

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 - August 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 2025*

- **Contract Professor**: Advanced Microeconomics (M.Sc.), *Fall 2023, 2024, 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

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: doi.org](#)

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.

When Crime Tears Communities Apart: Social Capital and Organised Crime, with *Francesca Calamunci*. [link: working paper](#). R&R at *The Journal of Law, Economics & Organization*

Abstract: What is the long-term effect of organised crime presence on social capital accumulation? By leveraging novel civic capital and organised crime data, this study investigates this question within the Italian landscape. In an instrumental variable (IV) setting, we exploit the forced resettlement law that compelled organised crime members living in the South of Italy to resettle in the Centre-North area. Using a municipality-level measure of tax compliance as a proxy for civic awareness, we find evidence that sustained exposure to mafia presence depresses civic capital accumulation. Results are robust to a series of robustness checks, such as using an alternative IV strategy. The findings appear not to be influenced by a change in population composition but rather by a change in values, resulting in a higher tolerance of dishonest conduct.

The Civic Side of Tax Compliance: Evidence from Italy, with *Francesca Calamunci*, conditionally accepted at *Economics Letters*

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.

Does Green Re-industrialization Pay off? Impacts on Employment, Wages and Productivity, with *Francesco Vona, Filippo Bontadini*

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*

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.

(Sub)National Identity and Tax Evasion, with *Francesco Barilari, Francesca Calamunci, Diego Zambiasi*

Abstract: This paper examines how subnational identity and political ideology shape tax compliance, focusing on the role of the Northern League in Italy. As a federalist and anti-establishment party, it has historically promoted narratives against national taxation. We analyze its impact on tax compliance by studying evasion of the national TV tax (RAI license fee), leveraging a staggered difference-in-differences (DiD) approach with the doubly-robust Callaway and Sant'Anna estimator. Our findings show that the mere participation of the Northern League in local elections significantly increases tax evasion of 0.22%, even in the absence of an electoral victory. To disentangle the underlying mechanisms, we first ask whether the effect is driven by populism or federalism, distinguishing between anti-establishment rhetoric and opposition to national taxation. Second, we examine media exposure, assessing how partisan TV and national newspaper exposure amplify tax resistance. Third, we consider grassroots mobilization, looking at how local anti-tax campaigns directly engage citizens. Finally, we analyze territorial identity and socioeconomic heterogeneity, exploring how regional ties and economic conditions shape responses.

Simultaneous elections and electoral outcomes: evidence from Italy

Abstract: This paper investigates the impact that the simultaneity of national and local elections has on the local electoral stage, in terms of civic and political participation, political competition and electoral results. Methodologically, I employ a difference-in-differences design that exploits the staggered nature of the local elections in Italy, where some municipalities experience the simultaneity, while the rest do not. Voters' participation is positively impacted, with homogeneous effects along the gender dimension. Political participation mildly increases, while its competition is affected in an opposite way. Mayors winning in this simultaneous setting are more likely to have previous office experience. Lastly, using the simultaneity as a sample restriction, I document the existence of a split-ticket voting behaviour. In this regard, I find support for the divided government hypothesis as a mechanism.

The Local Job Multipliers of Green Industrialization, with *Filippo Bontadini, Italo Colantone, Francesco Vona*

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)*.

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, 2024-2027.

References

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