Stefano Lombardi

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SUMMARY

My primary fields of interest are policy evaluation and applied microeconometrics. I am also interested in worker-firm matching, dynamic treatment evaluation, and microsimulation techniques.

CURRENT POSITION

Oct. 2019–   VATT, Institute for Economics Research (Helsinki) · post-doctoral researcher

AFFILIATIONS

2019–	IZA, Institute of Labor Economics (Bonn) · research affiliate
2015–	UCLS, Uppsala Center for Labor Studies (Uppsala)
2017–2019	IFAU, Institute for Evaluation of Labor Market and Education Policy (Uppsala)

EDUCATION

2019	Uppsala University · PhD in Economics
2016	*Harvard University · visiting PhD student*
2013	Bocconi University · M.Sc. in Economics (110/110)
2012	*Mannheim University · exchange student*
2010	Bocconi University · B.Sc. in Economics
2009	*Queen Mary University of London · exchange student*
2007	San Raffaele University · B.Sc. in Psychology (110/110 *cum laude*)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer reviewed journals

· Lombardi, S., Skans, O. N., and Vikström, J. (2018). "Targeted wage subsidies and firm performance." *Labour Economics*, 53: pg. 33-45 · [published version] [open-source version]

This paper studies how targeted wage subsidies affect the performance of the recruiting firms. Using linked employer-employee Swedish administrative data from the period 1998–2008, we show that treated firms substantially outperform other recruiting firms after hiring through subsidies, despite identical pre-treatment performance levels and trends in a wide set of key dimensions. The pattern is less clear from 2007 onwards, after a reform removed the involvement of caseworkers from the subsidy approval process. Overall, our results suggest that targeted employment subsidies can have large positive effects on post-match outcomes of the hiring firms, at least if the policy environment allows for pre-screening by caseworkers.

Non-peer reviewed

· Lombardi, S., and Vikström, J. (2019), "Arbetsförmedlingens kontrollarbete, sanktioner och de arbetslösas sökbeteende" IFAU rapport 2019:23.

· Vikström, J., Lombardi, S., and O. Nordström Skans (2018), "Hur påverkar anställningsstöd och nystartsjobb de anställande företagen?" IFAU rapport 2018:13.

· Bratu, C., Lombardi, S., Rodrigues, M., Santangelo, G., and A. Shaleva (2014), "Knowledge gaps in evaluating labour market and social inclusion policies". European Commission, DG Joint Research Center & DG Employment.

· Lombardi, S. and M. Florio (2014), "Chapter 8: Risk Assessment" in Florio, M.: "Applied Welfare Economics: Cost-Benefit Analysis of Projects and Policies", Routledge Advanced Texts in Economics and Finance, pg. 222-262.

WORKING PAPERS

· *Threat Effects of Monitoring and Benefit Sanctions: Evidence from two Reforms* · [working paper]

The paper provides the first quasi-experimental estimates of the threat of unemployment insurance (UI) benefit sanctions on job-exit rates. Using a difference-in-differences design, I exploit two reforms of the Swedish UI system that made monitoring and sanctions considerably stricter at different points in time for i) UI claimants and ii) job-seekers who exhausted their UI benefits and therefore receive alternative "activity support" benefits instead. Results show that men (in particular if long-term unemployed) respond to monitoring and the threat of sanctions by finding jobs faster. In contrast to this analysis, the existing literature has almost exclusively focused on estimating how job-finding rates respond for those actually receiving a sanction. I estimate such "sanction-imposition effects" and further show that when properly aggregated they explain very little of the overall reform effects.

· *Empirical Monte Carlo evaluation of the Timing of Events approach*,
with Johan Vikström and Gerard J. van den Berg · [working paper]

This paper uses an Empirical Monte Carlo simulation approach to study estimation of Timing-of-Events (ToE) models. We exploit population-wide Swedish administrative data on job-seekers with information on participation in a training program to simulate realistic placebo treatment durations. We then estimate ToE models by omitting some of the covariates previously used to simulate the placebo treatments. This generates unobserved heterogeneity correlated across the treatment ad outcome durations. We compare different specifications of the model and find that it performs well, in particular when time-varying covariates are exploited for identification. When estimating ToE models, we use a discrete distribution for the unobserved heterogeneity. We find that using too many or too few mass points leads to large bias. We show that information criteria that penalize parameter abundance can be very useful to select the number of support points.

TEACHING

| 2015–2016 | Teaching Assistant, Econometrics I and II (Uppsala University, PhD level). |
| 2016 | Academic Teacher Training Course (5 weeks). |

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS (INCLUDING SCHEDULED)

2019	18th "Brucchi Luchino" Labor Economics workshop, Turin
	Ministry of Labor, Helsinki; seminar presentation (*invited*)
	VATT, Helsinki; seminar presentation
	Ministry of Finance, Helsinki; seminar presentation (*invited*)
	15th IZA & 2nd IZA/CREST Conference on Labor Market Policy Evaluation, Bonn
	IZA / UCPH Workshop (*invited*); Copenhagen, Denmark
	31st EALE conference; Uppsala, Sweden
	IZA, Bonn; seminar presentation
	Stockholm University, Stockholm; seminar presentation
	University of Milan - Bicocca, Milan; seminar presentation
	Joint Research Center - European Commission, Ispra; seminar presentation
	IRVAPP, Trento; seminar presentation
2018	Uppsala University, Economics department research seminar; Uppsala, Sweden
	30th European Association Labour Economists conference (EALE); Lyon, France
	Uppsala Center for Labor Studies conference (UCLS); Sigtuna, Sweden
	71th European Meeting of the Econometric Society (ESEM); Cologne, Germany
	Society of Labor Economists, 23rd Conference (SOLE); Toronto, Canada
2017	13th IZA Conference: Labor Market Policy Evaluation; Bonn, Germany
	Annual Congress of the European Economic Association (EEA); Lisbon, Portugal
	Uppsala University, Economics department research seminar; Uppsala, Sweden
	IFAU seminar; Uppsala, Sweden

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

2016	Full Wallander and Hedelius scholarship to visit Harvard University (2016–2017).

WORK AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Dec. 2014	CSIL, Centre for Industrial Studies · *Statistical software developer*
	Developed *MoSL*, a customized risk analysis program integrating Excel-VBA and R to run Monte Carlo simulations using copulas.
Oct. 2013 – Aug. 2014	DG Joint Research Centre, European Commission (Ispra, Italy) *Trainee in Econometrics and Statistics* at CRIE.
June 2013 – Sept. 2013	Bocconi University · *Research assist.* for Prof. Marco Bonetti and Raffaella Piccarreta

IT SKILLS

Stata, R, Matlab (general), Matlab Parallel Computing Toolbox, Slurm, LaTeX: *fluent*;
Python, Visual Basic, Git: *working knowledge*.