Stefano Lombardi

updated: November 16, 2018

Uppsala University,
Department of Economics
Box 513, 75120 Uppsala, Sweden

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

Phone: (+46) 076-247 10 88
Email: stefano.lombardi@nek.uu.se
Website: http://stefano-lombardi.github.io

Placement director: Oskar Nordström Skans; (+46) 018-471 51 26

References: Gerard J. van den Berg
Oskar Nordström Skans
Johan Vikström

SUMMARY

My primary fields of interest are labor economics and applied econometrics.

I am also interested in how public policies affect firm behavior and performance, and in dynamic treatment evaluation and microsimulation techniques.

EDUCATION

2014–2019 Spring	Uppsala University · PhD in Economics
2016	*Harvard University · visiting PhD student*
2013	Bocconi University · M.Sc. in Economics
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

JOB MARKET PAPER

Threat Effects of Monitoring and UI 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. I find no significant responses for women. 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 find that they are similar in size for men and women. I further show that properly aggregated sanction-imposition effects explain very little of the overall reform effects for males, and that they are sufficiently small to be consistent with the small and insignificant reform effects found for women. The fact that most of the effects of the reforms arise through the threat component and not through the sanction-imposition effects implies that the total impact of monitoring and sanctions may be severely underestimated when focusing solely on the effects on those actually receiving sanctions.

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., Florio, M. (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.

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

RESEARCH PAPERS

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

The Timing-of-Events (ToE) model is a standard approach in dynamic treatment evaluation. This paper uses an Empirical Monte Carlo simulation design to study the estimation of ToE models. We exploit rich Swedish data on unemployed individuals with information on participation in a training program to simulate 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 also find that information criteria that penalize parameter abundance are a very useful way to select the number of support points.

· *Comparing Models for Sequence Data: Prediction and Dissimilarities*,
with Marco Bonetti and Raffaella Piccarreta · [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.

AFFILIATIONS

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

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS (INCLUDING SCHEDULED)

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

TEACHING

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

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

2016 Full scholarship for visiting Harvard University, awarded by Jan Wallander and Tom Hedelius foundation (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, LaTeX: *fluent*; Matlab: *good knowledge*; Python, Visual Basic, Git: *working knowledge*.