

TUULI TÄHTINEN

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European University Institute, Department of Economics

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political Economy, Public Economics, Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics

REFERENCES

Andrea Mattozzi

Professor of Economics

University of Bologna

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Thomas Crossley

Professor of Economics

European University Institute

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Enrico Cantoni

Professor of Economics

University of Bologna

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EDUCATION

European University Institute, Florence

2017–present

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics

Thesis: *Essays in Empirical Political Economy*

Advisors: Andrea Mattozzi, Thomas Crossley

Expected Completion Date: April 2023

Aalto University, Finland

2021, 2022

Visiting Doctoral Student

European University Institute, Florence

2017–2018

M.Res., Economics

University of Helsinki

2013–2016

M.Soc.Sc., Economics

University of Helsinki, Aleksanteri Institute

2013–2016

Expertise in Russian and Eastern European Studies

Kazan (Volga region) Federal University, Russia

2014

Student Exchange

University of Helsinki

2010–2013

B.Soc.Sc., Economics

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Pellervo Economic Research PTT. Helsinki, Finland.

2016–2017

Economist

Finnish Competition and Consumer Authority. Helsinki, Finland.

2015

Research Assistant

VATT Institute for Economic Research. Helsinki, Finland.

2014

Research Assistant

TEACHING

Teacher Training Certificate: Introduction to Teaching in Higher Education. 2021
European University Institute.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

2023: ETLA seminar (scheduled); MPSA Annual Conference (scheduled); Helsinki GSE (scheduled)
2022: Helsinki Development Economics PhD Workshop; Helsinki GSE Labor Economics PhD Seminar
2021: EALE Annual Conference; EEA-ESEM Congress; Annual Conference of the International Association for Applied Econometrics; 3rd International Conference on European Studies; Annual Congress of the Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics; 69th Congress of the French Economic Association; 55th Annual Conference of the Canadian Economics Association; XXIII Applied Economics Meeting; 3rd QMUL Economics and Finance Workshop for PhD & Post-doctoral Students; 10th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association; Scottish Economic Society Annual Conference; Annual Meeting of the European Public Choice Society; ETH Zürich; 14th RGS Doctoral Conference in Economics
2020: EUI Microeconometrics Working Group
2019: 41st Annual Meeting of the Finnish Economic Association

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Co-organizer: Development Economics PhD Workshop at UNU-WIDER
Referee: *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*

GRANTS

PhD Grant, Academy of Finland 2017–2021
PhD Completion Grant, European University Institute 2020

RESEARCH

Job Market Paper

“Populism and Ideological Convergence: Evidence from a Multiparty System”
(Revise & resubmit at the Journal of Public Economics)

Populist parties have gained significant power in European politics in the last decades, raising concerns over the potentially contagious effect of populism. I study how populist party representation in local councils affects other parties’ ideological positions. I use variation created by close elections to identify ideological shifts resulting from a change in party representation, holding voter preferences constant. I derive ideological positions from a voting advice application, and model candidates’ responses using item response theory to obtain measures of ideology that are comparable across election years. I show that higher populist representation causes mainstream parties to become more ideologically aligned with the populist party. The results demonstrate that increased populist representation can spread populist ideologies.

Working Papers

“When Facebook is the Internet: the Role of Social Media in Ethnic Conflict”

This paper investigates whether social media affects the intensity of ethnic conflict. To distinguish the potential effects of social media from those of the broader internet, I focus on the ongoing Myanmar conflict because in such context internet is mainly accessed via Facebook. To identify the causal effect of social media on conflict, I take advantage of a shock in Facebook availability and use local variation in

cell phone coverage as an exogenous determinant of social media use. Results indicate that on average social media availability reduced the occurrence of conflict. However, the analysis reveals important regional differences suggesting that inflammatory content on social media may escalate conflict in areas where ethnic tensions are particularly high.

Work in Progress

“Making the Cut: Close Elections and Local Welfare Policies”, with Nikolaj Broberg and Thomas Walsh

“Politician Ideology and Policy Outcomes”

“It Was Better Back in My Day: Heterogeneity in Support for Democracy”, with Nicole Stoelinga

Policy Papers (in Finnish)

“Profitability, competition, and development needs in the private rental housing market”, with Eeva Alho, Valtteri Härmälä, Antti Kekäläinen, Kirsi Noro and Lauri Vuori, Publications of the Government’s analysis, assessment and research activities 9/2018.

“Immigrants on the labour market – A study of the working lives of immigrants arriving in Finland in different years”, with Henna Busk, Signe Jauhiainen, Antti Kekäläinen and Satu Nivalainen, Finnish Centre for Pensions, Studies 6/2016.

“Patient freedom of choice, the Swedish model and Finland’s health and social services reform – from the point of view of functionality of the markets and economic effects”, with Ari Ahonen and Liisa Vuorio, Publications of the Finnish Competition and Consumer Authority 6/2015.

SKILLS

Software R, Stata, MATLAB, QGIS, L^AT_EX

Languages Finnish (native), English (fluent), Swedish (basic), Italian (basic), German (basic)

Last updated: January, 2023