

# Stefano Lombardi

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

Phone: (+46) 076-247 10 88  
Email: [stefano.lombardi@nek.uu.se](mailto:stefano.lombardi@nek.uu.se)

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

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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

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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)

## AFFILIATIONS

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Oct. 2019–	<a href="#">VATT</a> , Institute for Economics Research (Helsinki) · post-doctoral researcher
2019–	<a href="#">IZA</a> , Institute of Labor Economics (Bonn) · research affiliate
2015–	<a href="#">UCLS</a> , Uppsala Center for Labor Studies (Uppsala)
2017–2019	<a href="#">IFAU</a> , Institute for Evaluation of Labor Market and Education Policy (Uppsala)

## PUBLICATIONS

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### 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

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- *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 and 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

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| 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)

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- 2019      VATT, Helsinki; seminar presentation  
IZA / UCPH Workshop; Copenhagen, Denmark  
15th IZA & 2nd IZA/CREST Conference on Labor Market Policy Evaluation  
31<sup>st</sup> 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  
30<sup>th</sup> European Association Labour Economists conference (EALE); Lyon, France  
Uppsala Center for Labor Studies conference (UCLS); Sigtuna, Sweden  
71<sup>th</sup> European Meeting of the Econometric Society (ESEM); Cologne, Germany  
Society of Labor Economists, 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference (SOLE); Toronto, Canada
- 2017      13<sup>th</sup> 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

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

## WORK AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- 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

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Stata, R, Matlab (general), Matlab Parallel Computing Toolbox, Slurm, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X: *fluent*;  
Python, Visual Basic, Git: *working knowledge*.