Luca Righetti

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EDUCATION

- **University of Cambridge** — Cambridge, UK
  Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Economics: Double First-Class — *Oct. 2017 – Jul. 2020*
  - Overall Mark: 75.3% (no rank due to Covid) — Dissertation Mark: 80.0% (ranked 2nd/~160)
  - Nominated for the Gladstone Memorial Prize (awarded to the best dissertation across the Faculties of Economics, History, and Political Science) and elected Scholar to Christ's College

- **King Edward's School Bath** — Bath, UK
  A-Levels: Further Maths (A*), Maths (A*), German (A*), History (A*), Politics (A) — *Sep. 2014 – Jul. 2017*
  - Runner-up in the Bank of England's "Target 2.0" Area Final (2017) and shortlisted for the Royal Economics Society's "Young Economist of the Year" (2016), as one of 19 out of ~1,700 entries

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **Effective Altruism Oxford** — Remote
  In-Depth Fellow — *Aug. 2020 – Sep. 2020*
  - Seven-week deep dive into specific topics relevant to Effective Altruism, discussing seminal articles in the literature alongside analytical exercises in forecasting models, Bayesian updating, and rationality

- **SoGive** — Remote
  Analyst — *Jun. 2020 – Aug. 2020*
  - Reviewed the academic literature on the "worm wars" (Miguel & Kremer, 2004) and how GiveWell uses this in their cost-effective analysis, finding limited external validity of causal mechanisms and gendered heterogeneity
  - Helped compile a database of UK charities and quantified their cost-effectiveness, making 14 impact assessments and reporting grade recommendations directly to the CEO

- **Berkman Klein Centre (Harvard University)** — Remote
  Summer Institute — *Jul. 2020*
  - Four-week educational program that focused on "AI Policy and Inclusion, Media and Content Moderation, and Information for Decision Makers", being one of 23 students selected for the inaugural cohort
  - Personal project examined news coverage of facial recognition surveillance, identifying trends using web-scraping and text analytics, then summarising these through data visualisations using R

- **Cambridge Development Initiative** — Cambridge, UK
  Research Director — *Sep. 2018 – Sep. 2019*
  - Coordinated all research efforts of a registered non-profit operating in Tanzania, leading a team of 9 volunteers; copy-edited and established an external peer review panel to ensure high standard of published work
  - Increased output of reports from 4 to 8 via improving internal recruitment and fostering partnerships with the [Tanzanian] College of Business Education, Polygeia, and The Wilberforce Society

- **Cambridge Development Initiative** — Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania
  Monitoring & Evaluation Officer — *Jun. 2018 – Aug. 2018*
  - Created an impact assessment framework for a pilot project and wrote a 50-page report, making use of both quantitative and qualitative methods during my fieldwork (including surveys, web analytics, and interviews)
  - Oversaw the successful handover of a 4-year initiative to a major NGO, liaising directly with the Country Director, and was selected by the Executive Committee to be the interim Project Director for the Entrepreneurship Track

- **United Nations Development Programme** — Geneva, Switzerland
  Research Assistant — *Feb. 2016 – Apr. 2016*
  - Conducted secondary research on the economic impact refugees have on host countries in the context of the Syrian crisis, outlining gaps in the academic literature and writing an internal memo that highlighted policy implications

Working Papers

- **Self-reinforcing Corruption: Evidence from the MPs' Expenses Scandal**
  (with Dr. Julia Shvets)
  - **Abstract:** Models of self-reinforcing corruption have been influential in describing corruption traps. However, there is a lack of evidence regarding their underlying mechanisms. We test for one such mechanism, peer effects, using data on the 2009 MPs' expenses scandal, which we collected for this purpose. We use the influx of newly elected MPs in 2005 to construct a novel IV that addresses the reflection problem. We find some evidence of peer effects, which mainly operate through geographical networks. There is also initial evidence of asymmetric influence: The behaviour of senior party-officials and worst offenders has a bigger impact than others.

Leadership & Activities

- **Hear This Idea (Podcast/Blog)** — Cambridge, UK
  Co-Host/Founder — *Oct. 2019 – Present*
  - Run a podcast and blog that "showcases new thinking in the social-sciences and philosophy", having published 20+ hours of in-depth interviews and 100,000+ words in blog posts
  - Built an audience of 2,000+ people, with episodes regularly featured on the Effective Altruism Forum front-page as well as in academic newsletters; guests have included Diane Coyle and upcoming Peter Singer

- **Cambridge Society for Economic Pluralism** — Cambridge, UK
  President — *Mar. 2018 – Mar. 2019*
  - Led the largest Cambridge social-science student society with 1,000+ members; managed a committee of 12, oversaw 25 events, and introduced a 50-50 gender quota for external speakers to promote female academics
  - Scaled membership by 30% via new outreach initiatives, such as essay competitions, video promotions, as well as successful collaborations with The Economist and Rethinking Economics

Professional Experience

- **Deutsche Bahn AG** — Berlin, Germany
  Intern (Procurement Strategy and Projects) — *Aug. 2020 – Present*
  - Part of a new team tasked with saving 120m€ in procurement of rail vehicles in response to Covid losses; helping to analyse contracts in SAP data and designing visualisations in Tableau for senior management

- **Oliver Wyman** — London, UK
  Consulting Intern — *Jun. 2019 – Aug. 2019*
  - Staffed on projects including advising an International Financial Institution on how to develop local currency debt markets and defining a new 5-year growth strategy for a leading insurance firm

- **McKinsey & Company** — London, UK
  Discover Programme — *Apr. 2019*
  - Three-day event to develop problem-solving and interpersonal skills via a combination of workshops and case studies; gained an insight into management consulting and the firm's creative thinking frameworks

- **180 Degrees Consulting** — Cambridge, UK
  Student Consultant — *Jan. 2018 – Mar. 2018*
  - Refined the business model of a Croatian food-laboratory, being personally responsible for identifying customer segments and successfully persuading the client to change their primary location to Zagreb

Skills

Languages: English (Native); German (Native); Italian (Basic)

Software/Coding: STATA; R; Visual Basic; Tableau; Microsoft Office; LaTeX; Adobe CS; HTML

Updated September, 2020