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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 the Firm Size Distribution 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, and Growth and Development, 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. Research Department, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Research assistant for Dr. Mark Wright, 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 the Firm Size Distribution and Aggregate Productivity](#)", Working Paper.

How does tax enforcement affect the firm size distribution and total factor productivity (TFP)? To answer this question, I develop a quantitative model characterized by heterogeneous agents who choose whether to be workers, entrepreneurs in the formal sector, or entrepreneurs in the informal sector. Informal entrepreneurs do not pay taxes, but face a probability of detection that is increasing in firm size. In the model, stricter tax enforcement results in lower informality and affects the firm size distribution and TFP through two mechanisms. First, some relatively unproductive agents choose to be workers rather than entrepreneurs, leading to higher average productivity and firm size through a composition effect. Second, some entrepreneurs switch to the formal sector and expand their scale compared to informal entrepreneurs of the same productivity. Using data from Brazil, I calibrate the model and estimate that a counterfactual tax enforcement that reduces the informality rate from 36% to 30% of total output - the value measured in the weighted average of the six largest Latin American economies - would account for about 9% and 28% of the observed differences in TFP and average firm size.

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, charioo2@umn.edu

Professor Christopher Phelan, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, cphelan@umn.edu

Professor Larry Jones, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, lej@umn.edu