

**Alessandro Sovera**  
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**Education:**

BA in Economics and Social Sciences, Bocconi University, 2015  
MSc in Economics and Social Sciences, Bocconi University (*Summa cum laude*), 2016  
MA in Economics, Brown University, 2019  
PhD in Economics, Brown University, 2018 to present

**Teaching and Research Fields:**

Public Economics, Labor Economics

**Teaching Experience:**

Fall, 2021 – Spring, 2022	ECON1629 Applied Research Methods for Economists, Brown University, teaching fellow for Professors Daniel Björkgren and Matthew Pecenco
Spring 2020	ECON1620 Introduction to Econometrics, Brown University, Professor Stelios Michaelopoulos
Fall 2019	ECON1860 Behavioral Economics, Brown University, Professor Geoffroy De Clippel

**Research Experience and Other Employment:**

2020-2021	Brown University, Research Assistant for Professor John N. Friedman
2019	Brown University, Research Assistant for Professor Emily Oster
2018	Bocconi University, Research Assistant for Professor David Stuckler
2017	Bocconi University, Research Assistant for Professor Selim Gulesci and Simon Goerlach
2017	Action Institute, Research Associate
2016	Bocconi University, Research Assistant for Professor Selim Gulesci

**Professional Activities:**

2021	Seminar Presentations: Brown Applied Micro Seminar, Brown Health Breakfast, Brown Applied Micro Breakfast, CSAE Conference. Organizer Brown Health Breakfast.
2020	Seminar Presentations: Brown Applied Micro Seminar, Brown Health Breakfast. Organizer Brown Applied Micro Lunch.

**Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:**

2020	Population Studies and Training Center Summer Fellowship (\$1200)
2019-2023	Graduate Student Scholarship, Brown University
2018-2019	Graduate Student Fellowship, Brown University

**Skills:** Stata, R, Python, LaTeX

**Research Papers:**

**Let the Water Flow: The Impact of Electrification on Agriculture (with Geetika Nagpal)  
[submitted]**

*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.*

**Temporary Workers and Unemployment Insurance: can a reform improve workers' condition?**

*Fixed-term contracts are widespread in many developed countries, and they can help to lower the unemployment rate and make the labor market more flexible. However, temporary workers suffer poor working conditions and are not safeguarded by the social security system. Using administrative data from Italy and a Regression Discontinuity Design, we investigate the effect of an Unemployment Insurance reform on temporary workers' labor market outcomes. We find that moving to a contributive UI system increases the likelihood of getting a permanent job by 35% (21% excluding contract conversions). This effect is mainly driven by younger workers in the North and Center of the country, low unionized sectors, and bigger firms, where the cost of hiring permanent workers lowered in the same period.*

**Domestic violence in Malawi: does education empower women? [submitted]**

*This paper investigates the causal link between education and domestic violence incidence through a Regression Discontinuity design, which exploits the 1994 Free Primary Education reform in Malawi. Using data from the 2015-16 of the Malawi Demographic and Health Survey, I find that the reform causes an increase of 0.9 years of education and 13 percentage points in primary school completion rate, with a stronger effect on the richer layers of the population. However, this increase does not translate into any effect on domestic violence. Therefore, I examine three potential mechanisms and I find there is no effect either on the labor or the marriage market, while it negatively affects acceptance of domestic violence, setting the path to a greater awareness of woman condition and social role. These findings could be explained by the fact that Malawi is mostly a rural country, characterized by a rigid patriarchal society, thus very resilient to concrete social and cultural changes.*

**Work in progress:**

**United we stand, divided we fall? The role of municipal unions in the Italian public finance system**

*There is a long debate on what the optimal size of jurisdictions should be. This work explores the question in the Italian setting, taking advantage of a reform that mandated inter-municipal*

*cooperation (IMC) for municipalities below 5,000 inhabitants. Using a variety of specifications in a Fuzzy Difference-in-Discontinuity design setting, I cannot detect any effect of IMC on current or capital expenditure. The next step is to explore if IMC does not cause savings because it improves the quality of public goods and services provided by the municipalities. This would help a better framing of the effect of IMC on municipal efficiency, which is still unclear in the literature.*