

# FRANCESCO FERLENGA

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## BROWN UNIVERSITY

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### References

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### EDUCATION

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<b>Brown University</b> Ph.D. Candidate in Economics Expected Completion Date: May 2024	Providence, RI, USA 2018 –present
<b>Bocconi University</b> M.S. Economics	Milano, Italy 2015 –2018
<b>Bocconi University</b> B.S. Economics (Visiting student at University of British Columbia, Fall 2014)	Milano, Italy 2012 –2015

### TEACHING AND RESEARCH FIELDS

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Political Economy, Public Finance, Economic History

# JOB MARKET PAPER

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## Symbols of Oppression: The Role of Confederate Monuments in the Great Migration

### **Abstract**

Dominant groups around the world have asserted their power by constructing in public spaces monuments that glorify their narrative, vis-à-vis their opponents'. How does the construction of divisive symbols affect the opposing groups? I investigate this issue in the context of the construction of Confederate monuments in the US South during the early 20th century, which was supported by southern whites and opposed by African Americans. I find that African Americans disproportionately left areas with monuments. First, I use a difference-in-differences approach to show that southern counties with monuments experienced a sharp decline in the share of the Black population in the decades after construction. Individual-level data confirm that this was driven by out-migration. Second, I exploit the presence of a quasi-monopolist producer to construct an instrument for the stock of Confederate monuments based on their transportation cost and the years in which the producer was active. The instrumental-variables analysis confirms that an exogenously higher stock of monuments caused a substantial reduction of the Black share of the population. Finally, I investigate whether monuments continue influencing migration choices by conducting an online experiment. I cross-randomize the presence of Confederate monuments in the visual description of hypothetical cities and I ask respondents to consider job offers located there. I find that monuments substantially reduce respondents' willingness to move to a city following a job offer. The effect for African Americans is twice the size for whites in the South.

## PUBLICATIONS

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Better to be Direct? Evidence from the Abolition of Direct Elections in Italian Local Governments  
*Economics & Politics*. 2023. Volume 35, Issue 3.

## OTHER RESEARCH PAPERS

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Coordination and Incumbency Advantage in Multi-Party Systems. Evidence from French Elections  
with Kevin Dano, Vincenzo Galasso, Le Pennec and Vincent Pons 2023  
*R&R Journal of the European Economic Association*

Immigrant Enfranchisement and Integration: Evidence from Italy  
with Stephanie Kang 2023

Vote Early and Vote Often? Detecting Electoral Fraud from the Timing of 19th Century Elections  
with Brian Knight 2023

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT

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Brown University, Economics Department Providence, RI  
Research Assistant for Professor Jesse Bruhn 2022

Brown University, Economics Department Providence, RI  
Research Assistant for Professor Brian Knight 2020

Bocconi University Milan, Italy  
Research Assistant for Professor Stefano Caselli 2018

Bocconi University Research Assistant for Professor Nicola Pavoni	Milan, Italy 2017
Bocconi University Research Assistant for Professor Vincenzo Galasso	Milan, Italy 2016
BRAC Uganda Research and Evaluation Unit Summer Internship for Professor Vittorio Bassi	Kampala, Uganda 2016
General Consulate of Chile in Milan: ProChile, Commercial Office Summer Internship	Milan, Italy 2015

## TEACHING

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### Teaching Assistant at Brown University

• Honors Tutorial for Economics Majors ( <i>Professor: Neil Thakral</i> )	Fall 2023-Spring 2024
• Honors Tutorial for Economics Majors ( <i>Professor: Emily Oster</i> )	Fall 2022-Spring 2023
• Theory of Behavioral Economics ( <i>Professor: Geoffroy de Clippel</i> )	Fall 2021
• The Economy of China since 1949 ( <i>Professor: Louis Putterman</i> )	Spring 2020
• Race Inequality in the United States ( <i>Professor: Glenn Loury</i> )	Fall 2019

## SCHOLARSHIPS, RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS

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• Brown University Teaching Award	2023
• Orlando Bravo Center for Economic Research Award (\$1600)	Fall 2023
• Orlando Bravo Center for Economic Research Award (\$1400)	Fall 2022
• Brown University Economics Department Award (\$1000)	Spring 2022
• Orlando Bravo Center for Economic Research Award (\$500)	Fall 2021
• Shoukang Lin Graduate Fellowship, Brown University	2022 - 2023
• Graduate Student Scholarship, Brown University	2018 - 2022

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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- **Conferences:** [The Political Economy of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era Conference 2023](#); [NEUDC 2023](#) (programmed)
- **Referee:** American Economic Journal: Economic Policy (x3); European Journal of Political Economy

## COMPUTER SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

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- **Software:** Stata, QGIS, R, Prolific, Qualtrics, LaTeX
- **Languages:** Italian (native), English and Spanish