

# Dr. Sergio Lo Iacono

Post-doctoral Researcher

Utrecht University

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Research Interests

Trust, Cooperation, Social networks,  
Institutions, Diversity, Reputation

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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- 2019 – Present    **Post-doctoral researcher**, Department of Sociology, Utrecht University, Netherlands  
2017 – 2019    **Max Weber fellow**, Department of Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute, Italy  
Spring 2016    **Visiting researcher**, Department of Political Science, McGill University, Canada

## EDUCATION

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- 2018    **PhD in Sociology**, “On the determinants of generalised trust: an investigation of the institution-centred and society-centred perspectives”, University of Essex, UK. Internal examiner: Dr. Renee Luthra; External examiner: Prof. Dietlind Stolle  
2012    **MA in Political Science**, University of Toronto, Canada  
2011    **BA in International Relations**, University of Trieste, Italy

## PUBLICATIONS

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- 2020    Lo Iacono, S., Sonmez, B., The effect of trusting and trustworthy environments on the provision of public goods. *European Sociological Review*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/esr/jcaa040>  
2019    Lo Iacono, S., Law-breaking, fairness, and generalized trust: the mediating role of trust in institutions. *PLOS One*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0220160>  
2019    Lo Iacono, S., & Quaranta, M., Contextual economic conditions, institutions and social trust: trends and cross-national differences in Europe, 2002-2017. *Polis*. DOI: <https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.1424/94245>  
2019    Parra, T. S., & Lo Iacono, S., (Re) Productive discourses: media coverage of children born of war in Colombia. *Bulletin of Latin American Research*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/blar.12976>  
2018    Lo Iacono, S., Demireva, N., Return to foreign and host country qualifications: evidence from the US on the labour market placement of migrants and the second generation, *Social Inclusion*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17645/si.v6i3.1509>  
2018    Lo Iacono, S., Does community embeddedness promote generalized trust? An experimental test of the spillover effect, *Social Science Research*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2018.03.001>

## TEACHING & MENTORING

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- Present    **Teaching assistant**, “Criminology and Safety: Theories, trends, and policies” and “Doing Multidisciplinary Research”, Department of Sociology, Utrecht University, Netherlands.  
*Tasks: deliver on-line lectures and classes, prepare course material, mentoring, grading - MA & BA level*  
Fall 2018    **Teaching assistant**, “Foundations of social life: trust and trustworthiness”, Department of Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute, Italy  
*Tasks: deliver lectures and classes, prepare course material, mentoring, grading - PhD level*  
Winter 2018    **Teaching assistant**, “Advanced research design”, Department of Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute, Italy  
*Tasks: deliver lectures, prepare course material, mentoring, grading - PhD level*  
2016 – 2017    **Graduate teaching assistant**, “Researching social life I”, Department of Sociology, University of Essex, UK  
*Tasks: deliver classes, prepare course material, mentoring, grading - BA level*  
2014 – 2015    **Graduate personal tutor**, Department of Sociology, University of Essex, UK  
*Tasks: mentoring and supervising - BA level*

## BOOKS & CONFERENCES

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- Forthcoming      Barradas, R., Lo Iacono, S., *Trust Matters: Cross-Disciplinary Essays*. Hart Publishing
- 2019                Invited Speaker at the Seminar in Politics and Society, "The effect of trusting and trustworthy environments on the provision of public goods", Collegio Carlo Alberto, Italy

## GRANTS & AWARDS

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2020	<b>BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants</b> with B. Sonmez, "Humanitarian communication: gated information and sentiments towards asylum seekers and refugees"	£10,000
2020	<b>Data Science Project in FSW</b> with T. D. Cruz, "Identifying gossip motivations using text mining" Data engineer expenses covered for 3-months	
2020	<b>IT Innovation Fund</b> with T. D. Cruz, "Identifying gossip motivations using text mining"	€23,815
2020	<b>COVID-19 Fast Track Fund</b> with V. Buskens, R. Corten, W. Przepiorka, and A. van de Rijt, "COVID-19 vulnerability, perceived lockdown-norm violations, and social trust"	€25,138
2019	<b>Seed Money Fund 12<sup>th</sup> round</b> , "Redistribution and cooperation: an alternative to peer-punishment?"	€17,228
2019, 2018, 2016	<b>Seedcorn Funding ESSEXLab</b> , "Asymmetric factual information environment and partisanship: public preferences for asylum seekers" with B. Sonmez; "Does community social embeddedness promote generalized trust? An experimental test of the spillover effect"	£4,500
2017, 2015	<b>Multidisciplinary &amp; Collaborative funding</b> competition for Outreach activities, University of Essex, Outreach Activity: "Let's Talk" with R. Baltaru	£24,000
2016	<b>Overseas Institutional Visit</b> to McGill University	£4,000
2013 – 2016	<b>ESRC DTC Award +3 Advanced Quantitative Methods</b> , focus on multilevel modelling and experimental methods	£64,878
2012	<b>Wanted the Best</b> , tuition fees exemption at the University "La Sapienza" (Rome, Italy)	€3,225

## WORKING PAPERS

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- Lo Iacono, S., Buskens, V., Corten, R., Przepiorka, W., M., van de Rijt, A. (R&R at *Social Science & Medicine*) COVID-19 vulnerability and perceived norm violations predict loss of social trust: a pre-post study.
- Lo Iacono, S., Buskens, V., Corten, R., Przepiorka, W., van Assen, M., van de Rijt, A. (to be submitted to *Science*) The competitive advantage of sanctioning institutions revisited: a multi-lab replication of Güler et al. (2006)
- Lo Iacono, S., Testori, M., (to be submitted to *Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation*). Inequality and Punishment: a New Dawn.
- Lo Iacono, S., (to be submitted to *Social Networks*) Core Discussion Networks and Social Trust: a Longitudinal Study (2008–2019).
- Lo Iacono, S., Cruz, T. D., (to be submitted to *PNAS*) Hostile media perception affects news bias, but not news sharing.
- Andersson, P., Lo Iacono, S., Testori, M., (to be submitted to *JEPS*) Inequality, egalitarian motives, and collective action: an experimental study.
- Sonmez, B., Lo Iacono, S., (submitted to *PLOS One*) Does information matter? Asymmetric information and sentiments towards the policies on asylum seekers.
- Ermisch, J., Gambetta, D., Lo Iacono, S., Sonmez, B. (to be submitted to *Sociological Science*) Trust and strong family ties: new experimental evidence.

## SKILLS

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Software	Stata (advanced), oTree (advanced), zTree (advanced), Mplus (intermediate), Qualtrics (intermediate), QGIS (intermediate)
Languages	Italian (mother tongue), English (C2), French (B1)

## AD-HOC REVIEWER AND MEMBERSHIPS

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Member of the Interuniversity Center for the Social Science Theory and Methodology (ICS), Essex visiting scholar; Ad-hoc Reviewer for the *European Sociological Review*, *PLOS One*, *Social Science Research*, *Population Studies*, and *Social Inclusion*

## REFERENCES

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Dr. Wojtek Prepiorka,

Assistant Professor

Department of Sociology / ICS, Utrecht University,  
Padualaan 14, 3584 CH Utrecht, Netherlands

[w.przepiorka@uu.nl](mailto:w.przepiorka@uu.nl)

Prof. Vincent Buskens,

Full Professor

Department of Sociology / ICS, Utrecht University,  
Padualaan 14, 3584 CH Utrecht, Netherlands

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Dr. Neli Demireva,

Associate Professor

Department of Sociology, University of Essex, Wivenhoe  
Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ, UK

[nvdem@essex.ac.uk](mailto:nvdem@essex.ac.uk)

Prof. Diego Gambetta,

Full Professor

Collegio Carlo Alberto, Piazza Arbarello 8, 10122 Turin,  
Italy

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