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Office Contact Information

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Education

Since 2015

PhD Candidate in Economics, University of Zurich

2015

MSc in Economics, Bocconi University, Milan

2012

BA in Economics, Bocconi University, Milan

References

Professor Josef Zweimüller

University of Zurich

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Professor Pietro Biroli

University of Zurich

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Professor David Dorn

University of Zurich

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Research and Teaching Fields

Primary fields: Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Secondary fields: Econometrics, Public Finance

Research Experience and Other Employment

2016-2020

Research assistant for Prof. Josef Zeimüller, University of Zurich

2017

Research intern at the Bank of Italy, Public Finance division, Rome

2014-2015

Short term consultant at the World Bank, Milano

2014-2015

Research assistant for Prof. Chiara Fumagalli, Bocconi University

Teaching Experience

Fall, 2020

Empirical Methods (Master), Lecturer

Fall, 2017/18/19

Empirical Methods (Master), TA

Spring, 2016/17

Organizational Economics (Master), TA

Research in progress

How do Firms adjust to Negative Labor Supply Shocks? Evidence from Migration Outflows (Job Market Paper)

The quality of workers in a country positively relates to productivity of firms, adoption of new technologies, and growth. This paper studies adjustments of Italian firms to negative labor supply shocks in the context of workers' outflows from Italy to Switzerland. My Diff-in-Diff leverages the implementation of a policy in which Switzerland granted free labor market mobility to EU citizens and different treatment intensity of Italian firms based on their distance to the Swiss border. Using detailed social security data on the universe of Italian firms and workers, I document large outflows of workers and fewer surviving firms in the treatment group. Despite replacing workers and becoming more capital intensive, treated firms are less productive and pay lower wages.

I explain this evidence through the lens of a simple production function framework with high and low-skilled labor. In line with the brain drain literature, I bridge the gap between losses of human capital and consequences on productivity by showing how these effects act through firms. I provide suggestive evidence that high-skill intensive firms are the main driver of the negative results on wages and productivity. I also show that low skill intensive firms instead do not suffer from losing workers and provide new job opportunities for the workers who do not migrate.

Cash on Hand and Job Market Outcomes (joint with J. Zweimüller)

Job loss severely impacts consumption and many other aspects of households' lives. The two most popular instruments to insure against job loss are Unemployment Benefits (UB) and Severance Payments (SP). In this paper, we analyze the effect of SP and the interaction with UB on unemployment duration and on subsequent long-term post-unemployment outcomes (currently work in progress). We aim at investigating and disentangling the role of SP and UB on labor market outcomes up to 10 years after job loss.

We rely on the Austrian Social Security Database (ASSD) and exploit a reform which abolished SP for jobs starting later than 2003. At 36 months of tenure, workers become eligible to 2 months of SP. We implement a difference-in-discontinuity analysis and compare nonemployment durations of individuals laid off shortly before and after the 36 months tenure threshold. Looking at this discontinuity before and after 2003 allows us to capture the effect of the cut in SP on nonemployment duration.

Our results show that a shortage of cash on hand equivalent to two months of salary, conditional on unemployment benefits, reduces days in non-employment before next job by 10%. The magnitude of this effect varies according to the experience of the job loser: younger workers display a larger liquidity effect. In the next step we will analyze the impact of benefits' generosity, distinguishing the role of UB and SP, on total employment duration, total labor income, and wage growth up to ten years after the first job loss, relating these outcomes to the quality of the subsequent job.

A Season in Hell: Italy's Debt Recovery after the Financial Crises (joint with P. Rizza and P. Tommasino)

We provide the first intertemporal comparison of an intergenerational accounting exercise. We compute the value of net taxes that current policies impose to present and future generations of Italians both in 2008 and in 2018. We use such figures to show that current fiscal policies restored sustainability and, in part, intergenerational fairness thanks to cuts in the generosity of the pension system and changes in the demographic structure of the population. This mechanism made the current level of the Italian debt sustainable, generating a negative discounted stream of future deficits accounting for the 40% of the Italian GDP. We discuss the extent to which demographic projections, cuts in spending, and the distribution of taxes lead to our results. We present some policy options which could further improve fairness to future generations. Our analysis is also meant to contribute to an assessment of Italian fiscal policy in the last decade. Confronting our findings with those of previous studies, we find sustainability and fairness have improved in line with other European countries.

Sorting across the line: evidence from a Tax Discontinuity in Italy (joint with Enrico Rubolino)

In this paper we plan to investigate whether taxation has distortionary effects on the geographical distribution of the taxpayers. We use a geographical discontinuity in the tax rate of Italian municipalities

closer to Switzerland to show whether Italian tax payers relocate on the side where taxes are lower. This question is relevant to any country sharing borders. Countries typically have differential tax rates, and because of the constant increase in the mobility of labor this could generate relocations of workers, with several implications for the affected areas. Depending on the findings of this first stage, we will investigate the effects of a redistribution in tax revenues on several outcomes: local service provision, labor markets, and efficiency of the local administrators.

Other research

1. The Skill content of Occupations across Low and Middle Income Countries: Evidence from Harmonized Data (joint with S. Lo Bello, S. Monroy-Taborda, A. Oviedo, M. Sanchez-Puerta, I. Santos), 2016, IZA DP No. 10224

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships

2020	Dissertation Fellowship – University of Zurich
2017	VisitINPS Scholars B recipient
2017	“B. Stringher” Scholarship – Bank of Italy – Merit Mention
2015	UBS Center Scholarship, UBS Center for Economics and Society
2011-2013	IGIER - Bocconi Visiting Student

Presentations

2020	IAB, PhD workshop, VisitINPS Seminars’ series, Empirical Micro Doctoral Seminar, Zurich
2019	Empirical Micro Doctoral Seminar, Zurich
2018	Sinergia Seminar, Zurich, Empirical Micro Doctoral Seminar, Zurich