LORENZO PESSINA

Department of Economics Columbia University 420 West 118th Street New York, NY 10027 October 2020

Email: l.pessina@columbia.edu
Website: lorenzopessina.com
Phone: (+39) 348-7619-000

Citizenship: Italian

Placement Chairs: Don Davis, drd28@columbia.edu, Suresh Naidu, sn2430@columbia.edu

Placement Assistant: Amy Devine, (+1) 212-854-6881, aed2152@columbia.edu

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, summa cum laude

2015

B.A. in International Economics, Management, and Finance, summa cum laude

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 (Job Market Paper)

The design of tax collection is largely considered to be inconsequential in the academic literature, yet policy makers frequently implement reforms to it. While reforms to tax collection are aimed at easing the costs of the tax system and curbing evasion, they also alter cash-flows to each side of a transaction. Therefore, all firms—not just those evading—might adapt their operations in order to comply with these rules. 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. I present three main findings. First, links affected by the reform are 2.5pp more likely to become inactive. For those that remain active after the reform, I can rule out an increase in the value of the link larger than 0.3%, suggesting a limited enforcement effect of the reform. Second, firm outcomes worsened for businesses. Third, as the burden of the new rules is spread unevenly across firms, markets also adjust. I find 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	2019-2021
Data Purchase Support, Program for Economics Research, Columbia University, \$5,000	2019
Student Research Travel Grant, CDEP, Columbia University, \$600	2017

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor	

Intermediate Macroeconomics Summer 2018

Teaching Assistant

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

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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

2014-15

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2020 (including scheduled): National Tax Association Annual Conference (NTA, ×2), CEMIR Junior Economist Workshop on Migration Research (CESifo Munich), Agenzia delle Entrate (Rome), LMU Munich, Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence (ESCoE), Annual MannheimTaxation 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

Referee for the Young Economist Symposium

2018-2020

Student Organizer: Lunch with the Applied Micro Speaker

Co-organizer of reading group: Public Economics and Taxation

Summer 2018

PERSONAL

Citizenship: Italy US status: F-1 Visa

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

Arun Advani

Assistant Professor of Economics Warwick University +44-24-765-23056 a.advani.1@warwick.ac.uk

Michael Best

Assistant Professor of Economics Columbia University (+1) 415-316-5006 michael.best@columbia.edu

Eric Verhoogen

Professor of Economics and Professor of International and Public Affairs Columbia University (+1) 212-854-4428 eric.verhoogen@columbia.edu