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BROWN UNIVERSITY

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References

Professor **Emily Oster**
Brown University
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Professor **John N. Friedman**
Brown University
john_friedman@brown.edu

Professor **Brian Knight**
Brown University
brian_knight@brown.edu

EDUCATION

Tampere University
Postdoctoral Fellow

Tampere, Finland
2024 –now

Brown University
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics

Providence, RI, USA
2018 –2024

Universita' Bocconi
M.A. Economics

Milan, Italy
2015 –2017

Universita' Bocconi
B.A. Economics

Milan, Italy
2012 –2015

TEACHING AND RESEARCH FIELDS

Public Economics and Political Economy

JOB MARKET PAPER

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

In the world of government and politics, a fundamental question persists: Does an increased political class boost financial resources or burden the state's finances? This paper answers this question by considering a new factor: 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. More executive politicians increase expenditure, through higher investments financed via capital transfers; more councilors, instead, curb them. I explain these findings with specialization within a larger executive and political fragmentation within a larger council. Voters positively react to the additional spending of a larger executive by favoring upward career movements

for the mayor and re-appointment of executive board members. The councilors' careers, instead, do not benefit from their spending behavior.

RESEARCH PAPERS

- [Decoding Local Public Finance: The Interplay of the Legislature and the Executive \(2024\)](#)

In the world of government and politics, a fundamental question persists: Does an increased political class boost financial resources or burden the state's finances? This paper answers this question by considering a new factor: 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. More executive politicians increase expenditure, through higher investments financed via capital transfers; more councilors, instead, curb them. I explain these findings with specialization within a larger executive and political fragmentation within a larger council. Voters positively react to the additional spending of a larger executive by favoring upward career movements for the mayor and re-appointment of executive board members. The councilors' careers, instead, do not benefit from their spending behavior.

- [All for one, one for all: Inter-municipal cooperation and public good provision \(2023\)](#)

Do agglomeration or congestion effects dominate when municipalities consolidate government functions? This study examines an Italian policy reform that mandated municipalities with fewer than 5,000 residents to join inter-municipal communities (IMCs) and share service provision, allowing for an assessment of the effects on local real estate prices. The findings reveal that affected municipalities experience a decrease in house prices, reflecting a decline in the quality of public goods provision. Ultimately, the results suggest that the joint management of municipal functions can be detrimental to local governments and their residents.

- [Evaluating the Impact of Unemployment Benefit Reforms on Career Stability in Italy: Evidence from a Regression Discontinuity Analysis \(2023\)](#)

The impact of changing Potential Benefit Duration (PBD) on workers with unstable and fragmented careers remains underexplored. This study leverages a large administrative dataset from Italy and employs a Regression Discontinuity design to analyze a reform that ties unemployment benefit duration to weeks worked prior to unemployment. This reform creates varied effects based on different employment histories. The findings reveal that the new contributory system reduces unemployment durations by 27 days, a 63% decrease, and increases the probability of securing a permanent contract by 9%. Additionally, workers are more prone to change employers and job sectors. There is no significant impact on tenure and wages. The effects are particularly pronounced among young workers with temporary contracts located in small firms in the North of the country.

- [Let the Water Flow: The Impact of Electrification on Agriculture \(2022\)](#) with Geetika Nagpal

Over one billion people worldwide live in rural areas without access to electricity. In developing countries, while governments use electrification programs to stimulate non-agricultural employment, they may also have benefits for the agricultural sector. We estimate the impacts of India's large-scale rural electrification program on agricultural output using a difference-in-difference design and a combination of administrative and satellite data. We find that electrification leads to a 1.7% increase in agricultural output which is largely driven by the rain-fed summer cropping season. Agriculture in electrified villages becomes less sensitive to rainfall shocks, which is of growing importance given worsening environmental conditions. We

provide suggestive evidence that this decline in sensitivity is due to an increase in the uptake of electric shallow tube wells, particularly at the intensive margin.

Work in progress

- Property tax and business productivity (with Andrea Tulli)
- Spatial Effects of People-Based Policies (with Sander Ramboer)
- Local Public Firms and their role in Public Finance

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT

Action Institute	Milan, Italy
Research Associate	2017
Universita' Bocconi	Milan, Italy
Research Assistant for Selim Gulesci, Simon Goerlach and David Stuckler	2016–2018

TEACHING

Instructor at Tampere University

- Advanced Course in Econometrics (M.Sc. level) Spring 2025

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

- Sheridan Teaching Consultant, Brown University (\$450) 2023
- Sheridan Teaching Seminar - Reflective Teaching, Brown University 2022
- 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 2018 - 2024

OTHER

- **Affiliations:** Population Studies and Training Center at Brown (2019-2024), Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown (2019-2024), IGIER Bocconi (2016-2018)
- **Software:** Stata, LaTeX, GitHub, QGIS
- **Languages:** Italian (native), English (fluent) and French (intermediate)