

CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal information

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Education

- 2024 (expected) European University Institute, Florence Ph.D. in Economics
- 2018 Ecole Polytechnique & ENSAE, Paris M.A. in Economics
- 2016 University of Milan, Milan B.A. in Economics

Research agenda and scientific output

I am a PhD student at the Department of Economics of the EUI in Florence under the supervision of prof. Andrea Mattozzi and prof. David Levine. During the Spring Term of 2023, I visited the Department of Economics of Sciences Po in Paris under the supervision of prof. Roberto Galbiati. My research agenda deals with the analysis of the mutual relations of political and market actors, aiming to shed light on the origin of growth in capitalist societies. My principal areas of interest are political economy, development economics, and economic history. In specific, I have been working on the following projects.

Publication

- "The long-term effects of colonial state capacity: Evidence from Central India", *Journal of Development Economics*, 166 (2024) 103170

In Central India, the Narmada River separates two regions that have been ruled by different types of government only during the colonial period, and for reasons independent of their initial economic development. I implement a spatial RDD on village population in the Nineteenth Century as well as in 1901, and I run the same model on proxies of welfare in 2015. My results highlight that divergence has realised where the river overlapped with the colonial border, but not in a neighbouring area where the same Narmada River separates two shores with the same type of former colonial institution. I discuss the following transmission mechanism. The treated group was directly administered by the British with more modern state tools - such as the enforcement of property rights and a transparent taxation system - that made it easier to develop private investment. The most prominent example is the mixed-capital enterprise in charge of the construction of the first trans-continental railway. Infrastructure endowment seems to be crucial for the long-term transmission of the colonial institutional characteristics to the outcomes measured in 2015, which show better average welfare outcomes, as well as higher wealth inequality in the treated group. My work provides an explanation of how the improvement in the quality of the institutions of an embryonic state may sustain the growth of the local markets it deems relevant.

Working paper

Last update: March, 2024

- “Targeted spending: The effect of the electoral timing on the distribution of discretionary jobs within the Italian bureaucracy”, available on SSRN, id 4742942

Under certain circumstances, Italian public offices can appoint temporary employees bypassing the standard procedure that requires public competition. The 2020 pandemic shock led first to the deferral of seven scheduled regional elections, and then to the announcement of a new election date. These regions compose the treatment group and are heterogeneous with respect to the incidence and severity of the pandemic, by virtue of their geographical diversity. The remaining thirteen regions are assigned to the control group. With a newly published administrative panel, I estimate a DID model with time-varying ATTs and wild bootstrapping of the standard errors. Results are robust to a different estimation strategy (RDD) and model specification, showing a sharp negative effect of the deferral on the percentage of employees hired by the regions where they were born. However, this effect is only specific to the period immediately following the deferral, and it vanishes as soon as the new election date is announced. Therefore, it seems that an adaptation strategy to the new course of the political events has been in place in the public offices of the treated group, by divesting from local workforce when the election is postponed, and reinvesting in it when the new date is set. As only residents can vote in regional ballots, my findings suggest that - in the proximity of an election - incumbents may tailor discretionary public expenditures towards citizens who are ex-ante more likely to be pivotal.

Work experience

- *June 2023 - current* **Researcher at the *Free University of Bolzano***

I work with prof. Giacomo De Luca with the aim to identify the impact of political dynasties on public spending and public good provision in Indonesia. Our empirical project addresses the following questions. Are dynastic politicians in quest for personal enrichment and power accumulation through public policy? Or are they more expert in the field, hence capable of delivering a welfare-improving allocation of public goods? To this purpose, we dispose of a panel of economic, socio-demographic, and corruption outcomes at the second administrative level of the country.

- *Sept. 2021-May 2022* **Senior Teaching Assistant at *Johns Hopkins University - SAIS Europe, Bologna***

During the Fall Term, I assisted Prof. Cristino Arroyo in the master’s course “International Finance” (macroeconomics in open economies). My tasks included preparing weekly exercise classes, holding office hours, as well as grading periodical assignments. I have then been confirmed to assist prof. Guido Sandleris in the same course during the Spring Term.

- *May 2021, 2022 & 2023* **Researcher at *Fondazione Feltrinelli, Milan***

In the framework of an ERC project, I have been among the coders in charge of classifying the debate over Covid-related measures put in place by governments across Europe. My focus has been on French and Italian politics.

- *Sept. 2018 - Aug. 2019* **Consulting Associate Intern at *Charles River Associates, Brussels***

As part of the competition division, I have been mainly concerned with the analysis of data for the study of pro-competitive effects or harm to competition stemming from then undergoing mergers, including a phase-2 merger.

- *May-July 2018* *Research Assistant at **CREST, Paris***

The goal of this project has been to estimate the effect of new university openings on firm creation by exploiting a quasi-experimental setting across two regions in France, which has become the object of my master's thesis under the supervision of prof. Francis Kramarz.

- *Apr.-Aug. 2017* *Economic Research Intern at **Natixis, Frankfurt***

I have analysed economic policies on behalf of the clients and helped producing forecasts of the French and German economies in view of the elections of 2017. I realised a working paper on the analysis of convergence in core inflation and labour cost growth across the Eurozone, which was awarded the Prix de Stage de Recherche of Ecole Polytechnique.

- *Sept.-Dec. 2015* *Research Intern at **CSIL – Centre for Industrial Studies, Milan***

The project I was assigned to was part of a public-policy evaluation scheme requested by the European Commission. It assessed fifty regional development plans financed by the EU, highlighting the most consistent with the final aim of sustaining innovation in SMEs.

Competences

- *Spoken languages:* Italian (native), English (fluent), French (fluent), German (basic)
- *Certifications:* TOEFL 105/120 (C1 level), IELTS 7.5/9 (C1 level)
- *Software:* Stata, Microsoft Office, QGIS, R, SAS

Grants and Awards

- 2019* PhD Scholarship, Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur, Paris
- 2017* Prix de Stage de Recherche, Ecole Polytechnique, Paris
- 2015* Global Korean Scholarship, Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea, Seoul

Extracurricular activities and hobbies

At the EUI, I have been the students' representative at the Executive Committee in the year 2020. At Ecole Polytechnique, I have been a member of the students' choir. At Hankyong University, I was part of the International Student Organisation. During high-school, I attended drama and music clubs.

I practice skiing, cycling, running, and swimming. I am passionate about open-air activities such as hiking. I have a strong interest in philosophy and literature, especially theatre, and I am keen on discussing these topics. I like travelling to gain enriching human interactions and be in contact with different cultures. I sing in many choirs, including the Tuscany Youth Choir.

