

LORENZO PESSINA

Department of Economics
Columbia University
420 West 118th Street
New York, NY 10027

May 2021
Email: l.pessina@columbia.edu
Website: lorenzopessina.com
Phone: +39-348-7619-000
Citizenship: Italian

EDUCATION

Columbia University

Ph.D. in Economics	(expected) 2021
M.Phil. in Economics	2018
M.A. in Economics	2017

Bocconi University, Milan

M.Sc. in Economics and Social Sciences, <i>summa cum laude</i>	2015
B.A. in International Economics, Management, and Finance, <i>summa cum laude</i>	2012

RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary fields: Public Finance, Taxation, Inequality

Secondary fields: Migration, Corporate Finance

RESEARCH PAPERS

Who Writes the Check to the Government Does Matter: Evidence from Firm-to-Firm Links

The design of tax collection is largely considered to be inconsequential in the academic literature, yet policy makers frequently implement reforms to it. Combining a new administrative dataset on firm-to-firm links from Italy and a quasi-experimental research design, I study how firms and markets adapt to a reform of the collection of Value Added Tax (VAT). The reform shifted the responsibility to remit payments of VAT from sellers to “trusted” buyers, such as government entities and large firms. I present three main findings. First, firm-to-firm links subject to the new rules are more likely to become inactive after the introduction of the new rules. Second, I find that the reform was costly for the average firm. Firms more exposed to the reform experienced lower sales and higher exit rates, relative to the counterfactual. Third, I document that the burden of the reform is not evenly distributed across firms. Small firms are hit hardest, while large firms do not appear to be negatively affected. As a result, I show that markets more exposed to the reform became more concentrated.

Importing Inequality: Migration, Mobility, and the Top 1 percent (joint with Arun Advani, Felix Koenig, and Andy Summers)

In this paper we study the contribution of migrants to the rise in UK top incomes. Using administrative data on the universe of UK taxpayers we show migrants are concentrated at the top of the income distribution, with migrants twice as prevalent in the top 0.1 percent as anywhere in the bottom 96 percent. These high incomes are predominantly from labour, rather than capital, and migrants are concentrated in only a handful of industries, predominantly finance. Almost all (85%) of the growth in the UK top 1% income share over the past 20 years can be attributed to migration.

RESEARCH PAPERS IN PROGRESS

Taxation and International Relocation of Top Earners: Estimates from UK Tax Records
(joint with Arun Advani, Felix Koenig, and Andy Summers)

The Saved and the Probate: The Trade-off between Control and Inheritance Tax Minimization (joint with Cameron LaPoint)

RESEARCH GRANTS

NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, SES-1919322, \$19,877	<i>2019-2021</i>
Data Purchase Support, Program for Economics Research, Columbia University, \$5,000	<i>2019</i>
Student Research Travel Grant, CDEP, Columbia University, \$600	<i>2017</i>

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Economics, Columbia University	<i>2020-2021</i>
Wueller Pre-Dissertation Award (runner-up), Columbia University	<i>2018</i>
Vickrey Prize for Best Third Year paper, Columbia University	<i>2018</i>
Wueller Teaching Award (runner-up), Columbia University	<i>2017</i>
Dean's Fellowship, Columbia University	<i>2015-2020</i>
Graduate Merit Award, Bocconi University	<i>2012-2015</i>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Intermediate Macroeconomics	<i>Summer 2018</i>
-----------------------------	--------------------

Teaching Assistant

Intermediate Macroeconomics, TA for Xavier Sala-i-Martin	<i>Fall 2016, 2017, 2019</i>
<i>Wueller Teaching Award (Fall 2017)</i>	
Public Economics, TA for Wojciech Kopczuk	<i>Fall 2018</i>
Urban Economics, TA for Jason Barr	<i>Spring 2018</i>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PhD Student Affiliate, CAGE, University of Warwick	<i>2019 - present</i>
Research Assistant for Francois Gerard, Columbia University	<i>2017</i>

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Intern, Global Investment Research, Goldman Sachs, London UK

2014-15

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2021: Collegio Carlo Alberto, Mannheim University and ZEW, IFS, 17th IZA Annual Migration Meeting, ifo Institute Conference on Genes, Social Mobility, and Inequalities over the Life-Course

2020: National Tax Association Annual Conference (NTA, $\times 2$), CEMIR Junior Economist Workshop on Migration Research (CESifo Munich), Agenzia delle Entrate (Rome), LMU Munich, Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence (ESCoE), Annual Mannheim Taxation Conference (ZEW Mannheim), Econometric Society World Congress, Young Economist Symposium, IIPF Annual Congress*, APPAM DC Regional Student Conference (canceled due to Covid-19), LSE*, UCL*

2019: National Tax Association Annual Conference (NTA, poster session)

2018: Young Economist Symposium

**presented by co-authors.*

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Invited Attendance: NBER Business Tax Graduate Workshop and Meeting

2018, 2020

Referee for the Young Economist Symposium

2018-2020

Student Organizer: Lunch with the Applied Micro Speaker

2018-2020

Co-organizer of reading group: Public Economics and Taxation

Summer 2018

PERSONAL

Citizenship: Italian

Languages: English (fluent), Italian (native), French (basic)

REFERENCES

Wojciech Kopczuk (Sponsor)

Professor of Economics and

Professor of International and Public Affairs

Columbia University

(+1) 212-854-2519

wk2110@columbia.edu

Michael Best (Co-Sponsor)

Assistant Professor of Economics

Columbia University

(+1) 415-316-5006

michael.best@columbia.edu

Arun Advani

Assistant Professor of Economics

Warwick University

+44-24-765-23056

a.advani.1@warwick.ac.uk

Eric Verhoogen

Professor of Economics and

Professor of International and Public Affairs

Columbia University

(+1) 212-854-4428

eric.verhoogen@columbia.edu