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LISER

Labour Market Department

UNIVERSITY OF LUXEMBOURG

Department of Economics and Management

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Personal Information:

Gender: Male
Nationality: Italian

Doctoral Studies

LISER/University of Luxembourg, Jan 2019 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: “*Essays on skills, labor market institutions and wage inequality*”
Expected Completion Date: Spring 2023

References:

Professor Konstantinos Tatsiramos (Advisor)
University of Luxembourg/LISER
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Professor Philippe van Kerm
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Pre-doctoral Studies

Fall 2018 MRes in Economics and Finance, University of Luxembourg
2013-2016 MSc in Economics, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (summa cum laude)
2009-2012 BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics, Swansea University

Research Fields

Primary fields: Labour Economics, Applied Micro-Econometrics
Secondary fields: Migration Economics

Teaching Experience

Fall 2021 Introduction to Econometrics (undergraduate), University of Luxembourg,
Teaching Assistant for Professor Konstantinos Tatsiramos
Fall 2021 Microeconomics, Risk and Information (graduate), University of Luxembourg,
Teaching Assistant for Professor Arnaud Dupuy

Research Experience and Other Employment

Jan - Jul 2018 Research Intern, Bank of Italy, Public Finance Division
Jan - Dec 2017 Consultant, World Bank, Poverty and Equity Global Practice
Jan - Dec 2016 Research Assistant, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, CRELI

Honors, Scholarships and Fellowships

2020 VisitINPS Scholarship, INPS
2016 “Bonaldo Stringher” Research Placement Grant, Bank of Italy

Professional Activities

Referee for	<i>Review of Income and Wealth</i>
Member of organizing committee	2020-present: Online seminar series “The Economics of Migration, Junior Seminar”
Invited Presentations	2022 (scheduled): EEA-ESEM Congress (Milan); EALE Conference (Padua); AIEL Conference (Salerno); SIE Conference (Turin). 2022: AIEL Spring Workshop on Labor Market Institutions (poster, Genoa); CESifo PILLARS Conference on Education, Skills, and Worker Retraining (online). 2021: IDSC of IZA Workshop: Matching Workers and Jobs Online (online).

Research Papers in Progress

“*The Impact of Restricting Fixed-Term Contracts on Labor and Skill Demand: Evidence from Italian Online Job Vacancy Data*”, with Konstantinos Tatsiramos

We study how increasing the relative cost of fixed-term contracts affects firms’ labor and skill demand. We exploit a 2018 Italian labor law reform, which increased the cost of fixed-term contracts while leaving that of permanent contracts unchanged, combined with a data source covering

the near-universe of online job vacancies in Italy that allows us to characterize the demand for labor, human capital, and specific skill requirements under different contractual arrangements. Identification is based on a difference-in-differences research design, which exploits province-level variation in firms' exposure to the reform stemming from their heterogeneous reliance on fixed-term contracts due to varying reactions to earlier institutional shocks. We find that the increase in the cost of hiring temporary workers leads firms to substitute temporary with permanent prospective hires, but that it also leads them to require better signals of worker quality. Specifically, firms posting job ads for permanent positions look less for workers with low experience and more for workers with a college degree. Instead, firms posting job ads for temporary positions look more for workers with some experience and for workers possessing social skills. These findings suggest that restricting the use of temporary contracts by making them more expensive does not only promote permanent employment but also leads firms to increase their skill requirements for entry into jobs, thus reducing the employment opportunities of less qualified workers and potentially worsening the efficiency of job search and matching.

“Demand for skills and wage inequality”, with Konstantinos Tatsiramos

Differences in skill utilization across firms and labor markets have been associated with wage inequality, but whether this relationship reflects differences in worker or firm heterogeneity is still unclear. Combining linked employer-employee data from Italy with detailed information on skill demand extracted from online job vacancies, we study the relationship between wages and the demand for cognitive and social skills across labor markets defined by province, sector, and occupation. We then estimate the worker- and firm-pay components of the wage process through an AKM model and investigate their relationship with skill demand at the labor market level. We find a strong and positive association between wages and the demand for cognitive and social skills, which is pronounced when both skills are required jointly for the same job position revealing their complementarity. Our decomposition suggests that higher wages in markets in which firms more frequently demand cognitive and social skills jointly are driven by worker effects, reflecting the higher market value of a hybrid skill set, rather than by firm pay policies. Conversely, markets in which firms demand more of either cognitive or social skills only are associated to higher firm effects, suggesting that more rents are shared to specialized workers, while the market value of these specialized skills for workers is lower. These results highlight the role of worker and firm heterogeneity as channels through which skill demand differences affect overall wage inequality.

Publications

Policy papers:

(with N. Curci, P. Recchia and M. Savegnago) 2020. “Anti-poverty measures in Italy: a microsimulation analysis”, *Temi di discussione (Economic working papers)* 1298, Bank of Italy.

(core team member for the preparation of:)

World Bank Group. 2018. *Mauritius - Addressing Inequality through More Equitable Labor Markets*. World Bank, Washington, DC.

World Bank Group. (internal). *Mauritius - Earnings Mobility and Inequality of Opportunity in the Labor Market*, World Bank, Washington, DC.

Book Chapters:

(with C. Lucifora and B. Piccoli) 2018. “Salute e Sicurezza sul Lavoro dei Lavoratori Anziani”, in L. Cappellari, C. Lucifora and A. Rosina, *Invecchiamento Attivo, Mercato del Lavoro e Benessere. Analisi e Politiche Attive*, Il Mulino.

Languages & Skills

Languages	<i>English (advanced), Italian (native), French (beginner)</i>
Software	<i>Stata, R, Python, Matlab, Julia, Mata, L^AT_EX, Office, GitHub</i>

Last updated: July 3, 2022