

PIER PAOLO CREANZA

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EDUCATION

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA

August 2020 - present

PhD in Economics

Incidental M.A. in Economics, awarded September 2022

Bocconi University, Milan, Italy

September 2017 - April 2020

M.Sc. in Economics and Social Sciences (DES-ESS)

Dissertation advisors: Maristella Botticini, Guido Alfani

Graduation mark: 110/110 *summa cum Laude*

Bocconi University, Milan, Italy

September 2014 - September 2017

B.Sc. in Economics and Social Sciences (CLES)

Dissertation advisor: Francesco Giavazzi

Graduation mark: 110/110 *summa cum Laude*

WORKING PAPERS

Institutions, trade and growth: the ancient Greek case of *proxenia*

— Accepted by the *Journal of Economic History*

Recent scholarship contends that ancient Mediterranean economies grew intensively, contrary to standard Malthusian predictions. An explanation is Smithian growth spurred by reductions in transaction costs and increased trade flows. This paper argues that an ancient Greek institution, *proxenia*, was among the innovations that allowed such growth in the period 500-0 BCE. *Proxenia* entailed a Greek city-state declaring a foreigner to be its ‘public friend’, a status that conferred both duties and privileges. The functions performed by ‘public friends’ could facilitate economic transactions between communities. Accordingly, network and regression analyses establish a strong relation between *proxenia* grants and trade intensity.

‘Returning brains’: tax incentives, migration and productivity

This paper investigates whether common tax schemes aimed at inducing high-skill immigration produce positive productivity spillovers on native workers. While recent contributions have provided evidence that such policies induce the expected migration effects, little is known about broader benefits in terms of innovation or economic performance. To shed light on this question, this paper focuses on an Italian tax break targeting researchers and uses publication data to measure productivity. Despite finding a reasonably strong first-stage in terms of migration and positive selection of beneficiaries, estimated spillovers are very small in magnitude, statistically insignificant and precisely estimated. These results cast doubt on the ability of broad and loosely-targeted incentives to produce measurable benefits on natives’ productivity.

WORK IN PROGRESS

The Red Scare and racial inequality — with Leah Boustan, Ilyana Kuziemko and Suresh Naidu

Historical geography of innovation

SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics (SIOE)	<i>June 2021</i>
Graduate Seminar in Economic History (LSE)	<i>October 2021</i>
Graduate Seminar in Economic and Social History (Oxford)	<i>October 2021</i>
Economic History Association (EHA)	<i>October 2021</i>
Graduate Labor Workshop (Princeton)	<i>September 2022</i>
Program in Public Economics (Princeton)	<i>November 2022</i>

REFEREE SERVICE

Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Economic History

TEACHING

2022: Junior Independent Work (ECO981)

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

2021-2022: Leah Boustan (Princeton) & Ilyana Kuziemko (Princeton)
2019: Paola Giuliano (UCLA) & Marco Tabellini (HBS)
2019: Marco Tabellini (HBS) & Vasiliki Fouka (Stanford)
2019: Guido Alfani (Bocconi)

OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

IGIER (Bocconi) , Visiting student	<i>February 2018 - April 2020</i>
PSE , Graduate summer school (Advanced Macroeconomics; Behavioral Economics)	<i>June 2018</i>
LSE , Summer school (Introduction to Data Science and Big Data Analytics)	<i>August 2018</i>
Princeton , Reading group in Economic History	<i>September 2021 - present</i>
Economic History Association 82nd annual meeting, Conference participation	<i>September 2022</i>

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

University Fellowship in Humanities and Social Sciences, awarded by Princeton University on admission to the PhD for the entire duration of the program.

Graduate Merit Award for outstanding academic performance, awarded by Bocconi University in 2017.

John Pencavel Prize, awarded by UCL's Department of Economics for the best academic performance among affiliates in the 2016/2017 academic year.