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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary Field: Political Economy

Secondary Fields: Culture and Institutions; Labor Economics

EDUCATION

European University Institute

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics

Florence, Italy

2018 – Present

Thesis title: The Reversal of the Mission: The Influence of Religious Leaders on Sociopolitical Attitudes

Expected Completion Date: June 2023

European University Institute

M.Res. in Economics

Florence, Italy

2017 – 2018

Barcelona Graduate School of Economics

M.Sc. in Economics

Barcelona, Spain

2016 – 2017

Pompeu Fabra University

B.S. in Economics

Barcelona, Spain

2012 – 2016

Pompeu Fabra University

B.S. in International Business Economics

Barcelona, Spain

2012 – 2016

JOB MARKET PAPER

The Reversal of the Mission: The Influence of Religious Leaders on Sociopolitical Attitudes

This paper explores how religious leaders influence their communities' religious and political attitudes. To do this, I build on novel dataset containing the universe of Catholic priests appointed to their parishes in rural Spain between 2000 and 2019. I leverage the quasi-natural experiment by which priests are allocated to parishes and use a staggered difference-in-differences design to identify their influence on their communities. I show that foreign-born priests, whom I find more devoted to their cause, are effective at revitalizing local religiosity, measured by an increase in Catholic marriages and fertility. They also influence local political opinions towards Catholic-aligned positions. However, such extra influence prevents parishioners from challenging the old status quo, measured by the higher maintenance of dictatorial honors, limiting social progress. These findings highlight that religious leaders have a considerable impact on sociopolitical attitudes.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant for Prof. Giampiero M. Gallo , New York University <i>Course on International Economics</i>	2021
Research Assistant for Prof. Mirjam Stockburger , Giessen University	2021
Research Assistant for Prof. Matteo Fiorini , OECD	2020
Research Assistant for Prof. Andrea Ichino , European University Institute	2019
Research Assistant for Prof. Michèle Belot , European University Institute	2018
Research Assistant for Prof. Ana Tur Prats , Pompeu Fabra University	2016 – 2017

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

<i>27th Society of Labor Economics, XV RIDGE Forum, 26th Spring of Meeting Economists, ESPE, EALE, Applied Young Economists Workshop, ASREC, European Political Science Association, Spanish Sociology Association, ASREC Europe Conference, 10th PhD-Student Workshop on Industrial and Public Economics (WIPE), 24th Colloquium on Personnel Economics</i>	2022
<i>Bavarian Young Economists' Meeting, Queen Mary University of London, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, SIOE, 15th CESifo Workshop on Political Economy, PhD-EVS</i>	2021
<i>28th Spanish Meeting on Public Economics, ECPR, EuHEA PhD Conference</i>	2020

WORKING PAPERS

Reverse Revolving Doors: The Influence of Interest Groups on Legislative Voting *with Josep Amer-Mestre (JRC)*

This paper investigates to which extent legislators with a background in an interest group (i.e., reverse revolvers) influence their peers' voting behavior. To answer this question, we collect novel data containing the universe of votes cast at the European Parliament between 2004 and 2019 and characterize legislators by their former working experience. We leverage a natural experiment by which seats at the European Parliament are assigned alphabetically to provide a causal estimation. We find that seating beside a reverse revolver when the motion is relevant to her interest group increases the co-voting probability by 2.4%, attendance by 1.3%, and decreases abstention by 9%. We find no influence on non-relevant ballots. These effects are driven by budget-related motions and female legislators. Our results suggest that revolving doors affect the political process even when working in reverse.

Time Constraints and Productivity in Health Care

This paper explores how reviewing time affects physicians' medical decisions. Insufficient examination time may hamper physicians' care and diagnostic provision, leaving physicians more inclined to over-prescribe medication. I test this prediction using high-frequency data from a Spanish outpatient department and leverage on-the-day cancellations as exogenous time shocks. I find that longer visits lead to more valuable care, measured by the provision of more detailed diagnoses, to higher testing intensity, and to lower drug prescriptions. These effects are driven by junior physicians, who use this extra time to compensate for their more overloaded shifts.

Why do Authoritarian Successor Parties Succeed?: How Francoist Legacies in the Spanish Catholic Church Boosted Regime Successor Party Performance

with Viivi Jarvi and Guadalupe Tuñón (Princeton University)

This paper investigates the influence of civil society organizations on the trajectories of political parties after democratic transition. In particular, we study variation in the electoral success of authoritarian successor parties – parties with roots in a past authoritarian regime – in post-Franco Spain. While the existing literature has cited clientelistic ties to the

electorate or to key economic or local elites to explain successor party success, we suggest that ties to religious organizations are also crucial. Underscoring the role of the Catholic Church, we show that the presence of Franco-appointed bishops boosts successor party performance. We leverage exogenous variation in the timing of post-transition bishop retirement to estimate the effects of the length of municipalities' exposure to Francoist bishops on electoral outcomes. We find that longer exposure to Francoist bishops increases vote shares for successor parties in the democratic period. This effect seems to be amplified by the local presence of religious movements created during the dictatorship to strengthen commitment to the National-Catholicism that lay at the core of Franco's ideological project. This paper brings to the fore a new set of institutions – religious ones – in the transmission of authoritarian legacies into democracy; highlights the long-term ramifications of autocratic ideological state-building on democratic electoral politics; and contributes to the literature on religion's influence on politics.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

PhD Completion Grant , European University Institute	<i>2020 – 2021</i>
Salvador de Madariaga Scholarship , Universidad Menéndez Pelayo	<i>2017 – 2020</i>
La Pedrera Scholarship , Fundació Catalunya - La Pedrera	<i>2016</i>
Passaport al Mon Scholarship , Universitat Pompeu Fabra	<i>2015</i>
1st award in the Regional Economics Olympiads , Universidad de Zaragoza	<i>2012</i>

REFERENCES

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Prof. Christian Fons-Rosen

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Prof. Guadalupe Tuñón

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Princeton, NJ 08544
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