Stefano Lombardi

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Nationality: Italian
Date and place of birth: 06/06/1985, Milano

References: Gerard J. van den Berg; co-author
Oskar Nordström Skans; PhD supervisor, co-author
Johan Vikström; PhD supervisor, co-author

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.

EDUCATION

2019 Uppsala University · PhD in Economics (*expected*)
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*)

AFFILIATIONS

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

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

- 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-seeekers 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.

- *Comparing Models for Sequence Data: Prediction and Dissimilarities*,
  with Raffaella Piccarreta and Marco Bonetti · [working paper]

  We consider the case where individuals are observed transitioning across different states over time, and we are interested in studying the resulting trajectories as a whole rather than the occurrence of specific events. This framework applies to a variety of settings in social and biomedical studies. Model-based approaches, such as multi-state models or Hidden Markov models, are being increasingly used to analyze trajectories, but the different assumptions underlying alternative models typically make the comparison of their predictive performance difficult. In this work we introduce a novel way to accomplish this task based on microsimulation-based predictions. We use simulated data and propose alternative criteria to evaluate a given model and/or to compare competing models with respect to their ability to generate trajectories similar to the observed ones.

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	31st EALE conference; Uppsala, Sweden
2019	IZA, Bonn; seminar presentation
2019	Stockholm University, Stockholm; seminar presentation
2019	University of Milan - Bicocca, Milan; seminar presentation
2019	Joint Research Center - European Commission, Ispra; seminar presentation
2019	IRVAPP, Trento; seminar presentation
2018	Uppsala University, Economics department research seminar; Uppsala, Sweden
2018	30th European Association Labour Economists conference (EALE); Lyon, France
2018	Uppsala Center for Labor Studies conference (UCLS); Sigtuna, Sweden
2018	71th European Meeting of the Econometric Society (ESEM); Cologne, Germany
2018	Society of Labor Economists, 23rd Conference (SOLE); Toronto, Canada
2017	13th IZA Conference: Labor Market Policy Evaluation; Bonn, Germany
2017	Annual Congress of the European Economic Association (EEA); Lisbon, Portugal
2017	Uppsala University, Economics department research seminar; Uppsala, Sweden
2017	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*.