Nicola Corbellini

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Citizenship: Italy (F-1 OPT Visa)

Employment

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, The Pennsylvania State University, 2024-present.

Education

PhD, Economics, University of Minnesota, 2024. Dissertation Title: "Essays on Tax Enforcement and Informality". Advisor: Professor V. V. Chari.

MSc, Economic and Social Sciences, Bocconi University, 2017.

BS, Economics, University of Bergamo, 2014.

Research Fields

Macroeconomics, Public Economics, Economic Growth.

Papers

Corbellini, Nicola, "The Effects of Tax Enforcement on Average Firm Size and Aggregate Productivity", Working Paper.

Corbellini, Nicola, "Measuring Informal GDP Using Survey Data", Working Paper.

Seminar Presentations

Católica Lisbon School of Business & Economics (Online), 2024.

Teaching Experience

Instructor. Department of Economics, The Pennsylvania State University. Taught Monetary Theory and Policy, Monetary History, Growth and Development, and Economics of the Financial Crisis, 2024-present.

Instructor. Department of Economics, University of Minnesota. Taught Industrial Organization, Public Economics, Intermediate Microeconomics, and Cost-Benefit Analysis, 2021-2024.

Instructor. Department of Economics, University of Minnesota. Taught Intermediate Microeconomics (Summer Semester), 2020, 2022-2023.

Teaching Assistant. Department of Economics, University of Minnesota. Led recitation sections for Intermediate Microeconomics, 2019-2020.

Research and Professional Experience

Research Analyst. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Research Department. 2020-2021.

Research Trainee. European Central Bank, DG Monetary Policy, Capital Markets Division. 2017-2018.

Research Trainee. European Commission, DG ECFIN. 2016.

Honors and Awards

Mary and Robert Litterman Fellowship, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, 2018-2019.

Sant'Alessandro Merit Scholarship, University of Bergamo, 2013.

Computer Skills

Julia, STATA, R, Matlab, LaTeX.

Languages

English (fluent), Italian (native), French (intermediate).

Abstracts

Corbellini, Nicola, "The Effects of Tax Enforcement on Average Firm Size and Aggregate Productivity", *Working Paper*.

How does tax enforcement affect average firm size and total factor productivity (TFP)? To answer this question, I develop a quantitative model with informality where informal entrepreneurs do not pay taxes but face a probability of detection increasing in firm size. Stricter tax enforcement results in lower informality and affects average firm size and TFP through two mechanisms: as tax enforcement becomes stricter, fewer relatively unproductive agents choose to be entrepreneurs, and fewer entrepreneurs choose to operate in the informal sector. I calibrate the model using Brazilian data. A counterfactual tax enforcement reducing the informality rate by 6 percentage points accounts for 9% and 28% of the observed differences in TFP and average firm size between Brazil and a weighted average of the six largest other Latin American economies.

Corbellini, Nicola, "Measuring Informal GDP Using Survey Data", *Working Paper*.

This paper estimates the share of informal GDP in 26 developing countries over a period that spans up to 2004–2023. The focus is on the concept of legal informality, defined as the activities of enterprises that are not formally registered. I propose a simple framework that formally characterizes informal GDP. I use data from various sources, including the World Bank Enterprise Survey and the International Labour Organization (ILO), to match the conditions derived from the framework. The resulting informality series conform to patterns documented in previous research, such as a negative correlation with GDP per capita and mild anticyclical behavior. Because I adopt a narrower definition of informality, the estimated levels tend to be lower than those reported in previous cross-country studies.

References

Professor V. V. Chari, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, chari002@umn.edu

Professor Sung Jae Jun, Department of Economics, Pennsylvania State University, suj14@psu.edu

Professor Ayca Ozdogan Atabay, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, ozdogo02@umn.edu