Giacomo Battiston

Department of Economics
Bocconi University
Via Roentgen 1
20136 Milan, Italy

Office: 5–E2–03
giacomo.battiston@unibocconi.it
Skype: giacomo.battiston
Phone: +39 02 5836 5482

References

Name:	Jérôme Adda	Eliana La Ferrara	Paolo Pinotti
Department:	Economics	Economics	Social and Pol. Sciences
Address:	Bocconi University	Bocconi University	Bocconi University
	Via Roentgen 1	Via Roentgen 1	Via Roentgen 1
	20136 Milan, Italy	20136 Milan, Italy	20136 Milan, Italy
Mail:	jerome.adda@unibocconi.it	silvia.acquati@unibocconi.it	paolo.pinotti@unibocconi.it
Phone:	+39 02 5836 5572	+39 02 5836 2274	+39 340 2533418

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, *Magna 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

We build a model of resource war to investigate the impact of a change in the resource value on the likelihood of a conflict. A predator decides whether to wage war against a resource holder and seize its resource. A powerful third party, who does not act as a social planner but maximizes its own profits, can intervene to back the defendant. The effect of a change in resource value is a priori unclear. On the one hand, increased resource value results in higher incentives to predate. On the other hand, it produces a higher incentive for the third party to intervene, therefore increasing deterrence. Under general assumptions, we find that the probability of a conflict as a function of resource value is hump-shaped. We test our prediction using data on interstate and civil war, a comprehensive measure of natural resource ownership, and a measure relying on geographical determinants of oil presence. We find support for our theory.

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 2015*
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

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 Aspects and Policy Issues
March 2019

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 supervision 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.