

Matteo A. Bobba

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Academic Positions

Professor of Economics, Toulouse School of Economics, University of Toulouse Capitole, since September 2023.

Visiting Assistant Professor and Research Scholar, Princeton University Department of Economics, 2019-2020.

Assistant Professor, Toulouse School of Economics, University of Toulouse Capitole, 2015-2023.

Professional Affiliations

Research Fellow, Center for Economics and Policy Research (CEPR).

Invited Researcher, Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL).

Research Fellow, Institute of Labor Economics (IZA).

Full Member, European Development Research Network (EUDN).

Other Employment

Economist, Research Department and Vice-Presidency for Sectors and Knowledge, Inter-American Development Bank, 2011-2015.

Research Fellow, Research Department, Inter-American Development Bank, 2005-2007.

Research Fields

Labor Economics, Development Economics, Public Economics, and Policy Evaluation.

Education

PhD Economics, Paris School of Economics, 2011

- Advisor: F. Bourguignon (PSE)
- External Examiners: O. Attanasio (UCL) and P. Dubois (TSE).

MSc Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, 2005.

BA-BSc Economics and Statistics, Università Bocconi, 2004.

Journal Articles

7. Enhancing Human Capital in Children. A Case Study on Scaling (with F. Agostinelli and C. Avitabile).
Journal of Political Economy, 2025, 133(2): 455-491.
6. Self-Perceptions about Academic Achievement: Evidence from Mexico City (with V. Frisancho).
Journal of Econometrics, 2022, 231(1): 58-73.
5. Labor Market Search, Informality, and Schooling Investments (with L. Flabbi and S. Levy).
International Economic Review, 2022, 63: 211-259.
4. Labor Market Search, Informality, and On-The-Job Human Capital Accumulation (with L. Flabbi, S. Levy, and M. Tejada).
Journal of Econometrics, 2021, 223(2): 433-453.
3. Neighborhood Effects in Integrated Social Policies (with J. Gignoux).
World Bank Economic Review, 2019, 33(1): 116-139.
2. Liquidity, Risk and Occupational Choices (with M. Bianchi).
Review of Economic Studies, 2013, 80(2): 491-511.
1. Weak Instruments and Weak Identification in Estimating the Effects of Education on Democracy (with D. Coviello).
Economics Letters, 2007, 96: 301-306.

Other Publications

8. Informality (with G. Ulyssea, L. Gadenne and M.F. Harari).
VoxDevLit, 6(2), April 2025.

Working Papers

9. Teacher Compensation and Structural Inequality: Evidence from Centralized Teacher School Choice in Peru (with T. Ederer, G. Leon, C. Neilson, and M. Nieddu).
Revise and Resubmit, Journal of Political Economy.
10. Perceived Ability and School Choices: Experimental Evidence and Scale-up Effects (with V. Frisancho and M. Pariguana).
Revise and Resubmit, Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics.

Grants and Awards

2025: TSE Best Teacher Award for the Master 2 Course “RCTs and Policy Evaluation”.

2024: IER Top cited article 2022-2023 for “Labor Market Search, Informality, and

Schooling Investments”.

2023: JEEA Excellence in Refereeing Award.

2015: IGC Pilot Grant (50,000 £).

2015: IDEX grant (14,000 €), University of Toulouse Capitole.

2014: AFSE-Malinvaud award (best published paper among economists under age 40) for “Liquidity, Risk and Occupational Choices”.

2008-2011: Ile-de-France, PhD scholarship.

2004: Angelo Costa award for the best undergraduate dissertation in economics.

Presentations at Seminars and Conferences

2025: Duke (scheduled), Stony Brook (scheduled), Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF, scheduled), Development Economics Workshop (GATE-LSE), Queen’s University Belfast.

2024: EUI, LMU Munich, Cologne.

2023: NBER SI Development Economics, Cowles Labor and Public, Y-RISE.

2022: NBER SI Development Economics, SITE Micro and Macro of Labor Markets,¹ MIT Dynamic Structural Econometrics, Y-RISE, Barcelona Summer Forum, TSE Departmental Seminar, WashU St Louis.

2021: BREAD, CEPR Development, CEPR Labour, Arizona State, Cambridge, Oxford, TSE Scientific Council, RIDGE IO, WEAI.

2020: BREAD, Yale, Econometric Society World Congress, Heriot-Watt, SEA (invited speaker).

2019: Cowles Structural Micro, Princeton, Penn, UC San Diego, Boston University, Y-RISE, Barcelona Summer Forum, TSE Departmental Seminar, LACEA (invited speaker).

2018: NBER Development Economics, UCL Health and the Labor Market, WashU St Louis, Georgetown, Nova SBE, World Bank Research Group, CESifo Subjective Expectations in Economics, French Development Agency (AFD).

2017: CEPR-IGC Labor and Development,² UCL Dynamic Structural Econometrics, Wisconsin, Tinbergen, ASSA, SOLE, IZA Labor and Development, EUDN.

2016: IIES Stockholm, PSE, Goethe University Frankfurt, Uppsala, Bergen, TSE Departmental Seminar, IZA-SOLE Transatlantic Meeting, TSE Development Workshop, EUDN, Development Economics Workshop (GREThA-Bordeaux).

2015: CEPR Development, Barcelona Summer Forum, EIEF, Toulouse, Pompeu Fabra, HEC Montreal, IFS-EDePo, IDB, LACEA.

< 2015: BREAD, Georgetown, World Bank DECRG, World Bank DIME, LACEA,

¹I was invited, but co-author eventually presented as I could not attend.

²I was invited, but co-author eventually presented as I could not attend.

NEUDC, IZA-World Bank Employment and Development, LASA, Oxford, Autònoma Barcelona, Bank of Italy, PSE, DIW, IDB, EDePo-IFS, NEUDC, Petralia Applied Economics Workshop, EUDN.

Professional Service

Referee for academic journals: *American Economic Journal: Applied, American Economic Review, Economic Journal, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economics Letters, International Economic Review, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Econometrics, Journal of Economic Growth, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Human Capital, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics, Journal of Urban Economics, Labour Economics, Review of Economic Dynamics, Review of Economic Studies, World Bank Economic Review.*

Grant reviewer: National Science Foundation.

Conferences/Workshops organization:

TSE Development Economics Workshop (Toulouse, June 2016), Co-organizer with Emma Auriol.

TSE Economics of Education Workshop (Toulouse, June 2024/July 2025), Program Committee Member.

Econometric Society European Meetings (Rotterdam, August 2024), Lead Coordinator for Development and Labor.

Annual Conference of the International Association for Applied Econometrics (Turin, June 2025), Program Committee Member.

Departmental service at TSE:

Head of the Thematic Group “Behavior, Institutions, and Development” (BID).

Scientific Director of the TSE Human Capital Center.

Scientific Coordinator for 2025 Jean-Jacques Laffont Prize awarded to Penny Goldberg.

Member of the Recruitment and Promotion Committee of the Economics Department.

Member of TSE Partnership Research (TSE-P).

Organizer of the YingHua He Empirical Micro workshop.

Junior Recruitment Committee (Member, 2017; Co-Chair, 2020).

Organizer of the seminar series “Development, Labor and Public Policy” (2016-2019).

Teaching and Mentoring

Graduate courses:

Empirical Methods for Policy Evaluation, TSE PhD.

Development Economics, Princeton Economics PhD.

RCTs and Policy Evaluation, TSE Master.

Causal Inference with Observational Data, TSE Master.

Undergraduate courses:

Development Economics, TSE & Princeton.

Program Evaluation, TSE.

Applied Econometrics, TSE.

PhD students advised, with initial placement (* denotes my role as main advisor):

9. Jonas Gathen – Assistant Professor of Economics, Tilburg University.
8. Anais Fabre – Assistant Professor of Economics, LMU Munich.
7. Tim Ederer* – Assistant Professor of Economics, Carnegie Mellon Tepper School of Business (after Post-Doc at UChicago, Becker Friedman Institute).
6. Marco Pariguana (UWO) – Early Career Researcher/Lecturer, University of Edinburgh.
5. Paloma Carrillo – Economist, International Labor Organization.
4. Jakob Hennig – Post-Doc, Universidad Carlos 3, Madrid,
3. Dimple Kukreja* – Research Economist, Reserve Bank of India.
2. Harsh Malotra*³
1. Vitalijis Jascisens – Assistant Professor of Economics, Higher Economic School.

Languages

English, Spanish, French, and Italian.

³Harsh unexpectedly and tragically passed away a few months before his thesis defense. He has been awarded the posthumous title of PhD in Economics.