

# Giacomo Battiston

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## References

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Name:	<a href="#">Jérôme Adda</a>	<a href="#">Eliana La Ferrara</a>	<a href="#">Paolo Pinotti</a>
Department:	Economics	Economics	Social and Pol. Sciences
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## Research Interests & Methods

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

## Current Positions & Affiliations

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<b>Bocconi University</b> Ph.D. Candidate	<i>September 2015–</i>
<b>Laboratory for Effective Anti-Poverty Policies</b> Student Affiliate	<i>October 2018–</i>

## Education

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<b>Bocconi University</b> Milan, Italy Ph.D. in Economics Advisor: Jérôme Adda	<i>January 2021</i>
<b>Yale University</b> New Haven, USA Visiting Assistant in Research Contact: Joseph Altonji	<i>Spring 2018</i>
<b>Ca' Foscari University</b> Venice, Italy Laurea, Economics and Management, 110 <i>cum laude</i> Advisor: Giacomo Pasini	<i>April 2015</i>
<b>Georgia State University</b> Atlanta, USA B.S., Economics, Minor in Sociology, <i>Magna cum Laude</i>	<i>January 2015</i>

## Research

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### **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 accept 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-detering 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

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<b>Scholarship for most promising Bocconi PhD Candidates</b> Fondazione Romeo ed Enrica Invernizzi	<i>September 2019–August 2021</i>
<b>Fully Funded PhD Scholarship</b> Bocconi University	<i>September 2015–August 2019</i>
<b>Roberto Franceschi Research Funds</b> Fondazione Roberto Franceschi	<i>January 2018</i>
<b>Netspar Bachelor Thesis Award</b> Netspar	<i>January 2016</i>
<b>Erasmus+ Scholarship</b> EU	<i>September 2014–January 2015</i>
<b>Atlantis Programme Scholarship</b> EU and USA	<i>August 2013–August 2014</i>
<b>President's List of Georgia State University</b> GSU	<i>Fall 2013–Summer 2014</i>

## Conferences & Workshops

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

<b>Econometric Society World Congress</b> Online	<i>August 2020</i>
<b>EALE SOLE AASLE World Conference</b> Berlin, Germany	<i>June 2020</i>
<b>Oxford Development Workshop</b> Center for the Study of African Economies, Oxford University, UK	<i>October 2019</i>
<b>Workshop on Political Economy</b> University of Bolzano, Bruneck, Italy	<i>October 2019</i>
<b>XII International Conference on Migration and Development</b> Organized by Agence Française de Développement and the World Bank Universidad Carlos III, Madrid, Spain	<i>June 2019</i>
<b>2019 Development and Political Economy SF Bay Area PhD Student Conference</b> Stanford University, USA	<i>April 2019</i>

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

*April 2019*

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

*March 2019*

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

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

*March 2016*

## Teaching Experience

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*Bocconi University*

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

*Spring 2020*

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

*Spring 2017, 2019, 2020*

**Macroeconomics 2 (PhD)**  
Teaching Assistant for Antonella Trigari and Luigi Iovino

*Fall 2017-2020*

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

*Spring 2019-2020*

**Microeconomics (Undergraduate)**  
Tutor for Fausto Panunzi

*Fall 2016-2020*

## Research Assistantships

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

*Spring 2017*

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

*September 2017*

**Transplant Center of Padua University**  
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).

*Summer 2015*

**University of Venice and Transplant Center of Padua University**  
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 Nicolò (University of Manchester and Padua).

*Summer 2014*

## Other Activities

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

*Fall 2020*

**Bocconi Ph.D. Students Informal Seminar Series**  
Co-organizer

*Fall 2017–Present*

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

*June 2015*

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

*June 2013*

**Université de Versailles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines**  
Paris, France  
Erasmus +

*Fall 2014*

## Languages

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

## IT Skills

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Python, Stata, Matlab, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, GPU Computing With CUDA.