

ALICE DOMINICI

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary Fields: Applied Microeconometrics, Political Economy

Secondary Fields: Experimental Economics, Health Economics, Economic History, Gender Economics

REFERENCES

Prof. Sule Alan

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Prof. Fabrizia Mealli

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GRADUATE STUDIES

European University Institute

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics

Thesis title: *Essays in Applied Microeconometrics*

Supervisors: Prof. Andrea Ichino, Prof. Sule Alan

Expected completion date: May 2023

Florence, Italy

2018 – present

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

European University Institute

Master of Research in Economics

Stockholm School of Economics

Master of Science in Economics, Major in Applied Economics 4.63/5

University of Warwick

Erasmus semester abroad

Bocconi University

Bachelor of Science in Economics, Management and Finance, 110 cum laude/110

Florence, Italy

2018

Stockholm, Sweden

2016 – 2018

Coventry, UK

Fall semester 2015

Milan, Italy

2013 – 2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

An introduction to Randomized Controlled Trials in Economics

Lecturer

Panel Data for Banking Sector Analysts

Teaching fellow for Prof. Jeffrey Wooldridge, Florence School of Banking and Finance

The Econometrics of Causality

Teaching assistant for Prof. Fabrizia Mealli

The Statistics of Causal inference

Teaching assistant for Prof. Andrea Ichino

University of Florence

Fall 2022

Florence, Italy

Spring and Fall 2021

EUI, PhD level

Fall 2021

EUI, PhD level

Winter 2020

RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Researcher (<i>Assegnista di Ricerca</i>) , University of Florence	Apr 2022
<i>Planning and conduction of RCTs to promote preventive healthcare (“SpingeVacs”)</i>	
Research assistant for Prof. Andrea Ichino , EUI	Nov 2020
Trainee, ECB - European Central Bank	Spring 2018
<i>Monetary and Financial Statistics</i>	

LANGUAGES AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Italian (Native), English (Full proficiency), Spanish (C2), Portuguese, French and Swedish (Limited working proficiency)
Software: MS Office, L^AT_EX
Programming: *Advanced:* R, Stata; *Intermediate:* ArcGIS/QGIS, Matlab; *Basic:* VBA

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

ASREC Conference (scheduled)	
<i>Association for the study of religion, economics and culture, University of Harvard (MA, USA)</i>	March 2023
Ph.D. Seminar	
<i>University College London (UK)</i>	January 2023
Brownbag Economics Seminar (scheduled)	
<i>King’s College London, London (UK)</i>	December 2022
Economics and Statistics Ph.D. and Postdoc Workshop	
<i>University of Naples Federico II, Naples (Italy)</i>	September 2022
EuHEA 2022	
<i>European Health Economics Association Ph.D. Conference, Galway (Ireland)</i>	August 2022
Shifting Landscapes Conference	
<i>London School of Economics, Department of Geography, London (UK)</i>	June 2022
23rd IZA Summer School in Labor Economics	
<i>Buch/Ammersee (Germany)</i>	May 2022
Spring Meeting of Young Economists	
<i>Orléans (France)</i>	May 2022
Quantitative Political Economy Ph.D. and Postdoc Workshop	
<i>King’s College London, London (UK)</i>	May 2022
Departmental Seminar	
<i>University of Florence, Department of Economics and Management (DISEI)</i>	April 2022
Graduate Economic History Seminar	Virtual
<i>London School of Economics, London (UK)</i>	February 2022

GRANTS AND AWARDS

University of Florence NextGenerationEU grant, 371.834 EUR	Florence, Italy
<i>University of Florence</i>	November 2022
“Effective Communication for Healthcare: Theory and Evidence”. Multidisciplinary research grant. Responsible for the experimental design and data analysis within the economics research team	
Research grant (<i>Assegno di ricerca</i>), 19.300 EUR	Florence, Italy
<i>University of Florence</i>	April 2022

Merck, Investigator Studies Program, 186.000 EUR

(With Lisen A. Dahlström) Merck International

November 2020

Early Stage Researcher Grant, 1.000 EUR

European University Institute

Florence, Italy

November 2020

Best paper prize for the 2nd year paper

European University Institute

Florence, Italy

June 2020

Early Stage Researcher Grant, 1.000 EUR

European University Institute

Florence, Italy

November 2019

Full Ph.D. Grant

The Swedish Research Council

September 2018

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Referee: The Economic Journal, Labour Economics, Review of Development Economics, Journal of Institutional Economics, International Migration, Journal of Peace Research

Other: support to M.Sc. Economics admissions (2017, Stockholm School of Economics), Researchers' Representative (2019, European University Institute), Manager of the EUI Microeconometrics working group (2019, European University Institute), Assistant for Ph.D. Economics pre-admissions (2021 and 2023, European University Institute), Assistant for the Self-Assessment report of the Economics Department (2021-22, European University Institute)

JOB MARKET PAPER

The Medieval origins of Catholic political preferences

To what extent do conservative culture and institutions affect political preferences and support for gender equality in the long term? In every Italian election with a running Catholic party, two regions, separated by the Po river, showed marked differences in their Catholic votes (above 20 p.p.). They also voted differently in referenda on divorce and abortion (1974, 1981). I exploit the discontinuity generated by the river to disentangle the effects of conservative formal institutions (the theocratic Papal States), and conservative culture (Medieval patriarchal norms) on voting outcomes. For several centuries, the region north of the river displayed conservative culture but progressive institutions, while the other had a progressive culture and was only partially subject to conservative institutions. Using a novel Difference-in-Geographic Discontinuities (DIG) estimator, I find that conservative institutions have no effect on Catholic votes. The entire difference in votes is attributable to culture, through its effect on social capital.

OTHER RESEARCH

Targeting vaccine information framing: a randomized trial

with Lisen A. Dahlström (Karolinska Institute)

Does the framing of vaccine information interact with recipients' educational and immigration backgrounds? We randomize an informational intervention on 7616 mothers of girls and boys due to receive the HPV vaccine in Sweden in 2021. Mothers are stratified by education level and immigration background. We send a written leaflet covering vaccine safety and the consequences of catching HPV-induced cancers. It emphasizes sterility and invasive medical procedures, which are concerns leveraged by disinformation. The leaflet is framed emotionally, through the testimonies of local cancer survivors, or scientifically, using medical and statistical terminology. We add a pure placebo that only provides a reminder. Only Swedish-born mothers with compulsory schooling respond to scientific framing by increasing their vaccination uptake (+5 p.p.), but they understate their willingness to vaccinate. The effect is driven by mothers who pay attention to the leaflet and had little previous knowledge of HPV. Amongst

mothers who do not pay attention, emotional framing reduces the uptake of mothers with high school education (-5 p.p.).

Networks, Diversity, and Migrants' Success: Evidence from the Pontine Marshes, 1932-1941

with Frédéric Docquier, Fabio Mariani and Martin Fernandez Sanchez

This paper examines the role of social networks and diversity on migrants' economic performance in an agricultural setting. We rely on a historical episode (i.e., the resettlement of the Pontine Marshes in Italy, 1932-41) that led to a quasi-random allocation of thousands of families to farming plots. Using detailed information on the universe of settlers, we create measures of networks (families from the same origin) and diversity (fractionalization and linguistic similarity) in a narrow vicinity. We find that a larger network has a positive effect on productivity while diversity has a non-linear effect and depends on the economic potential of the plot. We further explore the mechanisms behind these results trying to shed light on the role of social bonds, cooperation, and learning.

Executive gender quotas and social services: evidence from Italy

with Flavia Cavallini and Olivia Masi

We investigate the effect of executive female representation in local governments on the provision of different social services, in the context of Italy. While Italy is a high-income country, many families still rely on women to take care of children, the elderly, and family members in need of assistance. We exploit a 2014 reform that mandated 40% gender quotas in the executive committees of municipalities with more than 3000 inhabitants. To account for confounding policies introduced at the same cutoff, we employ a difference-in-discontinuities empirical strategy with additional identifying assumptions. We find that while the policy was effective in increasing female representation, it did not have an impact on any social services expenditures.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES (PRE-PH.D.)

Landy, J. F., Jia, M. L., Ding, I. L., Viganola, D., Tierney, W., Dreber, A., ... & Crowdsourcing Hypothesis Tests Collaboration. (2020). **"Crowdsourcing hypothesis tests: Making transparent how design choices shape research results"**. *Psychological Bulletin*, 146(5), 451.

POLICY WORK

Digital skills and university choice: a Randomized Trial (*intervention completed*)

with Martina Ferracane (European University Institute) and Adriano De Falco (European University Institute)

We conduct a Randomized Controlled Trial in Italian high schools in which we randomize access to digital skill courses. Courses are taken for credit and held by Fablabs, a network of laboratories funded by MIT. The courses employ a tested learn-by-doing pedagogical approach and cover 3D design, 3D printing, and laser cutting. We test whether participation fosters interest in STEM subjects for future university studies, relative occupations and employability, with a particular interest in girls.