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References

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Research Interests & Methods

Economics of migration; Development Economics; Political Economy; Structural Econometrics; RCTs.

Current Positions & Affiliations

Bocconi University   *September 2015–*
Ph.D. Candidate

Laboratory for Effective Anti-Poverty Policies   *October 2018–*
Student Affiliate

Education

Bocconi University   *January 2021*
Milan, Italy
Ph.D. in Economics
Adivsor: Jérôme Adda

Yale University   *Spring 2018*
New Haven, USA
Visiting Assistant in Research
Contact: Joseph Altonji

Ca' Foscari University   *April 2015*
Venice, Italy
Laurea, Economics and Management, 110 *cum laude*
Advisor: Giacomo Pasini

Georgia State University   *January 2015*
Atlanta, USA
B.S., Economics, Minor in Sociology, *Summa cum Laude*

Research

Rescue on Stage: Border Enforcement and Public Attention in the Mediterranean Sea
(JMP)

Irregular migrants attempt to cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe. European border enforcement has the conflicting objectives of preventing irregular migration and granting humane treatment to migrants. The former would lead policy to deter border crossings, at the cost of increasing risk for migrants; the latter would require reducing this risk. Exploiting geo-located data on the universe of rescue operations for migrants leaving from Libya to Europe from 2014 to 2017, I show that rescue policy influences departures. Using exogenous variation coming from commercial sea traffic, I also show that policy impacts death risk for migrants. The implied trade-off is dynamic, as present policy influences future policy expectations by migrants. In addition, if the policy maker is more concerned with outcomes when they get more visibility, this trade-off interacts with public attention. Using shocks to attention uncorrelated with policy and migration, I empirically find that this is the case. Then, I propose and estimate a dynamic model of policy choice and public attention. Using my results, I show that past rescue policy was suboptimal in minimizing deaths of migrants. I also use the estimated preferences to assess the policy makers' willingness to accepts migrants' deaths in exchange for reducing migrants' arrivals.

Informing Risky Migration: Experimental Evidence from Guinea
Joint with Lucia Corno and Eliana La Ferrara

We conduct a large-scale randomized experiment in 160 secondary schools in the Republic of Guinea to study whether risky and irregular migration towards Europe can be reduced by providing information on the risks and costs of the journey and on the economic situation in destination countries. Combining hard data and video-testimonies by migrants who settled in Europe, we study the effect of three treatments: one in which we deliver information about risks and costs of the journey, one in which we give information about migrants economic outcomes, and a treatment pooling the two previous types of information. Preliminary results show that information affects perceptions about risks and economic outcomes, as well as migration intentions.

Third Party Interest, Resource Value, and the Likelihood of Conflict
Joint with Matteo Bizzarri and Riccardo Franceschin

Resource wealth induces predation incentives, but also conflict-deterring third party involvement. We build a model of resource war to investigate the impact of a change in the resource value on the likelihood of conflict. A predator decides if to wage war against a resource holder and seize its resource. A powerful third party can intervene to back the defendant. However, it does not act as a social planner, but it maximizes its own profits. The effect of a change in resource value is *a priori* unclear. On the one hand, increased resource value results in a higher incentive to predate; on the other hand, it leads to a higher incentive to intervene by the third party, increasing deterrence. We find that the probability of a conflict as a function of resource value is hump-shaped under general assumptions. We test our prediction using data on interstate and civil wars; we find a non-monotonic relation between conflict probability and comprehensive measures of resource value, as well as with plausibly exogenous geological determinants of oil presence. Using measures of US military involvement, we show that countries exposed to US presence drive the hump-shaped effect.

Fueling Organized Crime: Oil Thefts and the Mexican Drug War
Joint with Gianmarco Daniele, Marco Le Moglie, and Paolo Pinotti

Work in progress.

Political Statements and Sentiments on Migration
Joint with Federico Boffa, Eugenio Levi, and Steven Stillman

Work in progress.

Awards and Scholarships

Scholarship for most promising Bocconi PhD Candidates　　*September 2019–August 2021*
Fondazione Romeo ed Enrica Invernizzi

Fully Funded PhD Scholarship　　*September 2015–August 2019*
Bocconi University

Roberto Franceschi Research Funds　　*January 2018*
Fondazione Roberto Franceschi

Netspar Bachelor Thesis Award　　*January 2016*
Netspar

Erasmus+ Scholarship　　*September 2014–January 2015*
EU

Atlantis Programme Scholarship　　*August 2013–August 2014*
EU and USA

President's List of Georgia State University　　*Fall 2013–Summer 2014*
GSU

Refereeing

American Economic Review.

Conferences & Workshops

Rescue on Stage: Public Attention and Border Enforcement in the Mediterranean Sea

Econometric Society World Congress　　*August 2020*
Online

EALE SOLE AASLE World Conference　　*June 2020*
Berlin, Germany

Oxford Development Workshop　　*October 2019*
Center for the Study of African Economies, Oxford University, UK

Workshop on Political Economy　　*October 2019*
University of Bolzano, Brunek, Italy

XII International Conference on Migration and Development *June 2019*
Organized by Agence Française de Développement and the World Bank
Universidad Carlos III, Madrid, Spain

2019 Development and Political Economy SF Bay Area *April 2019*
PhD Student Conference
Stanford University, USA

V Workshop on the Economics of Migration *April 2019*
LISER, Université de Luxembourg, Esch-Belval, Luxembourg

Forced Displacement, Asylum Seekers and Refugees: Economics *March 2019*
Aspects and Policy Issues
Organized by COMPAS and Queen Mary University, London, UK

Incorporating Preference Axioms in Discrete Choice Experiment Design
Joint with Antonio Nicolò, Giacomo Pasini and Noemi Pace

AIES, XIII National Conference *March 2016*
Italian Health Economists Association Conference, Bologna, Italy

Teaching Experience

Bocconi University

Development Economics (Master) *Spring 2020*
Teaching Assistant for Eliana La Ferrara and Alfredo Burlando

Labor Economics (Master) *Spring 2017, 2019, 2020*
Teaching Assistant for Thomas Le Barbanchon, Jérôme Adda, and Tito Boeri

Macroeconomics 2 (PhD) *Fall 2017-2020*
Teaching Assistant for Antonella Trigari and Luigi Iovino

Incentive Design and Policy (Undergraduate) *Spring 2019-2020*
Teaching Assistant for Fausto Panunzi, and Salvatore Piccolo

Microeconomics (Undergraduate) *Fall 2016-2020*
Tutor for Fausto Panunzi

Research Assistantships

Bocconi University *Spring 2017*
Translation of a Matlab code for an RDD-class estimator in STATA for Thomas Le
Barbanchon.

Bocconi University *September 2017*
Evaluation of business proposals by participants of the ADANSONIA project.

Transplant Center of Padua University *Summer 2015*
Data collection for a research effort about kidney transplant chains under the su-
pervision of Antonio Nicolò (University of Manchester and Padua) and Lucrezia
Furian (University of Padua).

University of Venice and Transplant Center of Padua University   *Summer 2014*
Data collection and analysis for the project 'Incorporating Patients' Preferences in Kidney Transplant Decision Protocols' of Giacomo Pasini, Noemi Pace (Ca' Foscari University) and Antonio Nicoló (University of Manchester and Padua).

Other Activities

Bocconi Virtual Ph.D. Conference   *Fall 2020*
Co-organizer

Bocconi Ph.D. Students Informal Seminar Series   *Fall 2017–Present*
Co-organizer

Venice International University: Summer Institute of Ageing   *June 2015*
Venice

Ca' Foscari-Harvard Summer School   *June 2013*
Venice

Université de Versaillles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines   *Fall 2014*
Paris, France
Erasmus +

Languages

Italian (native), English (proficient), French (intermediate), Spanish (intermediate).

IT Skills

Python, Stata, Matlab, LaTeX, GPU Computing With CUDA.