

I am a Researcher at the Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, I have obtained a PhD in Economics at Trinity College Dublin. My research interests revolve around Political Economics and Labor Economics, with a focus on the Economics of the Green Transition, and on the Economics of Crime, with a micro-econometric approach.

Education

Ph.D., Economics, Trinity College Dublin, *September 2018 - November 2023*

Thesis title: "Essays in Political Economics"

Supervisor: Nicola Mastrorocco & Marvin Suesse

M.Sc., Economics, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan *2015-2017*

B.Sc., Economics and Management, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan *2011-2015*

Work Experience

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, *September 2022 - Present*

- **Researcher**: Labour in the Low-carbon Transition (*LiLT*)

University of Milan, *September 2023 - August 2026*

- **Contract Professor**: Advanced Microeconomics (M.Sc.), *Fall 2023, 2024, 2025, val.: 9.2/10*

Trinity College Dublin, *September 2018 - September 2022*

- **Guest Lecturer**: Workshop in Big Data and Machine Learning (M.Sc., Ph.D. at *Maynooth University*), *Spring 2022*.
- **Teaching Assistant**: Introduction to Microeconomics (M.Sc.), *Fall 2021, val.: 5/5*. Topics in Political Economy (M.Sc.), *Fall 2019, 2020, val.: 4.75/5*. Development Economics (M.Sc.), *Spring 2020*. • Emergence of Macroeconomic Policy (M.Sc.), *Spring 2020, val.: 4.3/5*. Long Run Development (M.Sc.), *Fall 2019, val.: 5/5*. Introduction to Economic Policy A/B (B.Sc.), *2018-2019, val.: 4.11/5*.

SAS, *May 2018 - August 2018*

- **Training Analytical Consultant**: Organizing and delivering classes on SAS Base programming language.

Software and Languages

Software: STATA, Python, R, SQL, SAS, Office.

Languages: Italian (native), English (fluent).

Research Projects

Eroding Civic Capital: How Persistent Organised Crime Diminishes Tax Compliance, *with Francesca Calamunci*. Accepted at The Journal of Law, Economics & Organization.

Previously circulated as "When Crime Tears Communities Apart: Social Capital and Organised Crime".

[link: SSRN working paper](#).

Abstract: What is the long-term effect of organised crime presence on civic capital? By leveraging novel tax compliance and organised crime data, this study investigates this question within the Italian landscape from the 1950s to the 2000s. We exploit the forced resettlement law that compelled organised crime members living in the South of Italy to resettle in the Centre-North area of the country. Employing a difference-in-differences estimation strategy, estimates reveal that sustained exposure to mafia presence reduces TV tax compliance. Exploring possible mechanisms, we find that municipalities exposed to the forced resettlement law show more firms in strategic sectors for organised crime infiltration, and more episodes of extortion and labour racketeering.

The Civic Side of Tax Compliance: Evidence from Italy, with *Francesca Calamunci*, *Economics Letters* (2025).
link: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econlet.2025.112346>

Abstract: This study validates TV fee compliance as a proxy for civic capital in Italy. Using municipality-level data, we show that it strongly correlates with traditional social capital measures such as voluntary associations, referenda, and European elections turnout. The analysis confirms its reliability both at municipal and provincial levels. TV fee compliance provides a scalable, objective, and timely indicator, particularly useful for researchers to examine the socio-economic dynamics of civic capital and its implications for institutional performance and economic development.

Setting an example: political leaders' cues and health behavior in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic in Mexico, with *Bruno Morando* and *Luciano Ayala*, *Latin American Policy* (2021).
link: <https://doi.org/10.1111/lamp.12223>

Abstract: How do political leaders' cues affect citizen behavior regarding a new and complex issue? We address this question in the context of the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic in Mexico, using electoral outcomes and municipal-level mobility data from Facebook's Movement Range Maps. In March 2020, Mexico's president downplayed constantly the severity of the coming health crisis by continuing his political rallies throughout the country and encouraging people to leave their homes. Using an event-study analysis, we find that, after the first press conference where his government declared mobility restrictions were not yet necessary, on March 13, citizens' geographic mobility in pro-government municipalities was higher than in cities where support for the president was less strong. Our results are robust to several specifications and definitions of political support. Moreover, we find evidence that our results are driven by cities with higher media penetration, which implies that they can be attributed to people's reactions to the president's cues rather than to systematic differences in the preferences of his supporters.

Does Green Re-industrialization Pay off? Impacts on Employment, Wages and Productivity, with *Francesco Vona*, *Filippo Bontadini*.
link: [FEEM working paper](#).

Abstract: What are the consequences of green industrialization on the labour market and industry dynamics? This paper tackles and quantifies this policy-relevant question using new data on green manufacturing production for EU countries and 4-digit manufacturing industries over the period 2003-2017. We identify the effect of expanding green production on employment, average wages, value added and productivity using a shift-share instrument that leverages arguably exogenous changes in green innovation outside Europe. We find that an increase in 10 million € of sold green production is associated with an increase of 0.31% in employment and 0.36% in value added, respectively. In turn, we do not find any effect on wages and value added. The magnitude of the effects is similar using a long-difference specification and is larger in countries with pre-existing comparative advantage in green industries. When accounting for input-output linkages induced by an expansion in green production, only employment effects are magnified.

Vaccines on the Move and the War on Polio, with *Laura Muñoz Blanco*.
link: [FEEM working paper](#).

Abstract: The rising number of refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) presents new challenges for vaccine distribution and the spread of diseases. How do forcibly displaced population inflows affect infectious disease incidence in host communities? Can a policy intervention that vaccinates children during their migration mitigate the impacts? To answer these questions, we examine the Pakistani mass internal displacement from the conflict-affected Federally Administered Tribal Areas in 2008. Using a difference-in-differences approach, we compare new polio cases in districts near and far from the conflict zone before and after 2008. The spatial distribution of districts relative to the historical region of Pashtunistan allows us to design a sample of comparable units. We show that a standard deviation increase in predicted IDP inflow leads to a rise in the new polio cases per 100,000 inhabitants. Poorer vaccination levels among IDP compared to native children in host communities are one of the main mechanisms. Implementing a vaccination policy targeting IDP children during their migration journey helps bridge the vaccination gap, with important welfare implications.

The Local Job Multipliers of Green Industrialization, with *Filippo Bontadini*, *Italo Colantone*, *Francesco Vona*.
link: [CESifo working paper](#).

Abstract: What are the job multipliers of the green industrialization? We tackle this question within EU regions over the period 2003-2017, building a novel measure of green manufacturing penetration that combines green production and regional employment data. We estimate local job multipliers of green penetration in a long-difference model, using a shift-share instrument that exploits plausibly exogenous changes in non-EU green innovation. We find that a 3-years change in green penetration per worker increases the employment-to-active population ratio by 0.11 pp. The effect is: persistent both in manufacturing and outside manufacturing; halved by agglomeration effects that increase the labour

market tightness; stronger for workers with high and low-education; and present also in regions specialized in polluting industries. When focusing on large shocks in a staggered DiD design, we find ten times larger effects, particularly in earlier periods.

Identity Rhetoric and Tax Evasion, with *Francesco Barilari, Francesca Calamunci, Diego Zambiasi*
[link: SSRN working paper](#).

Abstract: This paper studies how identity-based political rhetoric can erode tax compliance. We focus on Italy's Northern League (NL), a regionalist party that framed national taxes as an illegitimate imposition by a distant and exploitative central government. Exploiting the staggered local entry of NL into municipal elections between 1990 and 2015, we implement a difference-in-differences design to estimate the causal effect of exposure to NL's rhetoric on tax compliance. We find that NL participation leads to a significant decline in payment of the national TV license fee, a symbolically charged and centrally collected tax. The effect is absent for local taxes and unrelated parties like Forza Italia, and is not driven by NL's control of local government. The decline is amplified in municipalities with higher initial support for NL, greater exposure to its television channel, and more intense local campaign activity. The effect is also stronger in economically vulnerable communities. Taken together, the evidence points to a rhetorical mechanism: repeated exposure to a narrative that casts national taxation as cultural exploitation weakens compliance with central fiscal obligations.

Political Participation and Competition in Concurrent Elections: Evidence from Italy
[link: FEEM working paper](#).

Abstract: This paper investigates how concurrent national and local elections affect the local political participation and competition. Leveraging a quasi-experimental framework provided by Italy's staggered electoral timing, the paper employs a difference-in-differences design. Estimates reveal that municipalities holding concurrent elections exhibit lower levels of local participation and competition. Moreover, the concurrent election increases participation by candidates with nationally-established parties, while decreases participation with independent parties. This further translates into a higher votes share for nationally-established parties and a consequent higher probability of election. Elected mayors tend to have lower education and experience in office, while they are more likely to be from the municipality they were elected in. Further, elected mayors are able to attract more intergovernmental transfers, without substantially affecting local spending patterns.

Organised crime and human capital, within-city evidence from Italy

Conferences

Attended and scheduled(*): *Irish Postgraduate and Early Career Economics (2021), "AL CAPONE" conference (2022), Società Italiana di Economia (2022), Italian Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (2023, 2025), European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (2023, 2024), Italian Congress of Econometrics and Empirical Economics (2023), Corporate R&D and Innovation (2023), Mannheim Conference on Energy and the Environment (2025), European Economic Association (2025), Società Italiana di Economia Pubblica (2025), SkilMeet conference (2025).*

Awards and Fellowships

Economics Department Scholarship, Trinity College Dublin, 2018-2020
2020 Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship, Irish Research Council, 2020-2022
SkilMeet, European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation programme, 2024-2026.

References

Nicola Mastrorocco (PhD supervisor)
Assistant Professor
University of Bologna
Email: nicola.mastrorocco@unibo.it

Italo Colantone
Associate Professor
Bocconi University
Email: italo.colantone@unibocconi.it

Francesco Vona
Full Professor
University of Milan
Email: francesco.vona@unimi.it

Gaia Narciso
Full Professor
Trinity College Dublin
Email: narcisog@tcd.ie