Hertie School

Master Thesis Supervision Plan
Academic Year 2020-2021
MIA/MPP

Name:	Leonardo Iacovone
Professor of...	Economics

Advisor Information

Office	3.64
E-Mail	iacovone@hertie-school.org
Faculty Assistant	Name: Alex Karras Email: karras@hertie-school.org Phone: +49 30 259 219 156 Room: 3.45
Office Hours	tba

Research & Advising Profile:
General Academic Field: What is your academic field, and what are your areas of supervision?

I am applied micro-economist with a special focus on development economics. I have worked and I am interested in various topics such as trade, productivity, firms, entrepreneurship, exports, FDI, youth employment, and industrial development. Furthermore, I am especially interested in impact evaluations of policies and programs.

Specific Expertise: What is your specific area of expertise, and what topics are you supervising?

In terms of topics, my main research interests are in the area of development economics, trade, policies for private sector, firms dynamics, innovation, entrepreneurships, RCT (randomized control trials), youth employment or more broadly labor economics.

Methodology: What methodologies and methods are you able to supervise?

When thinking of empirical work it is important that you try to address a relevant policy question. For this reason, it is important to ask yourself the following questions

a. What is the policy change or the reform that I am going to assess?
b. What data I could use for this?
c. Would I have data for units (e.g. individuals, households, firms, regions, sectors, etc.) that are affected by the policy and units that are not affected by the policy change to assess the effect of this policy/change?

Supervision Style: Please include information on what your advisees can expect from you in terms of supervision format:

- Given my background and expertise I have a strong comparative advantage in empirical work so I am keen to focus on supervising empirical work as priority. So in this light it would be important to

  - think about your research question in terms of what is the empirical question (policy relevant) that you'd like to address
  - what data you'd like to use
  - what methodology will you use

- Given that empirical work can be complex and very intensive I encourage students to think about working in teams for these empirical theses.

- I won't read drafts of the paper because I assume that the substance of your work will be in the presentation (see below requirements for the colloquia) but you can ask me to review some specific parts such as empirical parts (i.e. tables, etc.)

Recommended General Readings: (*if applicable*)

The following texts are general readings material relevant for all advisees:

See material in the reading package that can be found here. I do encourage reading all the material which is marked as "to read" and I suggest you that you browse through the rest of the material marked as "optional". Reading this material will help you to better define your research question and structure your thesis.

Proposed Projects: (*if applicable*)

Project Title	Practice Partner (if applicable)
Effect of robots (or ICT) in developing countries Assessing the impact of structural reforms in Mexico	
Impact of program to promote formalization in Mexico (*Crezcamos juntos*)	
Understanding FDI Surges in developing countries	
The impact of a tweet (assessing impact of Trump's tweet on Mexico's companies)	
Promoting innovation and productivity catch-up in backward regions in Europe	
The effect of external shocks such as trade or robotization on political and voting decisions	

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is an infringement of § 11 Good Academic Conduct, 2a: "Infringements of the standards of good academic conduct include for instance to use wordings, ideas or other intellectual work of others in an academic work without clearly indicating the author. The obligation to indicate the authorship

of others shall apply irrespective of whether or not the sources used are protected by copyright" (See: Exam Rules, § 11 Good Academic Conduct for more information).

It is vital to keep track of your sources and to cite all material properly.

The Library will offer a session available to all students on resource management and proper citation.

Extra (individual) note on plagiarism

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Attendance:

Students receive 8 ECTS for the Master´s thesis colloquium. Attendance for supervision—whether in the form of a colloquium or an individual meeting—is compulsory. Students are expected to be present, prepared, and engaged in each session, and to adhere to deadlines set for assignments.

In case of an excused absence, students must notify their supervisor. Absence must be compensated with an additional assignment.

Students on an academic exchange programme in the Fall Semester should be given the opportunity of remote supervision.

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Participation & Milestones:

What do you expect students to prepare for each session?

Two days before each colloquium you should send me a brief PowerPoint that discusses

- your question and motivation;
- Progresses (i.e. literature review, data, etc) and next steps
- Methodology
- Results (towards the end)
- Policy implications (towards the end).

This presentation will grow through time (initially, the presentation will be 4-5 slides) until the final

one for the last colloquium which will serve you as the basis for your paper (which will be about 15-20 slides – and no more than 25 at most). I will normally read this presentation before our meetings and we will discuss it during the colloquium.

Colloquium & Meeting Information:

	Colloquium Dates	Session Title
Meeting times (suggested)	Session 1: November/December 2020	Intro session + research idea (1 slide)
	Session 2: November /December 2020	Presentation and discussion of complete research proposal (powerpoint #1 – 3-5 slides)
	Session 3: Early February 2021	Identification of sources and review (powerpoint #2 – 5 slides)

	Session 4: Mid-February/Beginning March 2021	Methodology and preliminary findings (powerpoint #3 – 6 slides)
	Session 5: Late March 2021	Main results (powerpoint #4 – 5 slides)
	Session 6: Beginning/Mid-April 2021	Policy conclusions (powerpoint #5 – 5 slides)

Colloquium Sessions:

Session 1: xx.xx.2020 xxxxxxxxx (session title)	
Aim	Intro session + initial research idea presentation
Assignment (e.g. thesis proposal)	Prepare 1 slide with your research topic and research question – you will have 3-4 minutes to present
Readings (if applicable)	Read documents as marked "to read" that can be found *here*.

Session 2: xx.xx.2020 xxxxxxxxx (session title)	
Aim	Presentation and discussion of complete research proposal (powerpoint #1 – 3-5 slides)
Assignment (e.g. literature review)	Prepare a powerpoint with 3-5 slides on your complete research proposal (see guidelines from presention in Session 1.
Readings (if applicable)	

Session 3: xx.xx.2021 xxxxxxxxx (session title)	
Aim	Identification of sources and review
Assignment (e.g. empirical findings)	Prepare a powerpoint with 5 slides where you present and review your main sources and literature review
Readings (if applicable)	

Session 4: xx.xx.2021 xxxxxxxxx (session title)	
Aim	Methodology and preliminary findings (PowerPoint #3 – 6 slides)
Assignment (e.g. first chapter)	Prepare a PowerPoint with 5-6 slides where you present your methodology and your preliminary findings (if any)
Readings (if applicable)	

Session 5: xx.xx.2021 xxxxxxxxx (session title)	
Aim	Main results
Assignment	Prepare a PowerPoint with 5 slides where you present your main results
Readings (if applicable)	

Session 6: xx.xx.2021 xxxxxxxxx (session title)	
Aim	Policy conclusions
Assignment	Prepare a powerpoint with 5-6 slides where you present your main policy conclusions, recommendations, and possibly 1 slide about dissemination of your results
Readings (if applicable)	