Luca Righetti

https://www.lucarighetti.com Mobile: [redacted]

EDUCATION

University of Cambridge

Cambridge, UK

B.A. (Hons) in Economics: Double First-Class

Oct. 2017 - Jul. 2020

Email: hello@lucarighetti.com

 \circ Overall Mark: 75.3% (no rank due to Covid) Dissertation Mark: 80.0% (ranked 2nd/ $\sim\!\!160)$

• 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

 \circ 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 \sim 1,700 entries

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

SoGive (Charity Evaluator)

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, noting that its causal mechanisms may not have much external validity
- Helped compile a database of UK charities and quantified their cost-effectiveness; made 14 impact assessments and recommending what 'award' to give them, reporting these 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
- Identified trends in news coverage of facial recognition surveillance by using R to web-scrape and text-analyse 3,000+ headlines, then summarising main findings in data visualisations

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 a high standard of published work
- Increased output of reports from 4 to 8 via improving the internal recruitment process 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 a detailed impact assessment framework and 50-page report of a pilot project (using surveys, focus-groups, and web analytic), whose recommendations directly helped to triple the attendance of beneficiaries
- Oversaw the successful handover of a 4-year initiative to a major NGO by closely collaborating with their Country Director, and was subsequently selected by CDI's Executive Committee to be the interim Project Director

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.

Hear This Idea (Podcast/Blog)

Co-Host/Founder

Cambridge, UK
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

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 longtermism

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 successfully introduced a 50-50 gender balance of external speakers
- Scaled membership by 30% via new outreach initiatives, including an essay competition, promotional videos, and successful collaborations with both The Economist and Rethinking Economics

Professional Experience

Deutsche Bahn AG

Berlin, Germany

Data Analyst Intern (Procurement Strategy & Standards)

Aug. 2020 - Present

• Helped towards saving 120m€ in rail vehicle costs by optimising contracts using SAP Business Intelligence data and creating Tableau data-visualisations to communicate these insights to 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 five-year growth strategy for a leading insurance firm that capitalises on macro trends

McKinsey & Company

London, UK

Discover Programme

Apr. 2019

• Three-day event to develop problem-solving and interpersonal skills through workshops and case studies; presented recommendations to a panel of senior consultants and was praised for the use of creative-thinking frameworks

180 Degrees Consulting

Cambridge, UK

Student Consultant

Jan. 2018 - Mar. 2018

• Refined the business model of a Croatian food-laboratory and restaurant, successfully persuading the client to change their primary location to Zagreb through my detailed report of customer segments and market sizing

Volunteering

Coronavirus Tutoring Initiative

Remote

Maths Tutor

Apr. 2020 - Jun. 2020

Cambridge Students Union

Cambridge, UK

 $Access\ Volunteer$

Oct. 2017 - Jul. 2020

May Week Alternative

Cambridge, UK

College Ambassador

Jan. 2020 - May 2020

SKILLS

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

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