

Ludovica Mosillo

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Fields	Primary: Development Economics, Energy Economics Secondary: Applied Microeconomics	
Education	Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University Committee: Nancy Qian (Chair), Chris Udry, Lori Beaman M.A., Economics, Northwestern University M.Sc., Economics and Social Sciences, Bocconi University B.Sc., Economics and Social Sciences, Bocconi University	2026 2021 2019 2016

Job Market Paper [**The Inequitable Impact of Equal Rationing: The Case of Load Shedding in South Africa**](#)

This paper examines how the unreliability of the electrical grid affects economic inequality by analyzing the effects of South Africa's system of rotating power outage implemented between 2019 and 2024. Using a novel methodology that matches daily satellite luminosity data with outages schedules, I find that areas with the highest concentration of low-income households experience an additional 28% decrease in nighttime luminosity during power outages compared to the wealthiest areas. This differential exists despite equal exposure to outages across the income distribution. Consistent with richer households adapting to power outages by installing fuel-operated generators, I show that the differential impact is reduced when oil prices increase.

Working papers

Black-White Income Inequality During Jim Crow: Evidence from ‘Passing’ for White with Ricardo Dahis, Emily Nix, Nancy Qian

This paper documents several new facts about racial discrimination from 1910-1940 in the United States. Exposure to racial discrimination was positively associated with some Black men taking on White identities, resulting in large income gains and economic mobility. However, this imposed high social costs; beyond the loss of one’s Black identity, passing for White was associated with higher separation rates from a person’s community and family. Using the income gains from passing, we estimate that removing contemporaneous labor market discrimination would have increased the Black-to-White income ratio by at least 16 percentage points.

Does Gender Influence Migrant Reception? Evidence from Italy

This study examines whether the presence of women in local government influences attitudes toward migrant reception. Using data from the European Social Survey, I document that women view migration as more economically threatening than men, though they are more supportive of welcoming refugees. To identify causal effects, I exploit the exogenous variation in female representation created by Italy’s 2012 gender quota law (Law 215/2012), which required municipal candidate lists to include at least one-third women in municipalities over 5,000 residents. Using a difference-in-difference and an instrumental variables approach, I show that a one standard deviation increase in women’s council representation increases the probability of bidding for refugee centers by 77%. This suggests that despite women’s

greater concern about migration's economic impact, their preference for supporting vulnerable populations dominates in policy decisions.

Work in progress	“The Glass Cliff: Gender and Leadership Selection in Distressed Organizations”	
Research Experience	Research Assistant, Nancy Qian, Kellogg School of Management Research Assistant (<i>field</i>), Global Poverty Research Lab, Kellogg School of Management Research Assistant, Marco Tabellini and Vasiliki Fouka, Harvard Business School Project Coordinator, LEAP, Bocconi University	2022 - 2025 2023 2019-2020 2019-2020
Teaching Experience	Teaching Assistant, Kellogg School of Management Statistical Decision Analysis, Executive MBA Big Data Advanced Analytics Workshop, MBA Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University Introduction to Microeconomics, Undergraduate Economics of State and Local Governments, Undergraduate Economics of Education Policy, Undergraduate	2023 - 2024 2021 - 2023
Conferences	ERSA Stellenbosch, 2024	
Grants	The Graduate School - Graduate Research Grant (\$3,000) The Weiss Fund - Travel and Piloting (\$2,800) Global Poverty Research Lab - Travel Grant (\$5,000)	2025 2024 2023
Fellowships	Dissertation Fellowship, Northwestern University	2025
Programming	Stata (advanced), Python (advanced), LaTeX (advanced), QGIS (basic), R (basic)	
Languages	English (fluent), Italian (native), Spanish (intermediate)	
References	Professor Nancy Qian Kellogg School of Management Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 847-491-2531 nancy.qian@kellogg.northwestern.edu	Professor Christopher Udry Department of Economics Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 847-491-8216 christopher.udry@northwestern.edu
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