEARCH FIELDS

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Public Finance, Public Economics and Political Economy

# JOB MARKET PAPER

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## Decoding Local Public Finance: The Interplay of the Legislature and the Executive

### *Abstract*

There has been a long debate in public finance about the factors that shape the size of government. One widely analyzed is the number of politicians. However, there is no clear evidence of the direction of its effect. This study aims at reconciling this contrast by introducing a new element: the role that politicians play in the government. Using unique administrative data from Italian municipalities and an instrumental variable strategy, I find that the role of local politicians matters. A larger executive board increases expenditure, through higher investments that are financed via capital transfers; a larger city council, instead, curbs investments. I explain these findings via a combination of career incentives and specialization for the executive and increased political fragmentation for the council. These findings are rationalized in a legislative bargaining model, where the executive and the legislature interact over the size of the local budget.

## RESEARCH PAPERS

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All for one, one for all: Inter-municipal cooperation and public good provision	2023
A Contributory System of Unemployment Insurance: The Italian Experience	2023
Let the Water Flow: The Impact of Electrification on Agriculture with <i>Geetika Nagpal</i>	2022

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT

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Brown University, Economics Department	Providence, RI
Research Assistant for Emily Oster and John Friedman	2019–2021
Action Institute	Milan, Italy
Research Associate	2017
Universita' Bocconi	Milan, Italy
Research Assistant for Selim Gulesci, Simon Goerlach and David Stuckler	2016–2018

## TEACHING

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### Teaching Assistant at Brown University

- Applied Research Methods for Economists (*Professors: Daniel Björkgren and Matthew Pecenco*) 2021-2023
- Introduction to Econometrics (*Professor: Stelios Michalopoulos*) Spring 2020
- Theory of Behavioral Economics (*Professor: Geoffroy De Clippel*) Fall 2019

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

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- Sheridan Teaching Consultant, Brown University (\$450) 2023
- S4 Graduate Student Paper Prize - Honorable Mention, Brown University 2022
- Population Studies and Training Center Summer Fellowship, Brown University Department of Economics (\$1200) 2020
- Graduate Student Scholarship, Brown University 2016 - 2021

## OTHER

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- **Conferences Talks:** [SIEP 2023](#)
- **Affiliations:** Population Studies and Training Center at Brown (2019-today), Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown (2019-today), IGIER Bocconi (2016-2018)
- **Service:** Organizer of Health Breakfast, Brown University, 2021; Organizer of Applied Micro Lunch, Brown University, 2020
- **Languages:** Italian (native), English (fluent) and French (intermediate)