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Graduate Studies:

PhD, Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, 2016 to present

Visiting student, Stockholm University, March-April 2020

Visiting student, Brown University, Fall 2018-19

Thesis Title: “*Essays on the Political Economy of Mass Media*”

Expected Completion Date: June 2021

References:

Professor Ruben Durante (Advisor)

Universitat Pompeu Fabra

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Professor Ruben Enikolopov

New Economic School, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

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Brown University

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Professor David Strömberg

Stockholm University

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MRes, Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, 2016

MSc, Economics, University of Bonn, 2014

Undergraduate Studies:

BSc, Economics with Mathematics minor, University of Mannheim, 2011

Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary fields: Applied Economics, Political Economy

Secondary fields: Media Economics, Development Economics

Teaching Experience:

2017 Development Economics, BGSE (Graduate)

2016-17 Macroeconomics I, UPF (Undergraduate)

2016 International Marketing, UPF (Undergraduate)

2009-11 Analysis I and II (Mathematics track), Mannheim (Undergraduate)

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2016-17 UPF, Research Assistant for Prof. Jan Eeckhout and Prof. Ruben Durante

2014-15 European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Office of the Chief Economist,

	Research Analyst
2013-14	Center for Development Research at Bonn University, Research Assistant
2013	Ministry of Economy of Bulgaria, Research Department, Summer Intern
2012-13	DekaBank, Office of the Chief Economist, Intern
2012	German Development Institute, Research Assistant

Professional Activities:

Seminar Presentations:

2020	Immigration Policy Lab (scheduled), Pittsburgh Labor/ Development Brownbag, Zurich Econ & Data Science Reading Group, Economics of Migration Junior Webinar, Young Applied Economist Webinar, Stockholm MicroWave
2019	Cologne Applied Micro Seminar, UPF (3x): Applied Lunch, Management/Behavioral Lunch, LDP Reading Group
2018	Brown Applied Micro Lunch, Northeastern Labor Lunch, UPF Applied Lunch
2017	UPF (2x): Applied Lunch, Media Reading Group
2016	UPF Media Reading Group

Conference Presentations:

2020	NABE Tech Economics Conference (scheduled), Econometric Society Winter Meetings (scheduled), SAEe (scheduled), Young Economist Symposium (UPenn); <i>cancelled due to Covid -- Venice Summer Institute, 17th Annual Migration Meeting, Spring Meeting of Young Economists, Economics of Media Workshop Queens University</i>
2019	SAEe (Alicante), Barcelona-Paris Workshop on Culture and Preferences (Paris), Text as Data Workshop (Zurich), 17th Media Economics Workshop (Braga), 4th Economics of Media Bias Workshop (Berlin)
2018	16th Media Economics Workshop (Lecce), Evidence Based Econ Summer Meeting (Ammersee), QMUL PhD & Post-doc Workshop (London), BGSE Jamboree (Barcelona)

Referee:

The Economic Journal, Journal of Public Economics (2x), Journal of Comparative Economics, Economica, European Economic Review

Other Training:

BGSE Data Science Winter School (2020), SAEe PhD School (2019), RECSM Summer School: Big Data and Social Media (2017), IOEA Summer School (2017)

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2020	EBES mobility grant for research stay at Stockholm University
2019	Unicredit Foundation Best Paper Award, Galatina Summer Meetings
2018-19	EBES mobility grant for research stay at Brown University
2017-present	FPI scholarship for Applied Economics, Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness
2015-2017	UPF teaching assistant grant

Languages: Bulgarian (native), English (fluent), German (fluent), Spanish (intermediate)

Publications:

[“The Great Recession and Social Preferences: Evidence from Ukraine”](#), with Ralph de Haas and Elena Nikolova, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 2016

Working Papers:

[“Media Persuasion through Slanted Language: Evidence from the Coverage of Immigration”](#) (Job Market Paper)
UniCredit Foundation Best Paper Award 2019 Galatina Summer Meetings; Runner-up 7th Econ JM Best Paper Award
BGSE Working Paper 1177

Can the language used by mass media to cover policy-relevant issues affect readers' policy preferences? I examine this question in the context of the US debate on immigration, exploiting an abrupt ban on the politically charged term "illegal immigrant" in dispatches distributed to media outlets by the Associated Press (AP) news wire. Using the text of AP's dispatches and about one million articles from 2200 outlets, I quantify outlets' prior reliance on AP-content and track their language and readers' views on immigration over time. I find that one standard deviation higher AP-intensity leads to a 10 to 14% decline in use of "illegal immigrant" after the ban. This change in language has a tangible impact on readers' views on immigration. Following AP's ban, individuals exposed to outlets with 1 standard deviation higher AP-intensity show 0.7 percentage point lower support for restrictive immigration and border security policies. The effect is driven by less engaged readers, and does not transfer to views on issues other than immigration.

[“Media Attention and Strategic Timing in Politics: Evidence from Presidential Executive Orders”](#), with Ruben Durante
Revise & Resubmit American Journal of Political Science
CEPR Discussion Paper 13961

Do politicians tend to adopt unpopular policies when the media and the public are distracted by other events? We examine this question by analyzing the timing of the signing of executive orders (EOs) by U.S. presidents over the past four decades. We find robust evidence that EOs are more likely to be signed on the eve of days when the news are dominated by other important stories that can crowd out coverage of EOs. Crucially, this relationship only holds in periods of divided government when unilateral presidential actions are more likely to be criticized by a hostile Congress. The effect is driven by EOs that are more likely to make the news and to attract negative publicity, particularly those on topics on which president and Congress disagree. Finally, the timing of EOs appears to be related to predictable news but not to unpredictable ones, which suggests it results from a deliberate and forward-looking PR strategy.

[“Online Competition and News Quality: Evidence from the Introduction of Craigslist”](#), with Ruben Durante and Greg Martin

The Internet has profoundly changed the landscape in which traditional media outlets operate. We investigate the effects of online competition on the market outcomes and content of local newspapers exploiting the staggered introduction of Craigslist – the largest online platform for classified advertising – across US media markets between 1995 and 2009. This setting allows us to separate the effects of online platforms from changes in local Internet access. We document that Craigslist's entry causes a reduction in the volume of classified ads, leads to a decline in readership and a downsizing of newsrooms and management. These effects are driven by newspapers that relied on classified ads as a source of revenue at baseline, proxied by the presence of a classified ads manager. Looking at content, affected newspapers reduce their coverage of topics related to politics and publish fewer articles covering local Congressional representatives. Finally, we provide suggestive evidence that these changes in organization and coverage may have affected readers' electoral participation and representatives' behavior.

Research Papers in Progress:

“The Life of Others: Explaining Differences in News Coverage of Human Losses in US Media”, *with Filipe Campante, Ruben Durante and Elias Papaioannou*

“Broadband Internet and Newspaper Readership: Evidence from State Regulations”, *with Sebastian Ellingsen and Milan Quentel*