

# Stefano Lombardi

*updated: October 28, 2018*

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References: Gerard J. van den Berg; [gerard.vandenberg@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:gerard.vandenberg@bristol.ac.uk)  
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## SUMMARY

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My primary fields of interest are Labour economics, applied econometrics, and econometrics theory.

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

## EDUCATION

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2014–2019 **Uppsala University** · Uppsala, Sweden  
Spring *PhD in Economics*

2016 **Harvard University** · Cambridge, US  
*Visiting PhD student*

2013 **Bocconi University** · Milan, Italy  
*M.Sc. in Economics*

2011 **Bocconi University** · Milan, Italy  
*B.Sc. in Economics*

2008 **San Raffaele University** · Milan, Italy  
*B.Sc. in Psychology*

## JOB MARKET PAPER

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*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

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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 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 publications

- 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". Report EUR 27287, CRIE, European Commission, DG Joint Research Center & DG Employment.

## RESEARCH PAPERS

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

The Timing-of-Events (ToE) model is a standard approach in dynamic treatment evaluation. It provides a flexible competing risks setting where treatment and outcome hazard rates are jointly modelled while allowing them to depend through correlated unobserved heterogeneity. This paper adopts an Empirical Monte Carlo simulation approach to generate data used to estimate ToE models. We first use Swedish unemployment spells and a rich set of background characteristics to simulate placebo treatment durations. Then we omit some of these characteristics when fitting ToE models, hence generating unobserved heterogeneity correlated across treatment and unemployment durations and based on real data. We use this simulation design to examine several specification issues routinely encountered by researchers when estimating ToE models.

- *Comparing models for sequence data: prediction and dissimilarities*, with Marco Bonetti and Raffaella Piccarreta · [\[working paper\]](#)

In this project we consider the case where information is available on different states experienced over time by a set of subjects, and we are interested in studying the resulting trajectories as a whole rather than the occurrence of specific events. Such situation commonly occurs in 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 and to study their relationship with explanatory variables. 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. By using simulated data, we 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.

## OTHER AFFILIATIONS

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

## CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS (INCLUDING SCHEDULED)

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- 2018 Uppsala University, Economics department research seminar; Uppsala, Sweden
- 2018 30<sup>th</sup> European Association Labour Economists conference (EALE); Lyon, France
- 2018 Uppsala Center for Labor Studies conference (UCLS); Sigtuna, Sweden
- 2018 71<sup>th</sup> European Meeting of the Econometric Society (ESEM); Cologne, Germany
- 2018 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
- 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 EXPERIENCE

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

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

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- 2016 Full scholarship for visiting Harvard University, awarded by Jan Wallander and Tom Hedelius foundation (2016–2017).

## WORK AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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

## IT SKILLS

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Stata, R, Matlab, Python, Visual Basic, Git, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.