

Marco Colleoni

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Personal information

I am an economist with experience in academic research and policy analysis. In the academic year 2025-26, I am on the job market. My main fields of expertise are political economy, development economics, and economic history. Following my curiosity and propensity for an unbounded exchange of ideas and for critical thinking, I have been building an international career, studying or working in five different countries.

Education

Ph.D. in Economics	European University Institute , Florence, Italy	Sept 2020 – Dec 2024
M.Res. in Economics	European University Institute , Florence, Italy	Sept 2019 – Sept 2020
M.A. in Economics	Ecole Polytechnique & ENSAE , Paris, France	Sept 2016 – July 2018
B.A. in Economics	University of Milan , Milan, Italy	Sept 2013 – June 2016

Research Activity

In my doctoral thesis, I analyse the role of public accountability in fostering the relations between state institutions and market actors. Using quasi-experimental approaches across multiple spatial and temporal settings, I observe how accountability and limits to power can pave the way to economic growth through the improved interaction of public and private sectors. In contrast, the deterioration of these institutions is associated with patronage or corruption.

Contribution

Besides the specificities of each paper, my research brings a unified contribution to the economic literature. Even if checks and balances as well as transparent practices in public administration may be viewed more as values of political or legal philosophy than on the grounds of economic relevance, they are shown to have direct implications on economic outcomes. In fact, they make the public sector more predictable and credible in the eyes of private actors, thereby facilitating the cooperation of the two. In addition, they slim the chances for discretion and its distortionary effects.

Publications and Working Papers

Colleoni M. “Jobs for votes? Quasi-experimental evidence from short-term public contracts in Italy” [🔗](#), *SSRN working paper* Jan 2025

I study the possibility of patronage associated to discretionary hiring. To this purpose, I exploit the exogenous change of the electoral timing in a quasi-random group of Italian regions that were scheduled to vote during the spring of 2020. Focusing on the job contracts awarded without public competition, I find that the probability that new public employees come from the same region as the hiring office falls right after the elections are postponed, but surges by a similar magnitude as soon as the updated election date is announced.

Colleoni M. “The Long-term Welfare Effects of Colonial Institutions: Evidence from Central India” [🔗](#), *Journal of Development Economics*, 166 (2024) 103170 Oct 2023

I compare the two colonial regimes defined by the British in Central India. In the long run, institutional settings that enforced standardised practices in the public administration have produced a higher average economic development than those of protectorates where the rulers' discretionary power faced smaller limits. In fact, the former government type improved the coordination with the private sector, which made infrastructural investments possible. However, this higher growth has also resulted in more inequality.

Other projects

"Queens of Central India: Has a history of female rulers helped the current empowerment of women?", 2025

"Political dynasties, development, and corruption: A study on the island of Java" with G. De Luca and J. Rezki, 2024

Conferences and Refereeing Activity

The papers mentioned above have been presented in conferences and seminars across different departments and research units, including: Sciences Po Paris (April 2023), University of Milan (May 2023), Queen Mary University of London (May 2023), Free University of Bolzano (March 2024), ETH Zurich (June 2024), University of Bologna (April 2025). I have been contributing to the academic profession by refereeing papers in peer-reviewed journals, including the European Economic Review and the Journal of the European Economic Association.

Work experience

University of Bologna, Research Fellow

Bologna, Italy
July 2024 – Sept 2025

Among other activities, I have defined a research project concerning an Indian state ruled by four consecutive queens at the time of British colonisation. This is a unique characteristic, which came with the promotion of proto-feminist ideas by those queens. Thus, I enquire whether there is an institutional origin of female empowerment. I proxy the latter by some measures of within-couple bargaining power surveyed at current times. Applying a spatial RDD along the border with other native states that were traditionally ruled by men, it seems that – among others – women from the treated group have a higher age at first union, and a better match between the actual and desired number of children.

School of Transnational Governance, EUI, Research Assitant (part-time)

Florence, Italy
Sept 2024 – Jan 2025

I have produced a descriptive analysis of the relation of trust in political and non-political actors, as well as their associated socio-economic factors, across the EU at the regional level. I have also used cluster analysis to define five groups of regions with similar characteristics of trust in institutions.

University of Bolzano, Research Fellow

Bolzano, Italy
June 2023 – May 2024

I have analysed the effects of the emergence of political dynasties on public spending and public good provision in a developing country. The issue has been addressed with unique district-level data from Indonesia, and with particular interest to the following trade-off. 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 more efficient administration? Although the first component does not seem dominant in the short term, the deterioration of public policy outcomes becomes clearer as more time elapses from the election of a dynastic ruler.

SAIS Europe, Johns Hopkins University, Senior Teaching Assistant

Bologna, Italy
Sept 2021 – June 2022

I have been a teaching assistant in the master's course of International Finance, which dealt with macroeconomics in open economies. My tasks included holding weekly exercise classes and office hours, as well as grading biweekly assignments.

Charles River Associates, Consulting Associate Intern

Brussels, Belgium
Sept 2018 – Aug 2019

As part of the competition practice, I have been involved in the analysis of data for the study of the pro- or anti-competitive effects stemming from then undergoing mergers, including one in Phase Two. I have also worked on a case of cartel sanctions.

Crest, Research Assistant

Paris, France
May 2018 – July 2018

In my very first research idea, I estimated the effect of new university openings on

local firm creation by exploiting a quasi-experimental setting across two regions of France, which has become the object of my master's thesis.

Natixis, Research Intern in Economics

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 also realised a working paper on the convergence in core inflation and labour cost growth across the Eurozone, which was awarded the Prix de Stage de Recherche of Ecole Polytechnique.

Frankfurt, Germany
May 2017 – Aug 2017

Csil, Research Intern

I worked on a public-policy evaluation scheme assessing fifty regional development plans financed by the EU, and highlighting the most consistent with the final aim of sustaining innovation in SMEs.

Milan, Italy
Sept 2015 – Dec 2015

Other competencies

Spoken languages: Italian (native), English (C1), French (B2), German (B1)

Certifications: TOEFL (105), IELTS (7.5)

Software and programming: Good knowledge of Stata and Microsoft Office. Basic knowledge of Python, QGIS, R, and SAS.

Grants and Awards

PhD Scholarship, EUI, Florence

Sept 2019

Prix de Stage de Recherche, Ecole Polytechnique, Paris

Sept 2017

Global Korean Scholarship, Ministry of Education, Seoul

Feb 2015

Visiting Periods and Academic Exchanges

Sciences Po, Paris, France

Feb 2023 - June 2023

Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, South Korea

Feb 2015 - June 2015

Hobbies

I regularly practice cycling and running. I am passionate about open-air activities such as hiking and skiing. I am fond of travelling as a way to gain enriching human interactions and be in contact with different cultures. I have a strong interest in political and legal philosophy as well as literature, and I appreciate critical discussions around these topics. I like music, and I have been a member of the university choir at almost each institution I attended during my academic career. At the EUI, I have also been the students' representative at the Executive Committee in 2020.

References

Andrea Mattozzi, Univeristy of Bologna

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Giacomo De Luca, University of Bolzano

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