Arianna Ornaghi

Department of Economics, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL, UK
https://www.ariannaornaghi.com
a.ornaghi@warwick.ac.uk
+44 (0)2476 982195

Academic Positions

2019 -   : British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Warwick, UK
2017 - 2019 : Research Fellow, University of Warwick, UK

Education

2012 - 2017 : Ph.D. Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
2009 - 2011 : M.Sc. Economics and Social Sciences, Bocconi University, Italy
2006 - 2009 : B.Sc. Economics and Social Sciences, Bocconi University, Italy

Research Interests

Political Economy; Applied Microeconomics; Text Analysis

Working Papers

"Who Watches the Watchmen? Local News and Police Behavior in the United States." Joint with Nicola Mastrorocco. **(Job Market Paper)**
Winner of the European Economic Association Young Economist Award 2020.

Are the police responsive to media coverage of crime? In this paper, we study how a decline in news coverage of local crime, induced by acquisitions of TV stations by the Sinclair Broadcast Group, affects municipal police departments in the United States. We implement a triple differences-in-differences design that combines the staggered timing of acquisitions with cross-sectional variation in whether municipalities are covered by the news at baseline, a proxy for exposure to the shock. Using a unique dataset of almost 300,000 newscasts, we show that stations that are acquired by Sinclair decrease their coverage of local crime. This matters for policing: after Sinclair enters a media market, covered municipalities experience 10% lower violent crime clearance rates relative to non-covered municipalities. Finally, we provide suggestive evidence that the effect is consistent with a decrease in the salience of crime in the public opinion.

"Gender Attitudes in the Judiciary: Evidence from U.S. Circuit Courts." Joint with Elliott Ash and Daniel L. Chen.

Do gender attitudes influence interactions with female judges in U.S. Circuit Courts? In this paper, we propose a novel judge-specific measure of gender attitudes based on use of gender-stereotyped language in the judge's authored opinions. Exploiting quasi-random assignment of judges to cases and conditioning on judges' characteristics, we validate the measure showing that slanted judges vote more conservatively in gender-related cases. Slant influences interactions with female colleagues: slanted judges are more likely to reverse lower-court decisions if the lower-court judge is a woman than a man, are less likely to assign opinions to female judges, and cite fewer female-authored opinions.

"Subsidies and the Dynamics of Selection: Experimental Evidence from Indonesia's National Health Insurance." Joint with Abhijit Banerjee, Amy Finkelstein, Rema Hanna, Ben Olken and Sudarno Sumarto.
Revise & Resubmit at the American Economic Review.

How can developing countries increase health insurance? We experimentally assessed three approaches that simple theory suggests could increase coverage and potentially reduce adverse selection: temporary price subsidies, registration assistance, and information. Temporary subsidies attracted lower-cost enrollees, in part by reducing strategic coverage timing. While subsidies were active, coverage increased more than eightfold, at no higher unit cost to the government; after subsidies ended, coverage remained twice as high, again at no higher cost. However, subsidies are not sufficient to achieve universal coverage: the most intensive intervention - a full one-year subsidy combined with registration assistance - resulted in only 30 percent enrollment.

"Closing Time: The Local Amenity Effects of Prohibition." Joint with Greg Howard.
Revise & Resubmit at the Journal of Economic History.

How do amenities affect local land values, production, and sorting? We study the question exploiting a large historical policy change: U.S. Alcohol Prohibition in the early 20th century. Comparing same-state early and late adopters of county dry laws in a difference-in-differences design, we find that early Prohibition adoption increased population and farm real estate values. Moreover, we find strong effects on farm productivity consistent with increased investment due to a land price channel. In equilibrium, the amenity change disproportionately attracted immigrants and African-Americans.

"Civil Service Reforms: Evidence from U.S. Police Departments."

Does reducing politicians' control over public employees' hiring and firing improve bureaucratic performance? I answer this question exploiting population-based mandates for U.S. municipal police department merit systems in a regression discontinuity design. Merit system mandates improve performance: crime rates are lower in departments operating under a merit system than in departments under a spoils system. Changes in resources or police officers' characteristics do not drive the effect, but I provide suggestive evidence that the limitations to politicians' ability to influence police officers are instead important.

Teaching Experience

2018 - 2020 :	Undergraduate Dissertation Supervision, University of Warwick
2019	: MSc Dissertation Supervision, University of Warwick
2017	: Teaching Assistant for edX Data Analysis for Social Sciences, MIT
2017	: Teaching Assistant for Graduate Political Economy, MIT
2016	: Kauffman Teaching Certificate Program, MIT
2015	: Teaching Assistant for Principles of Microeconomics, MIT
2015	: Teaching Assistant for the JPAL Summer Executive Education Program, MIT

Research Experience

2013 - 2014 :	Research Assistant to Ben Olken, MIT
2012	: Field Research Assistant to Martina Bjorkman, Lucia Corno, Damien de Walque and Jakob Svensson, World Bank, Lesotho
2012	: Research Assistant to Eliana La Ferrara, Bocconi University
2012	: Research Assistant to Angelo Porta, Bocconi University

Grants

2019 - 2021 :	Russel Sage Foundation Presidential Grant, with Elliott Ash and Daniel L. Chen ($35,000)

2019 - 2022 : British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (£345,000)
2018 - 2021 : British Academy Small Research Grant, with Nicola Mastrorocco (£10,000)
2017 - 2019 : CAGE Research Fund Small Grant, with Greg Howard (£5,000)
2016   : Sokoloff Dissertation Fellowship, EHA ($15,000)
2014 - 2015 : J-PAL Fellowship
2015   : Exploratory Travel and Data Grant, EHA
2015 - 2016 : George and Obie Shultz Fund
2013 - 2014 : James A. Berkovec Memorial Fund
2012 - 2013 : MIT Department of Economics Fellowship
2009 - 2010 : Bocconi Merit Awards

Presentations

2020	:	UEA Textual Analysis Workshop, Economics of Crime Online Seminar, Economics of Discrimination & Disparities Online Seminar, Stockholm Workshop on Diversity and Inclusion, Nottingham Workshop on the Economics of Gender Norms, SoDa Labs Webinar Series, European Economic Association Congress, Zurich Econ & Data Science Reading Group, Deep Learning Trends and Classics Reading Group, NEWEPS
2019	:	EMUEA Meetings, PSE Conflict Workshop, University of Glasgow
2018	:	OWL Economic History Workshop, Warwick Economic History Workshop, Quebec Political Economy Conference, Royal Economic Society, Barcelona GSE Summer Forum, APSA Conference, EALE Annual Conference
2017	:	Arizona State University School of Politics and Global Studies, Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance, IIES Stockholm University, Bank of Italy, University of British Columbia, IESE Business School
2016	:	Economic History Association (poster session)

Academic Activities

2020 -   : Co-organizer of the POLECONUK Webinar Series
2017 -   : Organizer of the PEPE Research Days at the University of Warwick

Referee for *American Economic Review, American Economic Review: Insights, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies, Social Choice and Welfare*

References

Prof. Daron Acemoglu
MIT Department of Economics
77 Massachusetts Avenue, E52-446
Cambridge, MA 02139
daron@mit.edu

Prof. Ben Olken
MIT Department of Economics
77 Massachusetts Avenue, E52-542
Cambridge, MA 02139
bolken@mit.edu

Prof. Mirko Draca
University of Warwick
Department of Economics
Coventry CV4 7AL
United Kingdom
m.draca@warwick.ac.uk

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