

# Gaetano Scaduto

Ph.D Student in Analysis of Social and Economic Processes

✉ [gaetano.scaduto@unimib.it](mailto:gaetano.scaduto@unimib.it) 🌐 [gaetanoscaduto.quarto.pub/home/](https://gaetanoscaduto.quarto.pub/home/) | Updated: Aug. 1, 2024

## Education

PH.D STUDENT IN ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROCESSES NOV 2022-PRESENT

*University of Milan-Bicocca, Milan, Italy*

Thesis supervisors: Delia Baldassarri, Fedra Negri

Thesis title (provisional): "Political Inferences from Apolitical Cues and their Consequences on Interpersonal Interactions in Italy"

VISITING PH.D STUDENT FEB 2024-PRESENT

*University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium*

Supervisor: Stefaan Walgrave

Collaborating in the activities of the "[Media, Movement and Politics](#)" (M2P) research group and the [NOTLIKEUS](#) project

MASTER'S DEGREE IN POLITICAL AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATION SEP 2020-JULY 2022

*University of Turin, Turin, Italy*

Thesis supervisor: Moreno Mancosu

Thesis title: "A country of upbeat songs while there is death outside? Analysis of Italian politicians' visual communication on Instagram during the Covid-19 pandemic"

Final grade: 110/110 with honors, special mention, and rights of publication

BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN MATHEMATICS FOR ENGINEERING SEP 2017-JUL 2020

*Polytechnic University of Turin, Turin, Italy*

Thesis supervisor: Giacomo Como

Thesis title: "Social Choice Theory"

Final grade: 110/110

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA SEP 2012-JUL 2017

*Liceo Classico "Empedocle", Agrigento, Italy*

Final Grade: 100/100 with honors

## Summer Schools, Winter Schools, and Short Courses

THE SUMMER INSTITUTES IN COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA JUNE 2024

2-weeks summer school on computational methods, with competitive selection process.

Various teachers.

ESSEX SUMMER SCHOOL IN SOCIAL SCIENCE DATA ANALYSIS, UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX JUL-AUG 2023

*Confirmatory Factor Analysis and Structural Equation Modeling*

Essex, UK

Teachers: Prof. Peter Schmidt (University of Giessen), & Dr. Daniel Seddig (University of Cologne)

ESSEX SUMMER SCHOOL IN SOCIAL SCIENCE DATA ANALYSIS, UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX JUL-AUG 2023

*Causal Inference and Experiments in Social Sciences*

Essex, UK

Teachers: Dr. Ryan T. Moore (American University)

## Publications and Conferences

### PAPERS PUBLISHED IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

Mancosu, M., **Scaduto, G.** "Crowds and Smiles: Visual Opportunity Structures and the Communication of European Political Leaders During the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Mass Communication and Society* (2024): 1-26.

Bertero, A., **Scaduto, G.** (2023). A midsummer night's dream: political communication during the Italian 2022 electoral campaign. *Italian Journal of Electoral Studies QOE-IJES*. <https://doi.org/10.36253/qoe-14224>

**Scaduto, G.**, Mancosu, M. (2022). Lacrime di coccodrillo? Variazioni nel contenuto visuale su Instagram dei politici populistici e mainstream durante la pandemia. *Comunicazione politica*, 23(2), 255-276. <https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.3270/104851>

**Scaduto, G.** (2022). Gli algoritmi di computer vision: una guida all'uso per le scienze politiche e sociali. *Polis*, 36(2), 315-332. <https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.1424/104525>

### WORKING PAPERS

**Scaduto, G.**, Negri, F. Exploring the factors associated with making political inferences from food preferences in Italy.

Negri, F., **Scaduto, G.** The Pundit Paradox: Exploring the Mismatch between Supply and Demand in Italian Political Talk Show Guests

Decadri, S., Mancosu, M., Negri, F., **Scaduto, G.** A comparative analysis of the visual and textual strategies of European politicians on Instagram

Feitosa, F., Goovaerts, I., Lefevere, J., **Scaduto, G.**, Tsoulou-Malakoudi, A. The apolitical side of affective polarization: Examining the role of perceived non-political differences and similarities among voters

Respi, C., Gui, M., Legnante, G., **Scaduto, G.**, Serini, M., Pizzul, D., & Gerosa, T. Privacy protection as an exception in the digital inequality framework (and why this is not good news)

### CONFERENCE PAPERS, ACTIVITIES, AND SEMINARS<sup>1</sup>

2024 *Conference of the Italian Political Communication Association (ASSOCOMPOL)*. Catania, 30 May-1 June.

Negri, F., **Scaduto, G.\***. The Pundit Paradox: Exploring the Mismatch between Supply and Demand in Italian Political Talk Show Guests.

2024 *CompText Conference (COMPTXT)*, Amsterdam, 2-4 May.

**Scaduto, G.\***, Decadri, S., Mancosu, M., Negri, F. Analyzing Visual Communication Strategies: A Comparative Study of Populist and Mainstream Political Parties on Instagram Across 28 European Countries (2019-2021).

*SPS Seminar: "Picturing Politics? Exploring the mental images of partisans and ideologues shaped by cultural consumption choices"*, University of Milan, 17 January 2024.

**Scaduto, G.\***, Negri, F. Food for (political) thought: exploring the factors associated with making political inferences from apolitical cues in Italy

<sup>1</sup>Asterisks signal the paper presenter

- 2023 *Conference of the Italian Political Science Society (SISP). Genoa, 14-16 September.*  
**Scaduto, G.\***, Negri, F. Food for (political) thought: exploring the factors associated with making political inferences from apolitical cues in Italy.  
 Mancosu, M., **Scaduto, G.\*** Crowds and smiles: Visual opportunity structures and the communication of European political leaders during the Covid-19 pandemic
- 2023 *VDATA Final Conference. Pavia, 7-8 September.*  
 Respi, C.\*, Gui, M., Legnante, G., **Scaduto, G.**, Serini, M., Pizzul, D., & Gerosa, T. Privacy protection as an exception in the digital inequality framework (and why this is not good news)
- 2023 *Conference of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR). Prague, 4-8 September.*  
**Scaduto, G.\***, Negri, F. Food for (political) thought: exploring the factors associated with making political inferences from apolitical cues in Italy.
- 2023 *Conference of the Italian Political Communication Association (ASSOCOMPOL). Turin, 8-10 June.*  
**Scaduto, G.\***, Negri, F. Food for (political) thought: exploring the factors associated with making political inferences from apolitical cues in Italy.
- 2022 *Conference of the Italian Political Communication Association (ASSOCOMPOL). Bologna June 30th-July 1st.*  
 Mancosu, M.\*, **Scaduto, G.** The representation of political leaders in times of pandemic crisis. Evidence from 28 European countries.

#### DATASETS

- Scaduto, Gaetano.** (2023) Political inferences from apolitical cues: food-based political inferences in Italy.  
**Scaduto, Gaetano [Producer].** Negri, Fedra [Producer]. Mancosu, Moreno [Producer]. UniData - Bicocca Data Archive, Milan. Study Number SN248. Data file version 1.0 doi: [10.20366/unimib/unidata/SN248-1.0](https://doi.org/10.20366/unimib/unidata/SN248-1.0)
- Respi, Chiara; Legnante, Guido. (2022-2023) *Citizens and value of digital data.*  
 Respi, Chiara [Producer]. Legnante, Guido [Producer]. Gui, Marco [Producer]. Pizzul, Dario [Producer]. Gaia, Alessandra [Producer]. Sala, Emanuela [Producer]. **Scaduto, Gaetano [Producer].** UniData - Bicocca Data Archive, Milan. Study Number SN247. Data file version 1.0 doi:[10.20366/unimib/unidata/SN247-1.0](https://doi.org/10.20366/unimib/unidata/SN247-1.0)

---

#### Teaching

TEACHING ASSISTANT (TUTOR) IN MATHEMATICS	NOV 2023-PRESENT
University of Milan-Bicocca, Milan, Italy	
BS in Organization Science	
30 hours	
TEACHING ASSISTANT (TUTOR) IN PUBLIC POLICIES	OCT 2023-PRESENT
University of Milan-Bicocca, Milan, Italy	
BS in Organization Science	
40 hours	
TEACHING ASSISTANT (SUBJECT EXPERT) IN PUBLIC POLICIES	DEC 2022-PRESENT
University of Milan-Bicocca, Milan, Italy	
BS in Organization Science	

---

## Awards and Memberships

### AWARDS

#### **Best paper from a Junior Researcher 2023**

Awarded by the Italian Political Communication Association (ASSOCOMPOL) for the best paper presented in the 2023 conference. The prize refers to *“Food for (political) thought: investigating factors and behaviors associated with political inferences from apolitical cues in Italy”* (with F. Negri)

**“Mini-scholarship” to take part in the 2024 Conference.** Italian Political Science Association (SISP) - 200€

**Scholarship - Excellence’s Project 2022**, Department of Culture, Politics and Society - University of Turin - 1500€

**Study’s prize 2021**, Renato Einaudi University College of Turin - 1500€

**Study’s prize 2019**, Renato Einaudi University College of Turin - 2500€

**Scholarship by EDISU Piemonte (Regional Agency for Educational Rights) 2021.** Awarded through the combination of (higher) academic performance and (lower) parental income - 5100€

**Scholarship by EDISU Piemonte (Regional Agency for Educational Rights) 2020.** Awarded through the combination of (higher) academic performance and (lower) parental income - 5100€

**Scholarship by EDISU Piemonte (Regional Agency for Educational Rights) 2019.** Awarded through the combination of (higher) academic performance and (lower) parental income - 5100€

**Scholarship by EDISU Piemonte (Regional Agency for Educational Rights) 2018.** Awarded through the combination of (higher) academic performance and (lower) parental income - 5100€

**Scholarship by EDISU Piemonte (Regional Agency for Educational Rights) 2017.** Awarded through the combination of (higher) academic performance and (lower) parental income - 5100€

### MEMBERSHIPS

Member of ASSOCOMOL (Italian Political Communication Association) [Since 2024]

Member of SISP, (Società Italiana di Scienza Politica - Italian Political Science Society) [Since 2023]

Member of ECPR Affective Polarization Standing Group [Since 2023]

---

## Other professional experiences

### ACADEMIC

**Research Collaborator** *University of Antwerp, Belgium* Feb 2024-Present  
Involvement in the activities related to the project “NotLikeUS” project. [See here for details.](#)

**Research Collaborator**, *Univesity of Milan-Bicocca, Italy* Sept 2023-Aug 2025  
Involvement in the activities related to the project “The visual politics of populism” (PI: Mat-tia Zulianello, UniTS; Vice PIs: Fedra Negri, Unimib; Luigi Curini, Unimi). These activities included (but were not limited to): designing a survey fielded in 5 European countries, de-signing survey experiments, working with computational methods to download and analyze politicians’ social media posts, managing the relationship between the working group and the survey companies, overlooking translations and cultural adaptations of the survey in multiple national contexts.

**Research Collaborator**, *University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy* Aug-Dec 2023  
Analysis and management of survey data for research purposes for the project “VDATA - The Value of Digital Data”

**Conference Assistant**, *European Survey Research Association* Jul 2023  
Assisted in the activities related to the 2023 European Survey Research Association Conference.

**Research Fellow**, *Collegio Carlo Alberto, Turin* May-June 2022  
Data gathering on the media outlets of 47 countries with research purposes. Data analysis on survey results (Stata, R). Data entry and data management (Excel)

## EXTRA-ACADEMIC

### **Junior Research Specialist and Deputy Campaign Coordinator, *Social Changes, Inc.*** 2022

Contributed to organizing and coordinating multiple campaigns for the 2022 political and municipal elections in Italy. Managed the relationship with companies providing media analysis services (WebPredict) and provided insights on how to use media analysis for strategic purposes during the campaign. Coordinated and conducted research on advertisements and media profiles of adversarial campaigns. Created electoral databases useful for electoral insights (R). Provided training on digital strategies (WhatsApp-Telegram Cascades) to staff members of multiple campaigns. Coordinated and wrote a daily newsletter including press reviews and campaign insights with strategic consideration. Contributed to the construction of targets for social media advertisement.

### **Part-Time Receptionist, *Renato Einaudi University College, Turin*** 2021-2022

Supervised on the general life and activity of the college. Front office relations. Management of relations with the administration of the college and maintenance, cleaning, and organizational figures.

### **Students' Tutor, *Renato Einaudi University College, Turin*** 2021-2022

Mediation between the college administration and its students. Conflict resolution. Support in first arrival orientation. Management of students' educational plan.

---

## Skills

### LANGUAGES

**Italian**, mother tongue

**Sicilian**, mother tongue

**English**, C2, self-evaluated, 2024

**Dutch**, A2 (evaluated in August 2024; currently studying for B1).

### CODING SKILLS/SOFTWARES

**R**, Advanced; **C**, Proficient; **SQL**, Proficient; **LaTeX**, Proficient; **Microsoft Office package**, Proficient; **Python**, Intermediate; **C++**, Beginner; **Stata**, Beginner; **Html**, Beginner; **Javascript**, Beginner; **Matlab**, Beginner