

## 2023/2024 Presentations

**Date:** 03/10/2023

**Presenter:** Stav Federman (EUI)

**Title:** The Military as a Mentor: the Effect of Conscription on Women's Labor Force Participation and Education

**Date:** 10/10/2023

**Presenter:** Christina Hauser (EUI)

**Title:** Tackling Gender Discriminatory Inheritance Law Privately? Lessons from a Survey Experiment in Tunisia

**Date:** 24/10/2023

**Presenter:** Melike Kokkizil (Max Weber Fellow)

**Title:** Parental Religiosity and Gender Equality

**Date:** 31/10/2023

**Presenter:** Rohit Ticku (Robert Schuman Center)

**Title:** Votes for Sale

**Date:** 07/11/2023

**Presenter:** Biljana Meiske (Max Weber Fellow)

**Title:** Queen Bee Immigrant: The effects of status perceptions on immigration attitudes

**Date:** 14/11/2023

**Presenter:** Daniela Iorio (Florence School of Transnational Governance)

**Title:** The Unequal Battle against Infertility: Theory and Evidence from IVF Success

**Date:** 21/11/2023

**Presenter:** Noa de la Vega (Max Weber Fellow)

**Title:** Free public preschool and the next birth

**Date:** 05/12/2023

**Presenter:** Ellen Greaves (Max Weber Fellow)

**Title:** Symmetric school choice patterns by income: evidence from nationwide school quality information

**Date:** 12/12/2023

**Presenter:** Edoardo Frattola (EUI)

**Title:** Do Female Leaders Choose Women? Evidence from Visible and Hidden Appointments

**Date:** 09/01/2024

**Presenter:** Letizia Ravagli Silvia Duranti and Marco Mariani (IRPET)

**Title:** Presentation of the datasets that IRPET can share with us to launch joint projects

**Date:** 23/01/2024

**Presenter:** Adriano Amati (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia)

**Title:** One Person, One Vote: the Effect of Direct Elections on Political Disclosure

**Date:** 30/01/2024

**Presenter:** Damiano Argan (EUI)

**Title:** Teach the Nerds to Make a Pitch: Multidimensional Skills and Selection into Entrepreneurship

**Date:** 06/02/2024

**Presenter:** Elena Dal Torrione (University of Rome Tor Vergata)

**Title:** Regression Discontinuity Designs Under Interference

**Date:** 13/02/2024

**Presenter:** Luca Tiberti

**Title:** Coping with Drought in Village Economies: The Role of Polygyny

**Date:** 05/03/2024

**Presenter:** Mathilde Lesueur (Paris School of Economics (PSE))

**Title:** The impact of weather shocks on the efficiency of child marriage bans in Sub-Saharan Africa

**Date:** 12/03/2024

**Presenter:** Ellen Greaves (Max Weber Fellow)

**Title:** How do schools shape neighbourhoods? Endogenous residential location in response to local school quality

**Date:** 02/04/2024

**Presenter:** Felix Schaff (EUI)

**Title:** Inheritance and Inequality in a Pre-Modern Economy

**Date:** 09/04/2024

**Presenter:** Marion Breton (EUI)

**Title:** Feeling the Heat, but Keeping it Cool

**Date:** 16/04/2024

**Presenter:** Raffael Kind (EUI)

**Title:** The Class Pay Gap

**Date:** 23/04/2024

**Presenter:** Thomas Taylor de Timberley (EUI)

**Title:** Far-Right Ownership in the Printed Press and Public Policy

**Date:** 30/04/2024

**Presenter:** Fredrik Savje

**Title:** Informal session

**Date:** 07/05/2024

**Presenter:** Timo Kapelari (EUI)

**Title:** When a New Door Appears: Evidence From a School Fee Reform in Ghana

**Date:** 14/05/2024

**Presenter:** Aleksei Kiselev (EUI)

**Title:** Corruption, Reputation, and Sovereign Spreads

**Date:** 21/05/2024

**Presenter:** Kathrine Lorentzen (University of Copenhagen)

**Title:** Family-friendly Jobs and Occupational Sorting across Gender: Evidence from Introduction of a Maximum 40-hour Workweek

**Date:** 28/05/2024

**Presenter:** Marina Sanchez del Villar (EUI)

**Title:** Bank Offices and Portfolio Choices

**Date:** 04/06/2024

**Presenter:** Olatz Roman Blanco (EUI)

**Title:** The Geography of Jobs and Couple Migration

**Date:** 11/06/2024

**Presenter:** Ellen Greaves (Max Weber Fellow)

**Title:** Re-examining the property price premia around "good" schools

**Date:** 18/06/2024

**Presenter:** Javier Viviens (EUI)

**Title:** How (not) to incentivize university students' performance

## 2022/2023 Presentations

**Date:** 04/10/2022

**Presenter:** Thomas Crossley (EUI)

**Title:** Ethics, Data Protection and Transparency

**Date:** 11/10/2022

**Presenter:** Karina Colombo (EUI)

**Title:** Reproducible Coding

**Date:** 18/10/2022

**Presenter:** Angela Crema (NYU)

**Title:** TBA

**Abstract :**

I study the effect of charter openings on racial segregation across classrooms at traditional public schools. Exploiting almost 100 charter entries in North Carolina from 1997 to 2015, I compare segregation across classrooms in nearby public schools to those further away. I find that the announcement of a charter opening increases classroom segregation by 7%. Charter entry also raises ability tracking and the fraction of white students classified as gifted. Overall, test score inequality increases upon charter entry, driven by a reduction in the performance of low-achieving students.

**Date:** 25/10/2022

**Presenter:** Armando Martins (Institute of Economics/UFRJ)

**Title:** Collective memory and means of claims in democracies: Evidence from Chile (2019-2021)

**Abstract :**

There is a longstanding discussion among democracy theorists on the importance of voting and protests for the people to be heard. This article argues that protests are a primary driver of political engagement in nations with a memory of political violence. We test this hypothesis using the Chilean protests from October 2019 to March 2020 triggered by police violence ( Estallido Social ) and the Constituent Plebiscite conducted in October 2020 in response to the protests. Institutional violence plagues the history of Chile, in particular in the authoritarian era of the Pinochet regime. Qualitative evidence indicates a strong reaction from civil society against this trauma. From a quantitative perspective, we confirm the qualitative findings using 289 municipalities. These results are robust to the use of instrumental variables. We find that political victimization in the Pinochet era leads to increased engagement in the Estallido Social . However,

these localities also participated less in the plebiscite and the voting on constituent members and made no more significant effort to favor any party coalition. We conclude that political violence crafts participation mechanisms outside the voting booth but may foster weaker links between voters and political elites

**Date:** 08/11/2022

**Presenter:** Felix Schaff (EUI)

**Title:** The Unequal Spirit of the Protestant Reformation: Particularism and Wealth Distribution in Early Modern Germany

**Abstract :**

This paper studies the impact of the Protestant Reformation on wealth distribution and inequality in confessionally divided Germany, between 1400 and 1800. The Reformation expanded social welfare, but provided it in a particularistic way to insiders only. This gave Protestantism an ambiguous character in terms of redistribution and its impact on inequality. I develop a theoretical framework of this trade-off, and test its implications empirically, using a Difference-in-Differences and an Instrumental Variable strategy. In line with the theoretical framework, I document that the Reformation exacerbated inequality overall, by making marginal poor people relatively poorer. The result is driven by the introduction of new particularistic poor relief policies in Protestant communities. The inegalitarian character of Protestantism, typically found in contemporary societies, can be traced back to the beginning of the Reformation in the sixteenth century.

**Date:** 15/11/2022

**Presenter:** Rohit Ticku (EUI)

**Title:** Government Demand and Firm Growth

**Abstract :**

Using detailed administrative data, this paper analyzes the role of government demand on firm performance in Uganda. Firms that sell to the government experience increases in total sales and sales per employee. Overall sales growth associated with selling to government entities is partly at the expense of a reallocation of firm-level supply away from non-government buyers, suggesting there may be short-term capacity expansion constraints.

The results are substantiated in an event study approach that accounts for the potential self-selection of firms into government procurement, as well as the heterogeneity in the timing of selection into public procurement. The reduction in sales to the private sector is persistent. It is less acute for firms in services, and within services, among firms that use low-skill labor, suggesting capacity constraints may not be only short-term

**Date:** 22/11/2022

**Presenter:** Yannick Reichlin (EUI)

**Title:** Grants vs. Loans: the Role of Financial Aid in College Major Choice

**Abstract :**

Using administrative data from Chile, we analyze whether financing higher education through student loans or grants affects the joint decision of enrollment and field choice of prospective students. We exploit institutional arrangements that allocate either type of financing based on a standardized test to locally identify exogenous variation in access. Students that are marginally eligible for grants are more likely to enroll in higher education and do so predominantly in STEM related fields. Combining a regression-discontinuity design with a discrete choice model, we provide evidence that this effect is driven by grants acting as insurance mechanism against uncertainty about degree completion.

**Date:** 29/11/2022

**Presenter:** Ellen Greaves (EUI)

**Title:** TBA

**Abstract :**

**Date:** 06/12/2022

**Presenter:** Alaitz Ayarza (EUI)

**Title:** TBA

**Date:** 13/12/2022

**Presenter:** Marco Colleoni (EUI)

**Title:** The long-term effect of colonial state capacity: Evidence from India

**Abstract :**

In Central India, the river Narmada separates two regions that have experimented a different type of government only during the colonial period, for reasons orthogonal to their economic development. I implement a spatial RDD on the population in the early Nineteenth Century, as well as on proxies of consumption and wealth in 2015. The findings show that enhancing state capacity has a long-term effect, and I discuss the following transmission mechanism. The southern region, which had become part of a state with more modern fiscal capacity, benefitted from the first trans-continental railway, as it led to openness to trade with the rest of the world. Although the colonial administration directed public investment to meet British (not local) economic goals, my work provides an explanation as to how the growth in efficacy and structure of an embryonal state can sustain that of the markets it deems relevant.

**Date:** 10/01/2022

**Presenter:** Marco Tonello (Bank of Italy)

**Title:** The Great Depression: Students' aspirations during the Great Recession

**Abstract :**

This paper analyses whether macroeconomic conditions affect students' aspirations. To this purpose, we combine individual-level self-reported aspirations about the intentions to complete high school of all 10th grade students in Italy, with measures of regional labor market conditions. Identification is achieved by comparing adjacent cohorts of students, within the same school, exposed to different local business cycle conditions at the time when the educational aspirations are stated. We find that an increase of one percentage point in the unemployment rate determines a 0.3 p.p. decrease in the aspiration to complete the high school Diploma. The effect is both channeled through the family's economic vulnerability and by the students' psychological vulnerability, increased in times of recession.

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## 2021/2022 Presentations

**Date:** October 5

**Presenter:** Thomas Crossley

**Title:** Ethics, Data Protection and Transparency

**Date:** October 12

**Presenter:** Rohit Ticku (Robert Schuman Center for Advanced Studies)

**Title:** Legalized Same-Sex Marriage and Coming Out in America: Evidence from Catholic Seminaries

**Abstract:** "We study the effect of legalization of same-sex marriage on coming out in the United States. We overcome data limitations by inferring coming out decisions through a revealed preference approach. We exploit data on enrollment in seminary studies for the Catholic priesthood, hypothesizing that Catholic priests' vow of celibacy may lead gay men to self-select as a way to avoid a heterosexual lifestyle. Using a differences-in-differences design that exploits variation in the timing of legalization across states, we find that city-level enrollment in priestly studies fell by about 15% exclusively in states adopting the reform. The celibacy norm appears to be driving our results, since we find no effect on enrollment in deacon or lay ministry studies that do not require celibacy. We also find that coming out decisions, as inferred through enrollment in priestly studies, are primarily affected by the presence of gay communities and by prevailing social attitudes toward gays. We explain our findings with a stylized model of lifestyle choice."

**Date:** October 19

**Presenter:** Zheng Wang (EUI)

**Title:** Causal Identification and Estimation of Network Peer Effects

**Abstract:** "Endogeneity of network formation is a major obstacle for the causal identification of peer effect in non-experimental studies. In this paper I first propose a causal framework to analyze contextual peer effect where novel peer effects are defined in terms of causal estimands instead of the usual linear-in-means regression coefficients. Then I develop a new propensity score based identification strategy for endogenously formed networks. The causal peer effect estimators proposed in this paper are

straightforward to implement with existing statistical packages, but do not suffer from the usual criticisms that propensity score methods face due to the nature of network data. Finally, with AddHealth data, I apply the methodology to study the causal effect of having second generation high school friends, those who have at least one parent with college education, on one's own probability of going on to pursue a college degree. Preliminary analysis shows that having more second generation friends is beneficial to first generation students, even after controlling for friends' ability."

**Date:** October 26

**Presenter:** Damiano Argan (EUI)

**Title:** How Italian TV shaped Albanian economy - Lessons from an unintended edutainment policy

**Abstract:** "How does foreign media exposure foster emigration, transform social norms and impact education? We consider a unique natural experiment occurring in Albania during the communist dictatorship. From the 40s to the 90s, the country was isolated from the rest of the world. In 1957, transmission of Italian state television started to unintentionally reach some parts of Albania. Just by turning the switch on their television some Albanians could watch Italian TV. We find that this exposure contributed to the massive Albanian emigration of the 90s, affected gender norms and increased human capital."

**Date:** November 02

**Presenter:** Alaitz Ayarza (EUI)

**Title:** Migration path choices: the role of risk attitudes and beliefs about pecuniary and non-pecuniary outcomes

**Abstract:** n/a

**Date:** November 16

**Presenter:** Flavia Cavallini (EUI)

**Title:** Not the right time for children: unemployment, fertility, and abortion

**Abstract:** I analyze the effect of local unemployment rates on fertility rates, abortion rates, and the abortions to pregnancies ratio, combining population statistics and administrative data on induced abortions performed in Italy between 2004 and 2016.

This is the first paper to causally investigate the effect of local economic conditions on abortion choice.

Using a shift-share instrument measuring labor demand, I exploit demand-driven shocks to unemployment.

A one standard deviation (sd) increase in unemployment induces a 0.9 sd decrease in the fertility rate, a 0.27 sd increase in the abortion rate, and a 0.35 sd increase in the abortion ratio. In percentage terms, these changes mean that a 1 percentage point increase in the unemployment rate brings about a 1.7% decrease in the general fertility rate, a 1.4% increase in the abortion rate, and a 1.8% increase in the abortion ratio.

These effects are driven by women above 25 years old, and are particularly large in the 35-49 age group, while young women (15-24) are largely unaffected.

**Date:** November 23

**Presenter:** Dalila Figueiredo (EUI)

**Title:** Conditional Cash Transfers and Child Marriage

**Abstract:** In this paper I study the effect of a conditional cash transfer program in Latin America on the probability of marriage for children under 18 years old. I estimate the average treatment effects of the program on marriage using a doubly robust estimator that accounts for the staggered implementation of the program. I find that the monetary transfer conditional on school attendance increased the probability of beneficiaries being married before turning 18 years old. I also show that these effects are largely driven by girls and I cannot reject a null effect for boys. These findings are, in principle, unexpected due to the previously documented positive effects the program had in education, which is usually associated with decreases in child marriage. I provide a rationale that reconciles the increase in school and marriage. In particular, under certain conditions, I show that an increase in the program generosity leads to increases in both marriage and schooling.

This result stems from the income effect associated to the benefit. Whenever the financial gains from marriage are not too large, an increase in the program will be used to fund it.

**Date:** November 30

**Presenter:** Annika Bacher (EUI)

**Title:** Housing and Savings Behavior Across Family Types

**Abstract:** Does marital status affect households' investment choices? Is accounting for distinct family types necessary for the correct evaluation of policies that aim at stimulating housing demand? To answer these questions, I develop a life-cycle model of housing and financial portfolio choice with dynamic and heterogeneous family types. I find that divorce risk encourages precautionary savings of couples in the form of liquid assets and reduces their demand for illiquid housing. Expected marriage, low income levels and larger exposure to income fluctuations prevent singles from becoming homeowners. Abstracting from distinct family types amplifies the attractiveness of housing and, as a result, overstates the effectiveness of housing policies such as lowering property taxes and reducing transaction costs by a factor greater than two. This mis-specification is largest for young households who are most likely to be single and whose marital transition risk is highest. In contrast, regulations that facilitate stock market participation help to foster wealth accumulation, because they encourage investment in high return assets that are cheaper to liquidate in the event of a (marital or labor income) shock.

**Date:** December 7

**Presenter:** Zoey Verdun (EUI)

**Title:** Permanently Changing Habits? A Case Study of Plant-based Diets

**Abstract:** Many individuals try to change their habits, but often have difficulties sticking to them despite their want to change. This is true for diet as well, where the literature finds that diet changes are rare. This paper uses the case study of a plant-based diet to investigate (i) which individuals start a change and (ii) which manage to sustain it. A plant-based diet consists mainly of fruits, vegetables, grains, legumes, and nuts and contains limited or no animal products. The plant-based diet is of great interest as it has become a growing movement over the past several years and has three different reasons for adoption: health, environment, and animal welfare.

**Date:** December 14

**Presenter:** Damiano Argan & Anatole Cheysson (EUI)

**Title:** The Effect of Foreign Media on International Migration: the Case of Italian TV in Albania

**Abstract:** We rely on a unique natural experiment to study the effects of foreign media exposure on international migration flows. Under the authoritarian rule of Enver Hoxha, Albania was an insulated country with no access to the world beyond its borders. Yet, around 10% of its urban territory received the television signal of a neighboring antenna located in Italy. We show that this access to Italian TV contributed to the unprecedented emigration flows of the 90s. Municipalities exposed to the signal presented higher international emigration rates than their counterparts. Furthermore, migrants from exposed municipalities had a higher probability to choose Italy as a destination. Using satellite data, we study the impact of this emigration on city area growth. We estimate a considerable effect of Italian TV signal: exposed city grew on average one third less per year than their counterparts on the 1986-2002 period. Additionally, we show that exposure to the signal increased Italian language proficiency, revealing a mechanism through which Italian television affected emigration.

**Date:** December 21

**Presenter:** Yannick Reichlin & Adriano De Falco (EUI)

**Title:** Student Loans, Grants, and the Impact of Prices on the Field of Study

**Abstract:**

**Date:** January 18

**Presenter:** Cristina Lafuente Martinez (UC3M, EUI) & Astrid Ruland (EUI)

**Title:** Measuring labour market participation in Europe during COVID: the role of Short-Time Work schemes

**Abstract:** In this project we investigate the impact that Short-Time Work schemes (STWs) have had on employment and labour force participation during the COVID emergency of 2020. Most European countries expanded or created new STW schemes at this time to alleviate the negative impact of sanitary measures (most notably lockdowns) from March 2020 onwards. They did so by covering labour costs for the firm while economic activity is stopped or severely reduced - that is, while workers are working zero or very reduced hours. Looking at labour market stocks and flows, we document that these schemes were widely adopted in both France and Spain and likely prevented substantial job losses. However, the fast expansion of these policies and the uncertainty at the start of the pandemic lead to measurement problems: are workers on STWs employed even if they are working zero hours? For France the answer is yes, for Spain it depends. We find that in Spain movements between non-participation and employment are greatly exaggerated if we do not take the classification problem into account. We do not find this to be the case for France. In both countries, transitions from employment to non-participation reach unprecedented levels, but rather than this being a symptom of a "Great Resignation", workers simply postponed job search during the lockdown, as reflected by large flows between non-participation and unemployment.

**Date:** January 25

**Presenter:** Miguel Alquezar (EUI)

**Title:** When Jesus is black: How does religion influence sociopolitical attitudes?

**Abstract:** This paper explores how foreign religious leaders affect native sociopolitical attitudes. I use a novel hand-collected database including the universe of Catholic priests' appointed in rural Spain between 2000 and 2019, and leverage on the quasi-natural experiment by which foreign priests are allocated to Spanish parishes. I find foreign priests are able to mobilize their parishioners towards more conservative and religious positions. Moreover, having a foreign priest fosters a change in people's local spending preferences, giving priority to community building expenditures. However, foreign priests also reduce people's desire for a status-quo change, measured as preserving francoist street names.

**Date:** February 1

**Presenter:** Josep Amer (EUI)

**Title:** Gender Differences in Early Occupational Choices: Evidence from Medical Specialty Selection

**Abstract:** Empirical evidence shows that men and women hold different types of occupations. It is however difficult to disentangle the channels via which these differences come about because observed equilibrium outcomes arise from preferences of agents on both sides of the market, and from search and matching frictions. This paper relies on a unique labour market setting allowing to isolate the supply side factors driving gender-based occupational segregation. We find that female and male medical students facing the same pool of available positions make drastically different occupational decisions. Women prefer occupations characterised by lower expected earnings and time requirements, less competition, and a higher social contribution. Using individual data containing revealed and stated preferences for medical residency positions, we find evidence suggesting that when constrained in their choices, women have a stronger preference for the location dimension of the job than their male counterparts.

**Date:** February 8

**Presenter:** Peter Fallesen (ROCKWOOL Foundation, Stockholm University, EUI)

**Title:** The Demographic and Socioeconomic Consequences of Restricting access to Marriage for Young Migrants in Denmark

**Abstract:** In this paper, we study how delaying and foregoing marriage among a population group generally prone to marrying young affects subsequent fertility behavior and labor market attachment. In July 2002, a series of reforms limited the marriage opportunities for all Danish citizens, who wished (or whose parents wished for them) to marry a person from outside the European Union. A declared aim of the reforms was to reduce arranged marriages between a migrant living in Denmark and a spouse from the country of origin. We find that marriage and fertility rates decreased in the wake of the reforms, and that decline in fertility was driven by decline in marriage. Further, we find a narrowing of the gender gap in employment also driven by an increase in the shares of both males and females who were unmarried. Pro-marriage policies may increase gender divide in employment among those who marry young.



**Date:** February 15

**Presenter:** Damiano Argan (EUI)

**Title:** Is There a Devaluation of Degrees ? Unobserved heterogeneity in Returns to Education and Early Experience, Across Several Student Cohorts in France, 1998-2017

**Abstract:** In France, the share of graduates from Master programmes doubled between 1998 and 2010. This is a common trend among EU countries. In Europe, the share of individuals with tertiary education in the 25-54 age group (36%) is almost twice the one in the 54-75 group (22%). This poses a problem for the comparison of returns to education over time as the mix of graduates in different cohorts has changed substantially. In this paper, we model unobserved heterogeneity with the help of a finite-mixture model where latent types affect education choices, rates of employment and wages. We compute the average treatment effect of education for each cohort and evaluate the extent to which the selection across educational ladders has changed over time. We find that, during the last twenty years, the average treatment effect of education decreased for the Master 2 graduates in France. This change seems to be due to the increased supply of graduates and not to a smaller quality of graduates. On the contrary, it seems that selection has increased over time. In addition, we show that returns to education and early experience are strongly heterogeneous and that the observed drop in the average real salary of graduates masks a mixture of winners and losers.

**Date:** March 1

**Presenter:** Alicia Adser (Princeton, EUI)

**Title:** Political and economic trade-offs in the selection of collective institutions: Choosing among second-best societies

**Abstract:** Two separate literatures measure individual preferences over, first, democracy (relative to other institutional set-ups) and, second, economic status. We combine both research agendas to explore how individuals value (i.e. we benchmark the attributes' importance with respect to the individual income) both the particular traits that define a society and their economic status in it. To measure these individual preferences, we implement an experimental conjoint survey design in Brazil, France and the United States (still ongoing) in which individuals are asked to choose (and rank) between pairs of hypothetical societies. Preliminary results show that respondents value enjoying democratic institutions and public health insurance very strongly while individual preferences for a richer and more equal society are much milder. Individual's concerns about their relative position is higher in France than in Brasil. Accounting for relative rank reduces the preference for individual income and increases the preference for country income in both countries.

**Date:** March 8

**Presenter:** Shushan Margaryan (University of Postdam)

**Title:** What a difference a day makes: School starting age effects on mortality

**Abstract:** A higher relative age at school entry can have lasting consequences for individual life courses. We use school entry cut-off rules in Germany to study effects of school entry age on mortality. Based on the 1970 Census and the full Cause-of-Death Statistics for Germany, we exploit information on the exact date of birth within a regression discontinuity framework. Individuals born just after the school entry cut-off are older when they enter school, and they are three percentage points more likely to earn a higher secondary school leaving certificate. In later life, individuals born after the cut-off are significantly less likely to die before age 73. The reduced mortality risk is mainly driven by fewer deaths associated with unhealthy behaviours over the life course.

**Date:** March 15

**Presenter:** Eva Tène (EUI)

**Title:** On the Historical Roots of Gender Norms: Evidence from Matrilineal Societies in Sub-Saharan Africa

**Abstract:** This paper explores the geoclimatic origins and the long-term impact of matrilineal kinship systems, where inheritance is along the maternal line, in Sub-Saharan Africa. The analysis tests anthropo- logical theories explaining the emergence of matrilineal societies by the prevalence of extensive hoe agriculture, where women tend to perform most agricultural work, and the absence of large domestic animals, more beneficial to men. Exploiting ethnic group variations in geoclimatic conditions, I first document that land suitability for extensive agriculture without animal husbandry explains almost 10% of the variation in kinship systems in Sub-Saharan Africa. Using country and within-country variations across 500,000 women in 25 countries, I then bring evidence that this gender-specific social institution persists over time and impact women's socioeconomic status today. I find that matrilineal-origin women are more empowered within the traditional sphere: they contribute the most to household expenses, hold immovable assets such as land, and spend less time on domestic work. However, they have a lower status within the modern sphere: they are less educated and less likely to have a white-collar occupation.

**Date:** March 29

**Presenter:** Karina Colombo (EUI)

**Title:** Exposure to High-Speed Internet and Early Childhood Development

**Abstract:** In recent years, exposure to devices connected to high-speed internet has increased significantly, with children becoming more engaged with digital screens, particularly in early childhood. We exploit the geographic differences in the introduction of fiber-optic-to-the-home (FTTH) in Uruguay to study the effects of high-speed internet exposure on early childhood development. We identify intention-to-treat effects on cognitive and non-cognitive outcomes using screening tests for developmental delays. Our results show that an increase in 10 percentage points in the probability of fiber optic decreases development scores between 9% and 16% of a standard deviation in the areas of communication, problem solving and social skills. Effect sizes are larger for children from higher income households. Our analysis of mechanisms suggest that effects are mostly driven by a worsening in parental practices.

**Date:** April 5

**Presenter:** Marco Colleoni (EUI)

**Title:** Targeted spending: short-term contracts in the public sector as an electoral strategy in Italy

**Abstract:** The discretionary appointment of short-term consultants to the bureaucracy does not require public examinations, but the simple decision of the office publishing a vacancy. Thanks to a recent transparency law, I build the dataset of all such appointments in the Italian regions, between 2018 and 2021. Targeting contracts towards core constituencies emerges as a widespread electoral strategy. First, I show that consultants from more competitive municipalities in the region of Alto Adige are hired more frequently before the election by offices under control of the incumbent party. Second, I exploit the exogenous lockdown shock of March 2020 to show that the share of people born in the same region that publishes a vacancy strongly drops when it becomes clear that regional elections are going to be postponed. Policy instruments to prevent a distorted use of public money are thus in need.

**Date:** April 19

**Presenter:** Miguel Alquezar (EUI)

**Title:** The (Long) Shadow of National Catholicism

**Abstract:** How do religious leaders' ideology affect individuals' political views? To answer this question, we consider a unique natural experiment occurring in Spain during the Francoist dictatorship. From 1941 onwards, the dictator was entitled the right to directly appoint Catholic bishops, Patronato Regio. We leverage on such appointment scheme to draw conclusions on how these Francoist bishops influence people once in democracy. We find that exposure to a Francoist bishop led to a higher vote share for Alianza Popular, the main Francoist-leaning party. This effect dies out once the party abandons such position.

**Date:** April 26

**Presenter:** Alaytz Ayarza (EUI)

**Title:** Understanding the self-selection plans into internal and international migration using subjective expectations data

**Abstract:** This paper studies self-selection plans into internal, international and non-migration of young, highly educated individuals born in the same under-developed region of a developed economy. I focus on the region of Andalusia, in Spain. The setting is interesting because Andalusia is the region with highest unemployment rate in Spain, and Spain is the country with one of the highest unemployment rates among OECD countries. To understand their decisions, I collect novel survey data on individual characteristics and expectations about life and labor market outcomes at source and chosen destination regions. Results indicate that perceiving gains in labor market outcomes significantly predicts the expected plan of being an international migrant, but does not explain the expected choice of being an internal migrant. Instead, perceiving lower penalties in social life enjoyment and in having a network that will help them find a job significantly predict the plan of migrating internally.

**Date:** May 3

**Presenter:** Joachim Winter (LMU Munich)

**Title:** Behavioral Responses to Local Shocks: Evidence from Infectious Disease Outbreaks

**Abstract:** This paper investigates the dynamics of behavioral changes during a health crisis. We study this in the context of the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic, where behavioral responses were important in mitigating the costs of the pandemic. To identify behavioral responses due to unanticipated and transient health risk shocks, we combine high-frequency cellphone mobility data with detailed incidence data in Germany. Using an event-study design on local outbreaks, we find that county-level mobility immediately and significantly decreased by about 2.5% in response to an outbreak independent of non-pharmaceutical interventions. We also find that the reproduction rate decreased by about 18% in response to a local outbreak. Both behavioral responses are quite persistent even after the health risk shock has dissipated. Compared to a first shock in the second wave, the behavioral response to second or third shocks in the second wave is smaller or negligible. Our results demonstrate the importance of (1) integrating behavioral persistence in models used to study behavior and policies that change behavior, (2) the effectiveness of policies that provide high-frequency localized information on health risks, and (3) the persistence of behavioral changes after an outbreak has passed.

**Date:** May 10

**Presenter:** Gabriella Conti (University College London)

**Title:** For Better or Worse? Subjective Expectations and Cost-Benefit Trade-Offs in Health Behavior: An application to lockdown compliance in the United Kingdom

**Abstract:** Health behaviors are actions individuals take that affect their health. Most health behaviors can have both positive and negative consequences for the individual, generating trade-offs in choice. During the acute phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing and the more extreme self-isolation and shielding were the main actions through which people could (were required to) protect themselves and others from infection and its health-harming consequences. Distancing and isolation, however, are not without costs or risks for individuals' wellbeing. Because the costs and benefits of alternative actions are ex ante uncertain, individual choices depend on decision makers' expectations over choice consequences and on how they resolve the trade-offs between expected costs and benefits. Using rich data on subjective expectations collected during the first UK lockdown, we first document people's perceived costs (risks) and benefits (returns) of alternative compliance behaviors along with their compliance plans. We then develop and estimate a simple model of compliance behavior with uncertain costs and benefits, which we use to quantify the utility trade-offs underlying compliance, decompose group differences in compliance into components attributable to variation in expectations vis-a-vis preferences, and compute the compensation required for people to be isolated. In a short follow-up, we implement a randomized sensitization intervention exploiting the timing of the "Cummings affair". We show that respondents react differentially to the treatment's negative prompt depending on their political affiliation, with labour supporters lowering their subjective probability of never leaving home (the government's recommendation) and increasing that of discretionary compliance. We finally discuss other possible applications of our general framework.

**Date:** May 17

**Presenter:** Yann Delaprez (EUI)

**Title:** Upstream Mergers with Divestitures in Vertical Markets

**Abstract:** This paper analyses a large upstream joint venture with divestiture in the French coffee market. Contrary to previous approaches used to study the effect of upstream divestiture on prices and economic welfare, we model the vertical market structure. First, we show that divestiture can lead to marginal cost savings for the buyer of the divested brand. Second, our results reveal that, accounting for upstream bargaining, the standard policy recommendation corresponding to request divestiture to small recipient firms might not hold.

**Date:** May 24

**Presenter:** Timothy Moore (Purdue University)

**Title:** Shaping the Habits of Teen Drivers

**Abstract:** We show that a targeted law can have broad and persistent effects on youth risky behaviors. An Australian law banned first-year drivers from carrying multiple passengers between 11:00pm and 4:59am, which had represented approximately one-fifth of their traffic fatalities. We find that the reform more than halved targeted crashes, casualties and deaths, while also reducing crash outcomes earlier in the evening. These effects persist beyond the first year of driving, delivering gains comparable to harsher driving restrictions. We consider potential explanations for this persistence, and find results consistent with habit formation aided by the expressive value of the law.

**Date:** June 7

**Presenter:** Lukas Nord (EUI)

**Title:** Shopping, Demand Composition, and Equilibrium Prices

**Abstract:** Heterogeneous households neither buy the same basket of goods nor pay the same price for identical goods. The former is due to non-homotheticities in preferences and implies a heterogeneous demand composition across goods. The latter is due to an endogenous choice of shopping effort and implies heterogeneous price elasticities across households. In equilibrium, both forces interact to generate heterogeneity in price elasticities across goods and lead retailers to optimally post higher prices (markups) for the goods of low shopping (high income) households. I highlight this mechanism in a simple framework of price posting under search frictions. Predictions on the shape of offered price distributions derived from search theory align well with empirical evidence from the Nielsen Consumer Panel micro data. To highlight its implications, I study the mechanism in a quantitative model featuring heterogeneous households, non-homothetic preferences, and endogenous shopping effort, as well as endogenously determined price distributions for multiple varieties. The model replicates salient features of expenditure inequality derived from Nielsen data and shows two consequences of the interaction between heterogeneous shopping effort and demand composition: First, equilibrium effects through posted prices double the contribution of shopping effort to expenditure inequality as compared to focusing on paid price differentials alone, due to differences in demand composition across goods. Second, the cyclicity of retail markups depends on the incidence of aggregate demand shocks due to shifts in demand composition over time.

**Date:** June 14

**Presenter:** Dalila Bernardino Figueiredo (EUI)

**Title:** The Effect of a Conditional Cash Transfer on Child Marriage: Evidence from Mexico

**Abstract:** In this paper I study the effect of a conditional cash transfer program in Latin America on the probability of marriage for children under 18 years old. I estimate the impact of Progres/ Opor- tunidades leveraging the staggered implementation of the program. I find that the monetary transfer, conditional on school attendance, increased the probability of female beneficiaries being married. After five years of exposure to the program, beneficiary girls are, on average, almost 7 p.p more likely to be married than the control group. I find no effect for boys. These findings contrast with the previously documented positive effects of the program in education, which is usually associ- ated with decreases in child marriage. To disentangle the effect of the monetary transfer from the education channel, I exploit the variation in household composition and find that non-eligible children in beneficiary households - who were only exposed to the increase in household income - were between 10 and 18p.p more likely to be married than their counterparts in non-treated villages. I reconcile the findings in a conceptual framework that helps rationalize how both education and marriage are increasing in response to the program.

**Date:** June 21

**Presenter:** Thomas Crossley (EUI)

**Title:** Regression with an imputed dependent variable

**Abstract:** Researchers are often interested in the relationship between two variables, with no single data set containing both. A common strategy is to use proxies for the dependent variable that are common to two surveys to impute the dependent variable into the data set containing the independent variable. We show that commonly employed regression or matching-based imputation procedures lead to inconsistent estimates. We offer an easily-implemented correction and correct asymptotic standard errors. We illustrate these with Monte Carlo experiments and empirical examples using data from the US Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE) and the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID).



## 2020/2021 Presentations

**Date:** 29 September

**Presenter:** Kristina Stromhaier

**Title:** Tax Enforcement Spillovers – Evidence from South Africa

**Abstract:** The purpose of this paper is to test for tax enforcement spillovers within economic and spatial networks. Using the population of corporate tax returns for the years 2009 to 2015, we can show that tax audits exert a positive and significant effect on the tax liability of non-targeted neighboring firms. Quantitatively, the results suggest that the audit of a close geographic neighbor increases corporate tax reporting by 0.7 percent. While the observed spillover effect decline in distance to the audited entity and are short run in nature, the implied aggregate revenue gains are non-negligible. Additional analyses show that the effect is driven by audit cases, where audited firms do not experience an upward revision in their tax owed in the course of the audit. This suggests that the observed effect is rooted in communication among taxpayers and is not driven by audit-related cost shocks of competitors or business partners.

**Date:** 6 October

**Presenter:** Mirjam Reutter

**Title:** Does Smoking Affect Wages?

**Abstract:** Previous studies have not reached consensus on whether there exists a causal relationship of smoking on wages. This study aims at filling this gap by providing new empirical evidence from a rich survey panel of German individuals. On average, smokers earn 15% less. This raw wage gap shrinks to 9.5 – 1.5% after controlling for a large set of observable characteristics, comparing siblings, or using past smoking behavior. To further deal with unobserved time-varying factors and all potential sources of endogeneity, I propose a novel instrument, which provides exogenous variation in smoking behavior: Smoking bans at schools, introduced by the federal states at different years. While OLS estimates appear to be negatively biased, instrumental variable estimates indicate no causal effect of smoking on wages.

**Date:** 13 October

**Presenter:** Alice Dominici

**Title:** From culture to contemporary formal institutions: the case of family systems and gender policies (joint with Alberto Venturin, EUI)

**Abstract:** We show that culture, defined as medieval family systems, and the associated gender norms persisted over time and affected contemporary preferences for divorce and abortion policies. Using Italian municipal data, we exploit a geographic discontinuity in family systems' formation, the Po river, and find a 5 to 7 percentage points decrease in support of abortion and divorce for the more patriarchal family system. We also exploit the brief legalization of divorce in the Cisalpine Republic (1797-1814) and show it has no contemporary effect, within a culturally homogeneous region.

**Date:** 20 October

**Presenter:** Essi Kujansuu

**Title:** Choice Architecture and Transparency

**Abstract:** The circumstances of a decision impact the subsequent choice. Choice architects can influence people through the choice environment with nudges that do not change the monetary payoffs or limiting options, yet affect behavior. Does transparency about nudging, that is, people knowing that the choice architects may nudge them, change how nudges impact decision-making or how nudges are used? The model distinguishes nudges by whether they impact slow or fast thinking (System 1 and System 2). Quick nudges provide decision-making shortcuts, for instance, default options, while slow nudges encourage reflective thinking, for example, cost-benefit analysis. The model predicts that transparency reduces the effectiveness of quick nudges but not affect the impact of slow nudges. Therefore, image concerned Choice Architects are expected to switch from quick to slow nudges when transparency is imposed. With an online experiment, I find that transparency does not impact the use of nudges. Quick nudges are consistently weakened by transparency while slow nudges are unaffected by transparency.

**Date:** 27 October

**Presenter:** Damiano Argan

**Title:** Evaluating the change in composition of Master 2 graduates during a massive

increase in tertiary education in France

**Abstract:** In France, the share of graduates from Master 2 in the cohort of entrants in the labor market doubled between the year 1998 and 2010. This is a common trend among OECD countries, and increasing tertiary education completion is an EU target. However, little is known about the effects of such policy. In Argan, Gary-Bobo (2020), we compare labor market outcomes of M2 graduates from 1998 2004 and 2010 cohorts and observe a decrease in average real salary of 7%. The purpose of this project is to decompose the reduction of real salary into supply and composition effects. Assuming that the population is drawn from a multivariate distribution, we use an Expectation Maximisation Algorithm to conduct a ML estimation which decomposes the population into different types. This allows to assess the change in the composition of M2 graduates and test several hypothesis with respect to the observed decrease in real salary.

**Date:** 3 November

**Presenter:** Pascal Achard

**Title:** Ethnic Enclaves and Cultural Assimilation

**Abstract:** This paper studies whether growing up in an ethnic enclave slows down immigrants' cultural assimilation. To identify neighbourhood influence, I exploit the random allocation of asylum seekers to government housing in the Netherlands between 1996 and 2012. To assess assimilation, I examine a culturally charged consumption: the usage of hormonal contraceptives by teenage women. Using individual level administrative data on drug usage, I find that cultural assimilation is slow and cannot be accelerated by limiting the formation of ethnic enclaves. Using machine learning techniques, I do not find evidence that this baseline result hides heterogeneous effects on a relevant sub-population.

**Date:** 10 November

**Presenter:** Nikolaj Broberg & Pietro Panizza

**Title:** The impact of extending term limits on the political budget cycle: evidence from Italy

**Abstract:** This paper studies whether growing up in an ethnic enclave slows down immigrants' cultural assimilation. To identify neighbourhood influence, I exploit the random allocation of asylum seekers to government housing in the Netherlands between 1996 and 2012. To assess assimilation, I examine a culturally charged consumption: the usage of hormonal contraceptives by teenage women. Using individual level administrative data on

drug usage, I find that cultural assimilation is slow and cannot be accelerated by limiting the formation of ethnic enclaves. Using machine learning techniques, I do not find evidence that this baseline result hides heterogeneous effects on a relevant sub-population.

**Date:** 24 November

**Presenter:** Johanna Reutter

**Title:** The Effect of Having an Opposite Gender of Sibling on Labor Market Choices and Attitudes

**Abstract:** The goal of this project is to contribute to the literature investigating the link between electoral accountability and local public finances. We study the impact of the introduction of the possibility to run for an additional term in Italian municipalities in 2014 on local public budgets. This reform in 2014 introduced the possibility for mayors of municipalities below 3,000 inhabitants to run for a 3rd term while continuing to require mayors in districts above this threshold to step down after their second term. Employing a difference-in-discontinuity design to account for pre-existing differences between municipalities below and above the discontinuity and focusing on the sample of districts that experienced an election before the reform announcement, we aim to overcome one of the hurdles faced by the empirical literature on term limits. Mayors with similar levels of experience were suddenly re-eligible for one or two more terms with a few years to adjust before the next election. A second contribution of this study is to enable the study of dynamic effects of granting the potential for an additional term, as effects of the policy could differ between first and second term mayors. In a final step, we move from studying the impact of re-election incentives on individual mayors' behavior to studying the welfare implications of forcing new mayors in by focusing on the 2014 elections and studying the change in public finances once the reform has effectively been put into place.

**Date:** 1 December

**Presenter:** Yannick Reichlin

**Title:** Relative Wealth, Personality, and Risk Taking (with Dietmar Fehr)

**Abstract:** This project aims to contribute to the literature on sibling gender composition effects in a three- fold manner. First, I focus on the causal effect of having a next born opposite sex sibling on labor market outcomes such as earnings and employment in Germany and the UK. In both these countries I am not able to replicate the existing

findings, concerning women in the US, of large negative effects of having a next-born brother on earnings. Second, I consider behavioral outcomes and attitudes in order to better understand how sibling gender causally influences individuals. I find that sibling gender is relevant for the relationship with parents. Third, I plan to collect (incentivized) data in a lab setting in order to further understand sibling effects.

**Date:** 15 December

**Presenter:** Cristina Lafuente Martínez

**Title:** A non-parametric variance decomposition of unstable employment cycles

**Abstract:** Temporary contracts, mini jobs and other forms of unstable employment have become prominent in Europe. Several authors have warned that these jobs are not stepping-stones to safe employment, but trap workers in chains of unstable, low-productivity jobs. This scenario would correspond to positive duration dependence in the unemployment duration literature. If on the other hand some workers (or jobs) preferred unstable contracts, heterogeneity would drive differences in the duration of unstable job chains. To quantify the importance of these channels, we apply a non-parametric decomposition of the duration of unstable jobs in Spain and Germany. Our methodology allows us to separate duration dependence and heterogeneity, quantifying the contribution of each to total variance. We use administrative datasets in both countries, which allows us to construct a large panel both in time and individual observations. In our preliminary results we find evidence of positive duration dependence in Germany, while neither duration dependence nor heterogeneity seem to play a significant role in Spain. We repeat the decomposition exercise for different groups and time periods.

**Date:** 19 January

**Presenter:** Andrea Ichino

**Title:** Geographic Sorting and Aversion to Breaking Rules

**Abstract:** Sorting based on Aversion to Breaking Rules (ABR) has generated a “honesty drain” from South to North in Italy, with relevant economic consequences. We show this result using novel cheating indicators (false birth-date registrations) constructed with Census data for South-North migrants and remainers in the two macro-regions. Within locality×biennium cells, deterrence and cheating benefits appear to be similar in the two groups and thus differences in cheating are informative about underlying honesty, as our

theory suggests. We also exploit the fascist reforms of 1926 as shocks to deterrence that offer additional information on the underlying honesty of migrants and remainers.

**Date:** 26 January

**Presenter:** Sule Alan

**Title:** Social Exclusion and Ethnic Segregation in Schools: The Role of Teacher's Ethnic Prejudice

**Abstract:** Using detailed data on primary school children and their teachers, we show that teachers who hold prejudicial attitudes towards an ethnic group create socially and spatially segregated classrooms. We identify this relationship by leveraging a natural experiment where newly arrived refugee children are randomly assigned to teachers within schools. We elicit children's social networks to construct multiple measures of social exclusion and ethnic segregation in classrooms. We find that teachers' ethnic prejudice significantly lowers the prevalence of inter-ethnic social links, increases homophilic ties among host children, and puts refugee children at a higher risk of peer violence. Biased teachers' exclusionary classroom practices emerge as a likely mechanism that explains our results. We find that biased teachers tend to spatially segregate refugees, seat them at the back corners of classrooms, away from attention. Our results highlight the role of teachers in achieving integrated schools in a world of increasing ethnic diversity.

**Date:** 2 February

**Presenter:** Nurfatima Jandarova

**Title:** Does intelligence shield children from the effects of parental unemployment?

**Abstract:** The negative effect of parental job loss on various outcomes of children is well-documented. In this paper, I provide new evidence on the heterogeneity of these effects along the cognitive ability distribution of children. I find that higher intelligence score protects children from the negative effects, but only in the long run. In the shorter term, instead of protecting, high ability exacerbates the cost of parental unemployment in terms of educational outcomes. This forces high-ability children with unemployed parents to start their careers at lower-paying jobs. Nevertheless, they can prove themselves via work performance and switch to better-paying jobs. I also provide suggestive evidence that their lifetime earnings could be higher had they continued their education.

**Date:** 9 February

**Presenter:** Carla Varona

**Title:** Labor Market Implications of Education Mismatch

**Abstract:** This project studies the impact of education mismatch on labor outcomes. Across our sample of OECD countries, there is evidence of mismatch in education choices and labor markets. Labor market outcomes are not independent of education mismatch. Our framework for analysis is a dynamic choice model, focusing on decisions on education and training. From the estimation of model parameters, the main factor explaining education mismatch is a shock to the perceived value of education. In Germany, imperfect information about ability at the time of the education decision creates mismatch as well. From simulations of lifecycle dynamics and counterfactual experiments, among four key countries, education undermatch in Japan is sustained through labor market mechanisms while in Germany, Italy and the US, education undermatch is resolved. Training plays a key role in these dynamics.

**Date:** 16 February

**Presenter:** Anatole Cheysson

**Title:** Changing Voting Dimensions in the European Parliament, 2004-2019

**Abstract:** We investigate the main dividing lines in the voting behaviour of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and how they evolved throughout the crisis of 2007-13. To this end, we introduce a new database on the full population of plenary votes from 2004 to 2019. Using principal component analysis, we identify the left-right and the pro-/anti-EU dimensions as the main dimensions of voting. We find that, while the left-right dimension explained most of pre-crisis votes, the pro-/anti-EU divide gained relevance during the crisis, becoming the most relevant pattern of alliance in the European Parliament. These results are robust to a number of tests and persist across different subsets of votes.

**Date:** 23 February

**Presenter:** Thomas Walsh

**Title:** The Hanging Judge: Job Search under the Threat of Sanctions

**Abstract:** How does the threat of punishment in the welfare system affect job search behaviours and subsequent labour market outcomes? Variation in the local sanctioning rate across districts and through time, as well as a marked increase in dispersion of sanction rates following large-scale welfare reforms provide a natural experiment. This project proposes a difference-in-differences estimation to examine the impact of

unemployment benefit sanctioning threat on outcomes such as unemployment spell duration, re-entry wage, job stability, contract type (full or part-time), commute time, as well as propensities to hold multiple jobs and zero-hours contracts.

**Date:** 2 March

**Presenter:** Marco Colleoni

**Title:** The long-term effect of colonial state-capacity on consumption: evidence from Central India

**Abstract:** Capacity is the ability of a state to implement decisions in foreign and domestic policy; it relies on military and bureaucratic apparatus to enforce the rule of law and intervene in the economy. I perform a regression-discontinuity analysis exploiting the variation in colonial regimes on the two sides of the main river of Central India. Where more state capacity was put into practice, I find significantly higher proxies of consumption sixty years after independent India installed a homogeneous administration both at the national and at the regional level. The effect is robust to the usage of other empirical strategies and to different sample specifications. I argue that infrastructural investments – particularly railways – initiated by the colonial regime of higher state capacity can explain the long-run transmission chain.

**Date:** 9 March

**Presenter:** Bilge Erten ([International Women's Day Special](#))

**Title:** Social Distancing, Stimulus Payments, and Domestic Violence: Evidence from the U.S. during COVID-19

**Abstract:** We examine the effects of government mandated or self-imposed social distancing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic on reporting of domestic violence to the police in the United States. Using a large dataset of daily domestic violence calls from 31 police departments for the January-September 2020 period (compared to 2019), we find that the early spike in police calls from the beginning of social distancing disappears around mid April, when CARES Act stimulus payments started being distributed. These effects are concentrated among regions with high shares of Hispanics and non-citizens, who were particularly vulnerable to job losses but were ineligible for unemployment benefits or stimulus payments. These results highlight the importance of improved access to social safety net programs in the fight against domestic violence, while reconciling earlier findings in the literature, which show mixed evidence of the impact of COVID-19



induced social distancing on domestic violence.

**Date:** 16 March

**Presenter:** Miren Azkarate-Askasua

**Title:** The Impact of Hiring Credits on Workers

**Abstract:** Hiring credits are one of the main tools used by governments to promote job creation, especially during recessions. In this paper we study the effectiveness of a type of hiring credits which are a lump-sum payment upon hiring, to generate stable employment in a dual labor market like Spain. Our focus is on the effects of the hiring subsidies on the worker job finding rates and wages. Furthermore we also explore if there are negative externalities to workers that are not eligible for the subsidies. Preliminary findings show that the regional hiring credits improved mildly the job finding probabilities to open-ended contracts for males and females with short unemployment durations. We do not find evidence of negative externalities.

**Date:** 23 March

**Presenter:** Philip Hanspach

**Title:** European Procurement of Medical Supplies in Times of Covid-19: Balkanization of the Single Market or an End to Misallocation?

**Abstract:** The European Union pursues market integration through completion of the "Single Market" as a means to increase productivity and wealth through industrial reorganization on a continental scale. Competition for procurement contracts, at 15-20 % of GDP, has the potential to play a large role in this. However, "home bias" or misallocation of contracts towards domestic companies at the expense of foreign companies has been documented for decades. Buyers may care about the quality of their purchasing decision as well as secondary, political goals (such as supporting local jobs). Regulation tries to mitigate this conflict and to promote competition between sellers across Europe. The Covid-19 pandemic provides a dual shock: first, through an increase in the urgency of making good purchasing decisions as infection rates rise, second, through a relaxation of the regulatory constraints, which increase buyer discretion. Theory suggests that the former (latter) effect should decrease (increase) misallocation. We create a new data set of procurement outcomes in Europe from the well-known TED data base to test this prediction against procurement of medical supplies in Europe 2018-2020. A binary outcome model that predicts contract awards to domestic and foreign companies confirms

the theoretical predictions and identifies the effects of increased buyer discretion and urgency. The results confirm that there is misallocation in European procurement towards domestic firms, show that buyer discretion is important at the margin of existing regulation, but also that home bias can disappear quickly. Competition per se does not make cross-border awards more likely as the main share of cross-border awards coincides with a period with few competitive tenders.

**Date:** 30 March

**Presenter:** Miguel Alquezar

**Title:** Does good care take longer? Evidence from a Spanish outpatient department

**Abstract:** I explore how the time allocated for reviewing patients affects the physicians' performance. Insufficient review time may hamper physician care and diagnostic provision, leaving physicians more leaning to drug overprescription. To test this prediction, I use high frequency data from a Spanish outpatient department, and leverage on cancellations as time shocks to the physician schedule. I find that longer visits lead to higher testing intensity, lower prescription rate, and higher diagnostic provision. These effects are driven by junior physicians, who use these extra times to compensate their overloaded schedules. I provide a back-of-the-envelope calculation pointing at the cost effectiveness of improving junior schedules at the expense of their senior colleagues.

**Date:** 6 April

**Presenter:** Dalila Figueiredo

**Title:** The Effect of Pollution on Infant Health

**Abstract:** In this project we estimate the impact of exposure to pollution on infant health. We look at two common outcomes, birthweight and breastfeeding habits, and at a novel health index based on information on children's cough, rash, diarrhoea and difficulty breathing. Given the panel structure of our data we are able to study the impact of exposure to pollution on infant health, both when the exposure was in-utero or post-birth. We are also able to test if these health outcomes are affected differently with different lengths of exposure to pollution.

**Date:** 13 April

**Presenter:** Belén Rodríguez

**Title:** Gender job segregation: and Age-Period-Cohort decomposition analysis

**Abstract:** Despite gender convergence in labor force participation and education, women continue to be overrepresented in occupations perceived as low-valued. Although new cohorts of women are breaking through professional and high-skilled occupations, many of them experience occupational downgrading along their working lives. The consequences of these job transitions on gender equality and aggregate economic growth have proven to be large. This paper explores how women's occupational paths change with age, period and cohort. Following a new reparametrization of the classical age-period-cohort (APC) model, we estimate the identifiable effects of these three variables on gender job segregation.

**Date:** 20 April

**Presenter:** Olatz Román

**Title:** Intergenerational Transmission of Intimate Relationship Quality

**Abstract:** The economics literature has done a great job at underpinning the degree of intergenerational mobility across several economic outcomes, with the goal of documenting improvements in wellbeing from parents to children. The quality of social interactions is not only a highly important determinant of life quality and happiness, but it is also correlated to those life-improving economic outcomes. This paper exploits the longitudinal panel dimension of Understanding Society and a novel measure of relationship quality to study intergenerational mobility in terms of a central social interaction: intimate partner relationship. After adjusting for lifecycle-bias, preliminary results indicate the existence of a sizeable intergenerational correlation of this measure.

**Date:** 27 April

**Presenter:** Anna Simoni

**Title:** When are Google data useful to nowcast GDP? An approach via pre-selection and shrinkage

**Abstract:** We analyse whether, and when, a large set of Google search data can be useful to increase euro area GDP nowcasting accuracy once we control for information contained in official variables. To deal with these data we propose an estimator that combines variable pre-selection and Ridge regularization and study its theoretical properties. We show that in a period of cyclical stability Google data convey useful information for real-time nowcasting of GDP growth at the beginning of the quarter when macroeconomic information is lacking. On the other hand, in periods that exhibit a sudden

downward shift in GDP growth rate, including Google search data in the information set improves nowcasting accuracy even when official macroeconomic information is available.

**Date:** 4 May

**Presenter:** Nicole Stoelinga

**Title:** Living in the caliphate: the impact of exposure to Boko Haram's ideology on school attendance

**Abstract:** This paper estimates the effect of exposure to ideology on school attendance. This is done by focusing on the case of Boko Haram in North East Nigeria. The terrorist group occupied various areas around 2014, and the population of those areas was subsequently heavily exposed to the group's ideology. Other areas that were not occupied experienced comparable levels of violence, but no such exposure to ideology. This fact is exploited and the effect of ideology on school attendance is estimated using a difference-in-differences approach. The results indicate a strong, negative effect of exposure to Boko Haram's anti-educational ideology on school attendance rates. Various alternative explanations for the decrease in school attendance such as child labor, child health and school supply are explored. These do not seem capable of explaining the results. Moreover, additional tests, focusing on the acceptance of healthcare and women's employment decisions, confirm the robustness of the identification strategy.

**Date:** 11 May

**Presenter:** Olivia Masi

**Title:** Gender Difference in Off-School Time Use and Academic Achievement

**Abstract:** We analyze the correlation of off-school time use of children and achievement outcomes using unique data on children of age 8-12. With a rich set of variables, as cognitive and non-cognitive characteristics of children, parenting styles and teaching styles, we first show that there are significant gender differences in off-school time allocation with girls spending more time on chores and study and less on play. We then estimate an education production function using as inputs time use variables and other controls. A one hour extra spent on house chores is associated with a significant reduction in both math (0.040sd) and verbal test scores (0.024sd). These numbers are instead 0.026sd and 0.029sd for an extra hour of play. We also find a gender math gap: being a male increases math test scores by 0.163sd. Lastly, we investigate the role of time in the education production function with the conclusion that part of the gender math gap might

be indeed due to both different use of time (chores and play) and to a different return to play time across gender.

**Date:** 18 May

**Presenter:** Mirjam Reutter

**Title:** The Morning After: Prescription-Free Access to Emergency Contraceptive Pills

**Abstract:** We analyze the introduction of prescription-free access to morning-after pills—emergency contraceptives aiming to prevent unintended pregnancy and subsequent abortion after unprotected sexual intercourse. Exploiting a staggered difference-in-differences setting for Europe combined with randomization inference, we find sharp increases in sales and manufacturers' revenues (100%). However, whilst not reducing abortions significantly, the policy triggers an unexpected increase in fertility of 4%, particularly among women aged 25–34. We elaborate on mechanisms by looking at within-country evidence from Germany, which suggests that fertility is driven by decreasing use of birth control pills in response to easier access to morning-after pills.

**Date:** 25 May

**Presenter:** Madina Kurmagalyeva

**Title:** From clans to individualism: the institutional transition and its effects

**Abstract:** Economic literature postulates that an institutional change towards nuclear family and individual property rights plays a crucial role in economic development, but how exactly does this change occur? This project uses unique and detailed historical data on Kazakh nomads who were undergoing this transition at the end of the 19th century following Russian colonization. The sudden massive in-migration of Russian settlers decreased the relative benefits of traditional collective lifestyle for Kazakhs, resulting in the decline of Kazakh clans and the rise of individual land ownership just within one generation. We compare the speed and the magnitude of the transition for Kazakh families living closer to Russian settlements to similar families that happened to live further away. In particular, we plan to test how the speed of transition depends on the wealth and inequality within the extended family and within the clan. Using the panel dimension of the data, we plan to verify that the adoption of individual property rights has had a positive effect on the agricultural productivity.

**Date:** 1 June

**Presenter:** Zheng Wang

**Title:** Causal Identification and Estimation of Peer Effects in Endogenous Networks

**Abstract:** In this paper I propose a new causal framework to analyze contextual peer effect when the network is endogenously formed but vertex exchangeable. I develop a propensity score matching strategy where the difference between two units' linking probabilities with another unit is approximated by their distance in codegrees. Vertex exchangeability allows codegree distance to be non-parametrically estimated, without any functional assumptions, from the realized network while allowing the network to be endogenously formed. The causal peer effect estimators proposed in this paper are straightforward to implement with properties similar to the conventional propensity score method.

**Date:** 8 June

**Presenter:** Zoey Verdun

**Title:** Permanently plant-based? When Changes in Diets are Long-Term

**Abstract:** Many individuals try to change their diet, but they rarely manage to stick to it. Overall, the literature finds that large diet changes are rare. This paper investigates which factors are associated with (i) making a change to a plant-based diet and (ii) the duration the new diet is maintained. A plant-based diet consists mainly of fruits, vegetables, grains, legumes and nuts and contains limited or no animal products. It is associated with decreased risk and even reversal of several diseases, such as heart disease and diabetes. Previous literature has not looked at this diet.

**Date:** 15 June

**Presenter:** Annika Bacher

**Title:** Joint Search over the Life-Cycle

**Abstract:** This paper studies how the added worker effect - intra-household insurance through increased spousal labor market participation - varies over the life-cycle. We show in U.S. data that the added worker effect is much stronger for young than for old households. A stochastic life-cycle model of two-member households with job search in a frictional labor market is capable of replicating this finding. The model suggests that a lower added worker effect for the old is driven primarily by better insurance through asset holdings. Human capital differences between employed young and old contribute to the difference but are quantitatively less important, while differences in job arrival rates play a

limited role.

**Date:** 22 June

**Presenter:** Karina Colombo

**Title:** Exposure to High-speed Internet and Early Childhood Development (joint with Elisa Faliache)

**Abstract:** This paper analyzes the effects of exposure to high-speed internet in early childhood fostered by the recent expansion in connectivity. The increased exposure to devices connected to high-speed internet could have an effect on children's development through different mechanisms: a direct effect due to the increase in screen time across different devices and platforms; an indirect effect produced by a reduction in time spent in other activities more effective for child development; and an indirect effect related to the behavior of caregivers in two ways: through a reduction in the quantity and quality of adult-child interactions and through an increase in the available information on parenting practices. To estimate the effects of internet in the developmental outcomes of children between 0 and 5 years of age, we exploit the recent introduction of fiber optic in a developing country, Uruguay. Combining administrative data on the geographical differences in the timing of fiber-optic penetration, with survey data on cognitive and non-cognitive outcomes for children born between 2010 and 2018, we estimate the intention-to-treat effects of fiber optic on several psychometric tests. Preliminary results show a deterioration in children's outcomes caused by an increase in internet connectivity. Next steps involve the estimation of direct and indirect mechanisms behind these effects using auxiliary information. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first research that studies the effects of internet exposure on early childhood development exploiting an exogenous source of variation.

# 2019/2020 Presentations

**Date:** September 30th, 2019

**Presenter:** David Martinez Delafuente

**Title:** Subjective Assessments and Stereotyping of Students: Evidence from the Basque Country

**Abstract:** This paper tests for the presence of stereotyping and discrimination by teachers in the Basque Country (Spain). To do so, we study the presence of systematic differences between teacher subjective ("non-blindly graded") assessments and external standardized ("blindlygraded") assessments as a measure of teacher bias. We use a rich administrative database covering the 9 and 13 years old student population of publicly-funded schools. We find evidence that significant overassessment exists towards (i) female, (ii) native and (iii) wealthier students. An explanation based on differential behavior between groups (e.g. male vs female) is not supported empirically. We thus conclude that our results are likely driven by the presence of stereotyping by teachers.

**Date:** October 7th, 2019

**Presenter:** Sergi Martinez

**Title:** The rise and fall of political stigmas: Issue salience and norm change in new democracies

**Abstract:** Successful democratic transitions are often accompanied by the stigmatisation of the authoritarian past. The resulting democratic polity evolves around a set of norms that penalize expressed affinity to the past regime and its associated heuristic pillars. Abiding by those norms, both voters and parties tend to crystallise and prolong them. The question that naturally arises is how these norms change. We argue that beliefs, practices and symbols otherwise linked to the authoritarian regime can be normalised when new issues emerge that qualify or erode the proximity between these symbols and the authoritarian past. We use the case of Spain to test this argument. A paradigmatic example of right-wing authoritarianism, the Franco regime led to the stigmatisation of public displays of national identity due to their association with the right-wing ideology and its authoritarian past. We examine whether the intensification of the Catalan independence movement made Spanish nationals more likely to publicly display their affinity to their nation regardless of such stigma. We use a new behavioral measure of nationalist sentiment: the density of flags displayed in the facade of buildings. We employ a difference-in-differences design comparing Madrid to Lisbon and Athens. We find a large increase in flag density as a consequence of the process of independence. We corroborate the



attitudinal implications of our behavioural measure with a survey, conducted in Madrid. We also find evidence that flags are clustered within streets, suggesting the presence of peer effects throughout a gradual process of norm change.

**Date:** October 14th, 2019

**Presenter:** Veronica Frisancho Robles

**Title:** Perceived Ability and School Choices

**Abstract:** We study the role of youth's subjective expectations about their own ability in shaping school choices in secondary education. A field experiment that provides ninth-graders in urban Mexico with individualized feedback about their academic skills generates exogenous variation in beliefs that is used to isolate their role in driving students' allocation across high schools. We find that mean beliefs increase the value of attending academically-oriented schools, while students with greater dispersion in their beliefs find this curricular track less attractive. These results are in line with the heterogeneous treatment impacts on school choices, since the feedback spurs differential changes in the location of beliefs and overall large variance reductions that either reinforce or counteract the effect of changes in the first moment. The information intervention induces a steeper gradient of the relationship between academic achievement and the demand for academic schools. This reallocation of skills across tracks improves the match between students and schools, as measured by the rate of high-school graduation on time.

**Date:** October 21st, 2019

**Presenter:** Tuomo Virkola

**Title:** Social Sorting, Family Formation and Inequality

**Abstract:** This paper studies the role of social sorting on family formation and assortative mating using extensive administrative data from Finland. I first document that there is a significant positive assortative mating pattern by socioeconomic status (SES) and cognitive skill, and that up to 50 percent of observed partner correlations can be accounted for by the characteristics of peers individuals are exposed to in high-school between ages 16 and 18. Second, I leverage discontinuities in school assignments to study whether these associations are driven by the sorting of individuals into school environments or some underlying preferences. I find no evidence that being assigned to a school with higher SES and higher skill peers affects the partner characteristics by age 26. This is despite the fact that school assignment significantly affects the probability to partner up with someone from the assigned school. These results suggest that the contribution of sorting or segregation in early adolescence is not an important driver of observed patterns of assortative mating nor the observed levels of household level income inequality.

**Date:** October 28th, 2019

**Presenter:** Jonathan James

**Title:** None for the Road? Stricter Drink Driving Laws and Road Accidents

**Abstract:** This paper studies the effect of a drink driving limit reduction on accident rates. The reform was introduced in Scotland in December 2014, leaving the limit for the rest of the UK unchanged. Using a number of large administrative data sources and employing a wide variety of econometric methods (difference-in-differences, spatial regression discontinuity models, and a synthetic control approach) we conclude that the reform had no impact on accidents. We then explore a number of reasons why the reform was ineffective.

**Date:** November 4th, 2019

**Presenter:** Marta Lopes

**Title:** Financial Constraints and Entrepreneurship: Evidence from Unemployment Benefits

**Abstract:** We study the effect of financial constraints on entrepreneurship using administrative data on a public program that allows Portuguese unemployed workers to collect the full amount of their unemployment benefits upfront in order to start a business. Exploiting age-based discontinuities in the amount of benefits, we find that an extra one thousand euros of funding increases entrepreneurship by 0.16 percentage points. The effect is stronger for incorporated entrepreneurs, especially for those in the top decile of the income distribution before unemployment. In addition, we find that the effect is more pronounced in the top quintile of the size distribution across all businesses and in the middle of the size, growth and profitability distributions among incorporated businesses. Our findings suggest that financial constraints hamper growth-oriented entrepreneurship.

**Date:** November 25th, 2019

**Presenter:** Giulia Tura

**Title:** Marriage, Fertility and Cultural Integration of Immigrants in Italy

**Abstract:** We study the cultural integration of immigrants in Italy, estimating a structural model of marital matching along ethnic dimensions, exploring in detail the role of fertility, and possibly divorce in the integration process. We exploit rich administrative demographic data on the universe of marriages formed in Italy, as well as birth and separation records from 1995 to 2012. We estimate strong preferences of ethnic minorities' towards socialization of children to their own identity, identifying marital selection and fertility choices as fundamental socialization mechanisms. The estimated cultural intolerance of Italians towards immigrant minorities is also substantial. Turning to long-run simulations, we find that cultural intolerance, as well as fertility and homogamy rates,

slow-down the cultural integration of some immigrant ethnic minorities, especially Latin America, East Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Nonetheless, 75% of immigrants integrate into the majoritarian culture over the period of a generation. Interestingly, we show by counterfactual analysis that a lower cultural intolerance of Italians towards minorities would lead to slower cultural integration by allowing immigrants a more widespread use of their own language rather than Italian in heterogamous marriages. Finally, we quantitatively assess the effects of large future immigration inflows.

**Date:** Dec 2nd, 2019

**Presenter:** Miguel Alquezar and Josep Amer

**Title:** Inverting the Revolving Door: The influence of interest groups on legislative voting

**Abstract:** It is widely documented that lawmakers are subject to lobbying activity prior to enacting legislation. In this article, we leverage on the alphabetic seating adjacency of members of the European Parliament (EP) to causally estimate whether legislators who worked for an interest group before entering public office, what we call “Interested Legislators”, affect how their peers vote, henceforth “Connected Legislators”. Second, we analyse if Interested and Connected Legislators are more prone to support motions in favor of the former interest group’s activity. Third, we gauge whether the way the Connected Legislators vote affect their career opportunities, both inside and outside the EP, as a test for the existence of quid pro quo behaviour

**Date:** Dec 9th, 2019

**Presenter:** Guillermo Uriz-Uharte (University College London)

**Title:** Information, Beliefs and Resource Allocation in Competitive Markets: The Impact of Big Data IT on SMEs

**Abstract:** Technology may improve communication and coordination of resources within firms, but it may also provide information about the firms’ competitive environment. While the existing literature has focused on the former, using large corporations as empirical context, the study of the latter is scant. We fill this gap in the literature by evaluating the impact of a “big data” information technology diffused by a large Spanish bank among its small and medium-size business customers. Using proprietary “big data” on credit card transaction information, we show that technology adoption increases establishment revenue by 9%. These gains in revenue come from the information technology prompting establishments to target existing, yet unexploited, business opportunities. Consistent with this mechanism, we find that adopting establishments increase their sales to underserved customer segments. Not only they increase their number of customers, their new customers also come from underrepresented geographic areas and gender-age groups in their

customer portfolio prior to adoption. We cannot reject that adopting establishments do not improve their resource allocation upon technology adoption.

**Date:** Dec 16th, 2019

**Presenter:** Andrea Cintolesi

**Title:** Lawyers- Nepotism and Trials Delay

**Abstract:** We show that nepotism in the bar exam for lawyers fosters court delay. We use the 2004 reform of the Italian bar exam. Before 2004, local courts graded the exams, whereas from 2004 onwards exams have been randomly assigned to external courts to be graded. We proxy nepotism with the share of successful candidates sharing a family surname with an already registered lawyer in the same town. We find that the reform has drastically reduced nepotism. Using a continuous difference-in-differences, we exploit the fact that this variation is heterogeneous across courts, and we find that a larger drop in nepotism reduces court delay. Further results suggest that nepotistic entrants are worse at predicting a trial's chances of success, go to court more often and swamp judges with unnecessary cases. Other interpretations receive less support in the data.

**Date:** Jan 13th, 2020

**Presenter:** Agnes Chirpin

**Title:** Stranger Danger: Parental Attitudes, Child Development and the Fear of Kidnapping

**Abstract:** There is ample anecdotal evidence suggesting that parenting styles have evolved over time, and that children today have less freedom than they used to. Yet, little is known about how these evolutions impact children's outcomes later in life. In this paper, we document the evolution of parenting styles and children attitudes over time and how they correlate. Then, to give a causal interpretation to this relationship, we use kidnapping events as a source of variation in parents attitudes towards their children.

**Date:** Jan 20th, 2020

**Presenter:** Chiara Santantonio

**Title:** More Women More Crime? The Effect of Women Representation on Violence Against Women

**Abstract:** We investigate the impact that electing a female candidate has on gender-related violence, focusing on the US races for the House of Representatives. Using data from the FBI, we consider two

specific types of crimes perpetrated by men against women: femicides, and rape. We restrict our sample to close elections which include candidates of both genders, i.e. we compare congressional districts in which the female has barely won to those in which she has barely lost. We show that having a female representative has a positive effect on gender-related violence, in that it decreases the number of occurrences of femicides - 3 months and 12 months after the election.

**Date:** Jan 27th, 2020

**Presenter:** Chen Zhang (PennState University)

**Title:** Optimal Test in Linear IV Model with Kronecker Product Structure Covariance

**Abstract:** This paper introduces a new conditional likelihood ratio (CLR-KP) test for linear IV regression models with one endogenous regressor. We show that the CLR-KP test has correct asymptotic size when the parameter space allows for a Kronecker Product (KP) structure covariance matrix. The CLR-KP test is asymptotically similar and rotational invariant. We show that the CLR-KP test is nearly uniformly most powerful among a class of invariant similar tests in the parameter space that allows for KP covariance matrices. In Monte Carlo simulations, we show that the CLR-KP test (i) performs very close to Moreira's CLR test under homoskedasticity, (ii) has correct null rejection probability in the parameter space with KP covariance while Moreira's CLR test does not, and (iii) performs very close to the heteroskedastic-robust AR test under weak IV, but it outperforms heteroskedastic-robust AR test when the model is overidentified and the identification is strong.

**Date:** Feb 3rd, 2020

**Presenter:** Zoey Verdun

**Title:** Impact of a Health Shock on Lifestyle Behaviours

**Abstract:** Studies have shown that following a healthier lifestyle, such as reducing/quitting smoking, improving diet, exercising, and reducing alcohol consumption, can improve living quality: both extending one's lifespan and increasing the quality of the years to come. However, the literature on individuals making successful, or not, lifestyle changes provides mixed evidence. Several aspects are often associated with whether attempted lifestyle changes are actually successful; one of which is experiencing a health shock. Using the UK's Understanding Society data, this research studies if and how individuals respond, through changes in certain lifestyle behaviours, to a health shock, heart attack or diabetes diagnosis. This research looks at several outcome variables, which capture four different lifestyle-behaviours: diet, exercise, smoking, and alcohol consumption. Using a matching approach this paper finds that in response to a health shock daily fruit and vegetable consumption increases and the number of cigarettes smoked daily decreases. These effects are larger in the case of experiencing a strong shock versus a weak shock, respectively heart attack or diabetes versus angina or high blood pressure diagnosis. Finally, most of the results are driven by women, who make larger changes to their behaviours than men.

**Date:** Feb 10th, 2020

**Presenter:** Prof. Andrea Ichino

**Title:** Cheating, fascism and sorting based on honesty

**Abstract:** The frequency of dishonest actions is heterogeneous across nearby localities in many areas of the world and sorting based on honesty may be a reason. In this paper we use an indicator of dishonest behavior that can be observed for migrants and remainers at the city/time level in Italy, to measure sorting based on honesty between the North and the South of the country and to assess its consequences for the local development of the affected areas.

Using Italian Census restricted data, we show that for Italians born between 1920 and 1970 there is evidence of a significant amount of cheating in the registration of birth dates. Starting in early December of each year, the frequency of registered births per day declines substantially, while an abnormally large mass of registered birth is concentrated in the first five days of the following month of January. We also observe a significantly lower number of births on the 17th of each month.

We discuss possible motives for this tendency to lie in the registration of birthdates (e.g., delaying compulsory military service in the case of “January cheating” and superstition in the case of “17 cheating”), and we show that, irrespective of the motive for lying, a measure of this tendency has two major advantages for the analysis of sorting based on honesty. (1) It can be computed for small groups in the population at different points in time and specifically for migrants out of a given locality and remainers in the same locality. (2) It correlates closely across localities with other measure of dishonesty (like cheating on test scores, ghost building, absenteeism), which instead cannot be typically observed for migrants and remainers within the same locality at different points in time.

Using a simple theoretical model, we define an agent as dishonest if she decides to cheat when the benefit of cheating is higher than deterrence. Vice versa, an (intrinsically) honest agent is someone who never cheats whatever the levels of benefit and deterrence. Our model predicts that if two groups of agents have the same distribution of cheating benefits and face the same level of deterrence, the fraction of dishonest agents is higher in the group where more cheating is observed and where a change of deterrence (in whatever direction) induces a larger absolute change in observed cheating. Our identifying assumption in the empirical analysis is that within the same narrowly defined locality, the distribution of benefits and the level of deterrence are similar for migrants and remainers.

In light of the model, using census data for the entire Italian population we first show that within narrowly defined localities, migrants from South to North are less likely to cheat on their birthdate than remainers in the South, while the opposite is observed for migrants from North to South versus remainers in the North. We then exploit a pervasive institutional reform implemented by Fascism in 1926 to study how cheating on the date of birth reacts to changes in deterrence. There are three reasons why this reform is relevant in our context: (a) It created a new local administrative authority (the “Podestà”) to increase control of the central state on the daily life of citizens. (b) It introduced measures to curb infant mortality, which included a registry of infant deaths occurring within 1 or 6 days from birth and an obstetrician service to help mothers giving birth at home. (c) It introduced monetary incentives to fertility and taxes on celibacy. As a result of these changes, January birth date cheating suddenly declines in 1926, particularly in the South of Italy, to then go back to pre-1926 levels in 1942, when Fascism collapses (less so for 17 cheating that was less relevant and harder to

detect). More importantly for our purposes, the reactions of January cheating to these changes in deterrence were smaller for migrants out of the South than for remainers in the South. We therefore conclude that Italy experienced sorting based on honesty between the North and the South and that the South suffered a drain of intrinsic honesty because of the internal migration movements of the 20th century.

Finally, we measure the honesty drain experienced by each locality, taking the difference between the intensity of January cheating for the population resident in that locality in the 1991 census (which includes remainers and people immigrating from elsewhere) and the population born in that locality (remainers and people who emigrated out of the locality). We then show that localities experiencing a greater honesty drain display worse economic and social outcomes in recent years. Particularly interesting is the evidence we obtain using the Ilzetsky and Simonelli (2019) measure of local vote counting productivity in national elections. In a community affected by stronger honesty drain, vote counting is likely to take more time because of lack of trust between members of the team that count votes at each polling station. In line with this hypothesis we find that our measure of honesty drain is significantly correlated with a lower speed of vote counting across localities within the South of Italy. A similar argument holds for other performance indicators which depends on honesty, like income declared for taxes and rejected application for the “citizenship income” cash welfare program.

**Date:** February 17th, 2020

**Presenter:** Johanna Reuter and Nurfatima Jandarova

**Title:** The Definition of University

**Abstract:** The 1992 Education Act in the UK reformed the University system in the UK, mostly by allowing former Polytechnics to become Universities. Thereby, the reform changed funding opportunities, the oversight structure and most importantly of all the type of degrees former polytechnics could award. After the reform the former polytechnics could call themselves universities and award university degrees. Unfortunately, much of the UK data available does not ask for the type of university from which an individual obtained her degree. We use Multiple Imputation to correct this feature of the data. This correction could be very important because former polytechnics and universities differ in many ways. We then use the imputed data to think about the wage premia associated with different types of universities in the UK.

**Date:** February 24th, 2020

**Presenter:** Nicole Stoelinga

**Title:** Violence and school attendance in Nigeria: the effect of Boko Haram

**Abstract:** I estimate the effect of violence on school attendance in Nigeria. The Boko Haram insurgency is often mentioned as having a strong, negative impact on schooling. This is also shown in

the literature. However, there are various violent actors active in the country. Additionally, Boko Haram is not the only group targeting schools, students or teachers.

Using difference-in-difference estimation, I look at how different sources of violence impact school attendance in Nigeria. Initial findings suggest that being relatively more exposed to Boko Haram violence has a significant and negative effect on school attendance. This effect does not seem hold for being relatively more exposed to other violence.

**Date:** March 30th, 2020

**Presenter:** Nikolaj Broberg

**Title:** Migration and redistributive spending: evidence from local authorities in England

(with Lars Ludolph)

**Abstract:** In this project, we analyse the quantitative effects of the migration wave between 2003 and 2010 on English local authority spending, with a focus on expenditure items linked to redistribution. We apply a shift-share estimation strategy based on historical settlements and find that immigration had a marginal impact on local authority funding sources and a negative effect on total service provision per capita. Zooming into the different expenditure items, we find that local authorities experiencing relatively larger migration inflows did not see changes in their expenditure mix but rather saw spending declines in both social care and education services per capita. Potential mechanisms we identify are natives' flight and changes in the preferences of the local authorities' population. In an extension, we find no evidence that post-2004 EU migration drives these effects. This group indeed had distinct migration patterns and socio-economic characteristics from other migrants. Applying a difference-in-difference strategy, we find that large inflows from this group of migrants also caused reductions in social care expenditure per capita. However, we find distinct patterns in election outcomes and the spending mix of local authorities suggesting changes induced by this particular group were rather driven by changes in the local authorities' demographic characteristics followed by an institutional reaction.

**Date:** April 6th, 2020

**Presenter:** Prof. Michele Belot

**Title:** Cross-country covid survey: Understanding costs and behavioral responses to measures

**Date:** April 20th, 2020

**Presenter:** Zheng Wang



**Title:** Attention peer effect in the classroom

**Abstract:** Classroom attention is considered a main contributory factor of students' academic achievement. In this project I study whether students pay more or less attention during lectures depending on the attention level of their seat neighbours. I plan to ask a cohort of 9th grade Chinese students to take an exam immediately after a lecture, and the exam covers only the knowledge presented during that lecture. Using seat neighbours' interest in the lecture subject as an instrument, I study the endogenous peer effect of seat neighbours' exam grades on own exam grades. I am able to attribute the presence of such endogenous peer effect to attention peer effect thanks to the specific setting I exploit. First, students are assigned seats by their headteacher based on students' height rank within the class. They remain seated at the same place for the rest of the school year. Second, the exams take place at the beginning of the school year when students have just met each other, ruling out any peer effects occurring outside of the lecture. Third, in general students are forbidden to discuss with each other during lectures, so any peer effects of the exam grade must come from peer effect of attention during the lecture.

**Date:** April 27th, 2020

**Presenter:** Chiara Serra

**Title:** Triage Assignment when the Shift Changes

**Abstract:** In this preliminary project, using administrative data on the Emergency Departments of 3 large Italian hospitals, I will present evidence of changes in the assessment of urgencies by the medical staff at ED during their work shift. This results in sharp discontinuities in the probability of being assigned high priority codes for patients arriving close to the end/beginning of a shift. After documenting this pattern and discussing possible mechanisms, I will explore the possibility of exploiting it as a natural experiment to investigate longer term consequences of assigned priority at ED.

**Date:** May 4th, 2020

**Presenter:** Josep Amer Mestre

**Title:** Gender Differences in Career Choices: Evidence from French Physicians (joint with Agnès Chirpin)

**Abstract:** This paper documents the differences in early occupational choices by female and male medical students and analyses the forces behind them. We focus on the first labour market decision of French medical school graduates, who decide on a medical specialty and location for their residency. The setting under which the residency decision is made allows us to greatly reduce the role played by the traditional explanations behind gender differences in occupational choices, such as differences in human capital accumulation, discrimination and childbirth. Using administrative data on the French National Ranking Examination, we estimate the differences in the probability of self-selecting into each medical specialty and location attributable to gender, net of ability and availability effects. We show that gender differences in speciality selection vary significantly across the

distribution of the measure of ability provided by the ranking in the national examination. We then match each specialty with the O\*NET database to identify the amenities which attract men and women differently and therefore contribute to the differences in occupational choices. Finally, we use information on the first job of physicians after their residency to analyse the differences in their career development.

**Date:** May 11th, 2020

**Presenter:** Tuomo Virkola

**Title:** The Violent Origins of Finnish Equality

**Abstract:** We study the long-run development of Finland with a particular focus on some causes and consequences of political and economic equality. We provide evidence that the Finnish famine of 1866-1868 led to higher income inequality, more concentrated land ownership and more coercive labour markets by the early 1900s. Economic inequality at the time meant political exclusion, as voting rights and vote counts in municipal elections were tied to taxable income. We provide evidence consistent with discontent theories of conflict that these factors contributed to the emergence of the Finnish Civil War in 1918. The threat of revolution realized with a violent conflict, leading to drastic social change, including radical land redistribution and full extension of the franchise. We show that municipalities with higher levels of pre-conflict inequality and more insurgents experienced higher levels of redistribution and a more drastic shift towards equality after the conflict.

**Date:** May 18th, 2020

**Presenter:** Giulia Tura

**Title:** Matching Refugees: Economic and Socio-Cultural Integration Perspectives

**Abstract:** This project studies whether and how matching refugees to particular locations might contribute to their successful integration. Where refugees live matters for their integration. However, in many Western countries, refugees have been randomly assigned to locations within a country without a systematic evaluation to match their qualifications with local labor market demand or other local characteristics. I develop a multidimensional matching model to assign refugees to geographical locations, with the ultimate goal of maximizing integration. Refugees, as well as locations, are heterogeneous along a vector of attributes, and crucially integration relies on interactions between refugee and location characteristics. I estimate the importance of interactions in refugee-location characteristics, by leveraging the random assignment of refugees to locations in the context of Switzerland, and rich historical individual-level data. The counterfactual results of this analysis would allow us to benchmark the random allocation policies actually in place in many countries, and to inform the debate about potential reforms. Targeted relocation policies might help refugees to unlock their economic potential and might represent a point of departure towards a stable and long-lasting social cohesion.

**Date:** May 25th, 2020

**Presenter:** Tuuli Tahtinen

**Title:** Populism and Ideological Convergence in a Multiparty System: Evidence from Finland

**Abstract:** This project studies how political parties react to the entry and increased electoral strength of a populist party. I analyse how populist party representation in local councils affects other parties' ideological positions in the same electoral district. I use individual level variation created by close elections to identify ideological shifts resulting from a change in party representation, holding other factors constant. Ideological positions are derived from a comprehensive individual level survey from a Finnish voting advice application. Candidates' responses are modelled using item response theory in order to obtain measures that are comparable across election years. I show that higher populist party representation causes other parties to become more ideologically aligned with the populist party. The effect comes largely through alignment on the GAL-TAN dimension.

**Date:** June 1st, 2020

**Presenter:** Alessandro Tondini & Marta Lopes

**Title:** Working hours, Employment and Productivity

**Abstract:** What are the impacts of a reduction in weekly individual working hours on firms' employment and productivity? In this paper, we use matched employer-employee data to evaluate two policy reforms that reduced standard hours in the 1990s in Portugal, first from 48 to 44h, and then from 44 to 40h. Using a differences-in-differences approach, which exploits initial heterogeneity in the level of hours by firms, we show that both reforms led to significant hours reductions and hourly wage increases. Overall, we find mixed evidence on the effect on employment. Instead, we observe that both reforms led to significant gains in terms of productivity (per hour worked). These results contribute to the recent policy debate on working time reductions, showing that effects are unlikely to be linear and depend on the initial level of hours. To reconcile the results with the theory, we build a search and matching model where collective agreements restrict the degree of freedom with which firms demand hours and employment, therefore generating heterogeneous responses to similar policy reforms.

**Date:** June 8th, 2020

**Presenter:** Essi Kujansuu

**Title:** Choice Architecture Under Transparency — a Design for an Experiment

**Abstract:** In Choice Architecture Game, the Choice Architect has the power to design the choice environment in which a Decision Maker later operates. The Choice Architects may use nudges, deliberate changes to the decision environment, to predictably influence the behaviour of the Decision Makers. This project investigates how transparency, defined as Decision Makers' awareness about their participation in such a game, affects the nudges' influence on Decision Maker's behaviour and

the Choice Architects' use of nudges. The modelling distinguishes between System 1 nudges that rely on mental shortcuts (for example, default options) and System 2 nudges that engage reflective thinking (for example, by providing a new way to think about the choice). The model predicts that a) System 1 nudges have less effect under transparency while System 2 nudges with transparency have the same effectiveness as without and 2) the use of System 1 nudges is reduced by transparency while the use of System 2 nudges is increased, if Choice Architects have image concerns. These hypotheses are to be tested in an online experiment, the design of which is discussed in detail, including the necessary controls for potential confounders.

**Date:** June 15th, 2020

**Presenter:** Dalila Figueiredo and Zheng Wang

**Title:** The Effect of Familiarity on Language Test Performance and its Implications on Test Fairness

**Abstract:** In this project we investigate the fairness, in terms of topic familiarity, of a standardized English test, IELTS, used by many universities around the world for admission purposes. With a field experiment, we first evaluate causally whether topic familiarity affects test performance, focusing on the writing task. We then construct a group familiarity index to infer the fairness of the test across different groups, for example, high income vs low income.

**Date:** June 22nd, 2020

**Presenter:** Miguel Yus Alquezar

**Title:** Can religious leaders personal traits help mitigate racist behaviour and integrate minorities?

**Abstract:** In this paper, I investigate whether the personal traits of newly chosen religious leaders affect the parishmen they represent. More concretely, I study to which extent the appointment of a priest from a different ethnicity helps attenuating citizen's racist behaviour and integrating minorities. I intent to use a novel dataset on parish evolution covering the years 2000-2020 in Spain, and multiple measures of racism from criminal records or subsidies to internet xenophobic interactions.

# 2018/2019 Presentations

**Date:** October 8th

**Presenter:** Julian Hinz

**Title:** To Russia With Love: The Impact of Sanctions on Elections

**Abstract:** Economic sanctions are employed to exert pressure on a sanctioned country's government to change its policies. We assess whether this mechanism is effective. In this paper, we combine Russian ballot box-level election data with a localized measure of the Russia sanctions' impact to investigate whether the measures taken by Western countries elicit a change in voting behavior — reflecting a success or failure of these sanctions. Building on recent econometric advances to measure the effect of trade shocks on voting behavior and the quantification of sanction effects, we can identify a causal effect of sanctions exposure on electoral outcomes. More specifically, we find evidence for a positive impact of exposure to the sanctions by Western countries on regime support in the 2016 Russian legislative and 2018 Russian presidential elections. This provides evidence for the so-called “rally-round-the-flag” hypothesis and signals a political backfiring of broad economic sanctions.

**Date:** October 15th

**Presenter:** Andrea Cintolesi

**Title:** “Keep Friends Close But Enemies Closer”: Connections and Political Careers

**Abstract:** I show that ruling party politicians have higher chances to be promoted to the government by having a social tie with the leader of the political opposition. Using a Difference-in-Discontinuities design, I estimate that a connection to the leader of the opposition doubles the probability to be promoted, and triggers subsequent better careers in more desirable offices in the future. The same connection has no influence on promotions in offices in which politicians do not interact with the opposition or interact with a different one. Results are driven by the most unstable and heterogeneous governments, suggesting that parties promote connected politicians to smooth the relationship with the opposition.

**Date:** October 22th

**Presenter:** Yuliya Kazakova

**Title:** Weight report cards: help or harm in preventing childhood obesity? Evidence from the UK

**Abstract:** The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) is a school-based, weight-screening intervention to assess overweight and obesity levels in children within primary school. The programme includes feedback to parents as weight report letters that comprise information on child's body measurements (weight, height, and BMI percentile), supporting materials (practical advice for healthy lifestyle changes), and a list of resources for further assistance. The project aims at analysing the effect of this information feedback on a variety of health and school-related outcomes. Using the UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS) and the Millennium Cohort Study, we evaluate adiposity-related outcomes, behavioural outcomes related to energy balance (sedentary behaviour, physical activity, fruit intake, etc.), adverse effects (psychological outcomes) of the intervention as well as academic performance.

**Date:** October 31st

**Presenter:** Gozde Corekcioglu

**Title:** Parental Leave from the Firm's Perspective

**Abstract:** A growing body of research has investigated the individual costs and benefits of generous parental leave policies for women, but the firm-side effects have been underexplored. In this study, we investigate firms' responses to the introduction of parental leave policies with respect to different margins of the labor input. We focus on whether and how firms adjust the gender composition of their workforce when the opportunity costs of certain types of worker groups rise. We exploit two parental leave reforms in Norway in 1993 and 2005, and extremely rich administrative data on the population of employers and employees. We observe that right after the reform, there is substitution away from women with young children. The substitution effects moderate over time. Treatment effects are heterogeneous across small and large firms, and male and female-dominated sectors. Overall, our results suggest unintended consequences of parental leave policies, when considered from the lens of a firm.

**Date:** November 5th

**Presenter:** Elias Dinas

**Title:** Family History and Attitudes Toward Outgroups: Evidence from the Syrian Refugee Crisis

**Abstract:** We examine how analogous thinking about family history affects outgroup bias. We provide evidence from Greece and Germany, two countries that experienced most vividly the refugee inflows after the escalation of the Syrian civil war. The population of both countries consist of descendants of ethnic Greeks and Germans who were forcibly displaced after the end of the first and second world war respectively. Combining historical and survey data with an experimental manipulation, we show that mentioning the parallels between past and present forced displacement leads to substantial increases in monetary donations and attitudinal measures of sympathy for refugees among respondents with forcibly displaced ancestors. This effect is also found among Greeks and Germans without a family history of forced migration, but only in places with a large historical concentration of refugees, where this historical experience is salient. Overall, our findings suggest that harnessing past experience can be an effective way of increasing empathy and reducing outgroup discrimination.

**Date:** November 12th

**Presenter:** Christian Meyer

**Title:** In Search of a Better Life: Self-Control in the Ethiopian Labor Market

**Abstract:** This paper investigates whether present bias correlates with savings and job search behavior in a population of low-skill workers in Ethiopia. I conduct a field experiment with 460 women who begin employment in the ready-made garment industry. Most are rural-urban migrants without work experience for whom the job represents a stepping stone into the labor market. Almost all workers plan to use their jobs to save money and to look for higher-wage employment, but many fall short of their intentions. I propose self-control problems as a candidate explanation. I elicit a measure of present bias in a tightly-controlled experiment and match results to high-frequency survey data that I collect over a period of three months. Present bias is a significant predictor of job search effort, controlling for liquidity and a broad range of covariates. Present-biased workers spend 57 percent less time on job search per week. As a result of reduced search, present-biased workers generate fewer offers and stay in their jobs significantly longer. In contrast, I find no significant correlation between present bias and savings behavior. I discuss implications for the design of commitment devices in this context.

**Date:** November 19th

**Presenter:** Martina Vecchi

**Title:** Groups and Socially Responsible Production: An Experiment with Farmers

**Abstract:** Is corporate social responsibility decreased when corporate decisions are taken by several people (a corporate board) instead of an individual entrepreneur? And if so, why? I study these questions in a lab-in the field experiment involving 126 Italian farmers. They are asked to choose between an ecological and non-ecological but more profitable product to use in their farm. To study the effect of collective decision making, I introduce two experimental variations: (i) the number of people responsible for the decision (one vs three) and (ii) the number of people receiving a profit from the decision (one vs three). I find that collective profits lead to less socially responsible decision, possibly because it provides them with a moral wiggle room to be less pro-social. On the other hand, sharing the responsibility of the decision with others does not change behaviour, meaning that there is no diffusion of responsibility, in contrast to what has been found in laboratory experiments.

To shed light on the external validity of my results, I find that my experimental measure of social responsibility correlates with measures of social responsibility outside the lab.

**Date:** November 26th

**Presenter:** Giulia Tura

**Title:** A Study of Marriage, Fertility and Divorce: Cultural Socialization of Immigrants in Italy

**Abstract:** In this paper, we present a structural model of marital matching and intra-household decisions. We consider a transferable utility marriage matching model along the cultural-ethnic dimension, where, within the household, parents choose fertility, investments in the cultural socialization of children, and possibly divorce.

Theoretically, we show that differences in cultural transmission technologies have implications for marriage matching decisions, fertility and divorce patterns. We estimate model parameters by matching rich administrative Italian data on the universe of marriages, births and separations occurred over two decades.

Gains to marriage and fertility, separation and socialization rates are consistent with strong preferences of parents towards costly socialization of children to their own ethnic identity, as measured by language transmission. The wide heterogeneity in preferences across ethnic groups reveals significant difficulties in the dynamics of integration of specific minorities.

**Date:** December 3rd



**Presenter:** Vicente Valentim

**Title:** Into the Parliament and Into the Mainstream: How The Radical Right Becomes Normalized

**Abstract:** I build a theory of how the success of radical right parties (RRPs) normalizes public expressions of support for the radical right. RRP's openly defy established social norms. Hence voters are likely to privately support the party but refrain from publicly demonstrating that support. When the party enters parliament, however, these voters are more likely to publicly display their true preferences because they perceive norms against their expression as weaker. I test this argument with resource to three complimentary studies. Study 1 employs a regression discontinuity design that compares the under-report of voting for the RRP's above and below the threshold of parliamentary representation. Study 2 employs a difference-in-differences design that studies the underreport of UKIP vote before and after it entered parliament. Study 3 compares how much individuals report to like RRP's in postelectoral surveys depending on the interview mode. The results support the main argument of the paper.

**Date:** December 10th

**Presenter:** Karol Mazur

**Title:** Sharing Risk to Avoid Tragedy in Village Economies

**Abstract:** Motivated by co-operational patterns of farmer societies in developing countries, I present a model of joint interaction between risk sharing against idiosyncratic shocks and co-operation over investments reducing aggregate risk in presence of limited commitment constraints. The model is applied to the case study of farmers in rural India co-operating over informal insurance and irrigation provision. Firstly, I show that if access to the benefits of such public investments can be regulated by villagers, the two institutions are reinforcing each other. However, if benefits of these investments are non-excludable, as is e.g. the case with provision by central authorities, they may harm risk sharing. Using two waves of the ICRISAT panel data set, I provide empirical evidence supporting the mechanism. Finally, I calibrate the model in order to measure [1] the size of these reinforcing effects; and [2] the optimal degree of central provision of irrigation.

**Date:** December 17th

**Presenter:** Chiara Santantonio

**Title:** Peer effects in misconduct: evidence from the Italian Parliament

**Abstract:** How members of the Parliament behave is usually a hot topic of debate. Their absenteeism, in particular, seem to have received increasing attention in recent year. Especially in Italy. In this paper, I ask how the absenteeism rate of a MP is influenced by that of his neighbours, focusing on members of the Italian House of Representatives. Identification is obtained by exploiting particular features of the assignment of seats in the Chamber.

**Date:** January 8th

**Presenter:** Zheng Wang

**Title:** Benefiting from friends: the effect of second generation on first generation college students

**Abstract:** First generation college students, those whose parents never went to college, are at disadvantage compared to their second generation peers (at least one of whose parents had college education). Anecdotal evidence and stylised facts show that they don't learn as well in the university, and they don't find as good jobs as the second generation after graduation. This paper studies whether being friends with second generation students has a positive impact on the outcomes of the first generation. This effect, for example, could be through information transfer. Using IV and random roommate assignment in China as instrument, I will be able to identify the causal impact of friendship with second generation on the outcomes of first generation. The data used for this study will be collected by an online survey.

**Date:** January 14th

**Presenter:** David de Lafuente

**Title:** Call Me By Your Name: An Audit Study on Cultural Assimilation and Ethnic Discrimination in Schools

**Abstract:** In a field experiment, I test whether cultural assimilation efforts of immigrant families mitigate discriminatory attitudes of schools. I sent fictitious visit requests to more than 2,500 schools located in the region of Madrid (Spain). Distinct levels of immigrants' assimilation efforts were signaled with different choices in the name origin of the son. To manipulate the ethnic origin of couples, emails were signed with common Spanish or Romanian-sounding names. I find that that name-based assimilation, controlling for family characteristics, reduces discrimination by 50 percent. I do not find strong evidence on the presence of significant heterogeneous effects across multiple school and municipality characteristics, suggesting that school-level incentives correlated with these features play little role in determining differential "cream skimming" behaviors.

**Date:** January 21st

**Presenter:** Dalila Figueiredo

**Title:** The Effect of Education on Child Marriage

**Abstract:** This project aims at understanding whether the decision of marriage by girls under 18 years old is affected by increasing their education level. Although there is some evidence on this topic, it is mainly concentrated in Africa and South Asia, in which factors leading to and around marriage are believed being different from the ones in Latin America. In order to obtain a causal effect between education and marriage decision, I use a randomly assigned conditional cash transfer program implemented in rural municipalities in Mexico that provides a monetary transfer to mother's conditional on their children attending school.

**Date:** February 4th

**Presenter:** Fatima Jandarova

**Title:** Educational choices and deindustrialization

**Abstract:** This project studies the effect of labour market shocks on educational choices and whether these educational choices translate into more favourable outcomes later in life. For causal identification I exploit local employment shocks at the time of finishing compulsory schooling using the rich dataset on the population of university students in the UK from 1972 to 1993.

**Date:** February 11th

**Presenter:** Miguel Alquezar and Josep Amer

**Title:** Educational choices and deindustrialization

**Abstract:** In this paper we measure the effect that former Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) turned lobbyists have on their ex-colleagues' legislative votes. To do so we analyze if there are significant differences in the individual votes cast by MEPs that have a connection with former European Parliament (EP) colleagues turned lobbyists and those who don't. We exploit the fact that more than 60% of the MEPs are seated in alphabetic order during the plenary sessions of the EP as a source of an exogenous network formation.

**Date:** February 18th

**Presenter:** Josep Amer

**Title:** Effects of early infancy care on child and natality outcomes

**Abstract:** This paper studies the causal effects of additional early infancy care on child outcomes and subsequent natality. I exploit the eligibility discontinuities of a social policy in Spain that entitles parents of newborns with birth weights below certain thresholds to receive home care by a professional. Using administrative data, I will measure the effect of home care on child health and school outcomes as well as the mother's likelihood of entering a subsequent pregnancy.

**Date:** February 18th

**Presenter:** Miguel Alquezar

**Title:** Delay effects on medical treatments: Is there a Quantity-Quality trade-off?

**Abstract:** In this paper I measure the effect that the physician's intraday delays have on their optimal responses to patients in terms of visit length and medical tests requested. To do so, I analyze those changes in their delay that come from unexpected cancellations prior to each visit (around 17% of the visits are cancelled within the appointment day). I exploit the quasi-randomization of first visits in 5 medical specialties using high-frequency data from a Spanish hospital.

**Date:** February 25th

**Presenter:** Alaitz Ayarza

**Title:** Who migrates and for how long? The self-selection of migrants from poor to rich regions in Spain

**Abstract:** This project investigates the contribution of migration to the sorting of workers that are born in a poor, southern region of Spain and that migrate to a northern, wealthier region of the same country. I use employer-employee longitudinal administrative data that keeps track of the individuals all over Spain. This allows me to analyse not only who migrates and who stays, but most importantly, determine who are the permanent migrants, the returnees and the onward moving migrants.

**Date:** March 4th

**Presenter:** Chiara Serra

**Title:** In utero exposure to pollution and the health of children

**Abstract:** In this project we investigate, with a continuous difference in difference approach, the effect of in-utero exposure of fine and coarse particulate matter on the health at birth and later in life of children born in Tuscany. We find that higher exposure to PM has persistent adverse effect on health after birth, even at relatively low levels of pollution.

**Date:** March 11th

**Presenter:** Bedri Tas

**Title:** Bunching below thresholds to manipulate public procurement

**Abstract:** I examine a manipulation scheme that public authorities can use to exercise more discretion in public procurement. I propose that regression discontinuity manipulation tests can be implemented to identify manipulative authorities. I investigate the European Union public procurement data set. I find that 10-13% of examined authorities have high probabilities of bunching estimated costs just below thresholds. Manipulative authorities have significantly lower probabilities of employing competitive procurement procedure. The bunching manipulation scheme significantly diminishes cost-effectiveness of public procurement. On average, prices of below threshold contracts are 18-28% higher when the authority has an elevated probability of bunching.

**Date:** March 18th

**Presenter:** Agnès Charpin

**Title:** Parents attitudes and children development: The fear of kidnapping and the influence of the media

**Abstract:** There is ample anecdotal evidence suggesting that parenting styles have evolved over time, and that children today have less freedom than they used to. Yet, little is known about how these evolutions impact children's outcomes later in life. In this project, we will exploit kidnapping events in the United States and their coverage in the media as a source of variation in the degree of freedom children grow up in.

**Date:** March 25th

**Presenter:** Nikolaj Broberg

**Title:** The impact of campaign financing rules on candidates' selection and electoral outcomes: evidence from French elections

**Abstract:** This paper investigates the effects of electoral campaign financing rules on electoral outcomes. Using a rich dataset of French municipal and departmental elections since 1998, we test whether campaign expenses reimbursement by the state and spending limits affect electoral outcomes. Candidates face campaign spending ceilings and are eligible for reimbursement if and only if they obtain more than 5 percent of the votes, in districts hosting more than 9000 inhabitants. We use a regression discontinuity design around the population threshold to test whether these campaign funding rules affect the pool of competing candidates, electoral competitiveness, and the identity of the winner. Our preliminary results suggest that while campaign funding rules do not affect the pool of competing candidates, they level out the playing field and, so, increase electoral competitiveness and the winning probability of candidates with unusual political orientations.

**Date:** April 1st

**Presenter:** Tuomo Virkola

**Title:** High-School Sweethearts, Assortative Mating and Income Inequality

**Abstract:** This project studies the causes and consequences of assortative mating in Finland between 1970 and 2015. I first provide stylized facts on assortative mating using data on earnings, education and skills. Second, I leverage an RD design from high-school assignments to study the effects of social sorting on partner choices.

**Date:** April 8th

**Presenter:** Anita Glenny

**Title:** Gender Gaps in Job Search and Job Outcomes

**Abstract:** Important differences exist in the types of jobs men and women typically hold. In this project we examine to what extent these gender gaps in pay can be explained by differences in the types of jobs men and women choose to apply to. We use a novel data set containing information on actual job applications made by the universe of Danish UI recipients recorded on a publicly run online job platform. Weekly recording of a number of job applications, both those that are sent to job ads placed on this platform as well as those outside of it, including informal search, is a requirement for receiving UI benefits. This allows us to observe a substantial degree of the job search behavior for Danish UI recipients. We combine this data with administrative data on actual employment spells to observe both applications and job finding for male and female job seekers. We develop and implement a simple statistical framework that allows us to decompose gender gaps in job outcomes into: i) a part stemming from gaps in the types of jobs men and women apply to, and ii) a part stemming from gaps in the probability of getting different jobs conditional on applying. We use this to examine whether differences in application behavior can explain differences in job outcomes along dimensions such as occupation, industry, high/low wage firms, as well as overall earnings.

**Date:** May 6th



**Presenter:** Zoey Verdun

**Title:** The Impact of Health Shocks and Personality Characteristics on Dietary Change

**Abstract:** There is evidence that individuals with the intention to make a dietary change are often not successful in maintain this change, even if they were successful in the short run. This is even the case when individuals have recently received a health shock (such as a heart attack or diabetes diagnosis). However, there are some well-documented cases where individuals do make successful dietary change. This paper tries to understand why some individuals who receive a health shock change when most do not by looking at whether an individual's personality characteristics may be a factor in explaining the magnitude of change in the diet (proxied by fruit and vegetable consumption). The paper studies an individual's change in diet after receiving a health shock, where the health shock is interpreted as receiving information about how an individual's diet maps to their health, by exploring how individuals with different degrees of certain personality traits differ in their dietary response to the health shock.

**Date:** May 13th

**Presenter:** Alice Guerra

**Title:** How Do Leaders Shape Organizational Transparency?

**Abstract:** This paper explores how leaders can promote transparency within their organizations. To this end, we conduct an experiment to study how the method chosen by leaders to report earnings affects the reporting choice of other workers. While automatic reporting precludes any cheating behaviour, self-reporting gives the possibility to misreport earnings for personal returns. Workers observe their leader's reporting choice, and then choose which reporting method to adopt. We find that workers are significantly more likely to choose automatic reporting whenever their leader do so. Studying the mechanisms at play, we find that workers follow the reporting choice of their leaders especially when such choice is voluntary (as opposite to a mandatory assignment), and when leaders can provide economic incentives to workers. Finally, we find that workers who opt for self-reporting their earnings cheat significantly less when their leaders choose automatic reporting. Taken together, our findings provide new insights into how leaders can foster transparency in the organizations they lead.

**Date:** May 20th

**Presenter:** Dalila Figueiredo

**Title:** Child Marriage and Education

**Abstract:** This paper studies whether an increase in education affects children's marriage decision. I exploit the random assignment of a conditional cash transfer program that had significantly positive effects in children's education in Mexico. The correlation between years of education and probability of and age at marriage are negative. However, when correcting endogeneity, using IV and Control Function approaches, I find no short and medium-term effects of an increase in education years in girls' marriage decisions.

**Date:** May 27th

**Presenter:** Nicolai Vitt

**Title:** Maternal Stress and Food Preferences – A Lab Experiment

**Abstract:** We present evidence from a laboratory experiment on the effects of acute stress on food consumption among low-income mothers. We evaluate the effects of a stressful task on immediate and planned food consumption, and specifically on the nutritional content of the foods chosen. Immediate consumption is measured by in-laboratory consumption of a low calorie and high calorie snack; planned consumption is measured by incentivized food purchases in a specifically designed food choice tool. Measurements of participants' salivary cortisol and heart rate were taken over the course of the experimental sessions to assess the stressfulness of the stress task. Contrary to previous findings in the literature, we find no evidence of an effect of acute stress on the nutritional content of immediate or planned food choices.

**Date:** June 3rd

**Presenter:** Pascal Achard

**Title:** Immigrants Adoption of Natives Cultural Behaviour: What Role for Peers Influence?

**Abstract:** This paper studies the role of peer effects on the adoption of natives cultural behaviour by immigrants. Culture is measured by teenagers contraceptive behaviour. To isolate exogenous variation in peers behaviour, we focus on variation across cohorts (of the same school) of native girls and immigrant girls taking contraceptives. To deal with the reflection problem, we focus on the behaviour of older girls assuming that they influence younger girls (but are not influenced) when it comes to sexual behaviour. Our (preliminary) results suggest that immigrants are positively influenced by natives but negatively by immigrants. The higher the proportion of older immigrants taking contraceptives, the lower the likelihood for young immigrants to do so. This result holds when looking at the probability of having an abortion or the probability of being treated for chlamydia. Those additional results indicate that sexual behavior (and not medication behavior) is modified by peers influence.

**Date:** June 10th

**Presenter:** Roberto Galbiati

**Title:** Les Liaisons Dangereuses: Politics and Wealth in the Florentine Republic

**Abstract:** Wealth and politics are strictly related: wealth can be used by individuals to gain access to political offices and participation into politics can, in turn, be exploited to consolidate and increase one's own economic wealth. Institutions favouring representativity and checking political officers' behavior can break this connection. However, when well functioning institutions are in place, the wealthy have stronger incentives to capture the system. We study this proposition in the context of the Florentine Republic in the 14th and 15th century. In this period, access to the city government was based on a system mixing representation and selection by lot (the *Tratte* system). A pool of candidates was selected using elections (granting representativity of the various neighborhoods and guilds) and political officers were, then, randomly selected from the pool of eligible candidates. Using a unique dataset on the results of drawings for the three main government offices of the city between 1343 and 1457 and matching it with data on individual wealth of more than 7000 households in two different periods (1427 and 1457), we document that the Florentine system was able to effectively limit the relation between wealth and access to political offices between 1343 and 1427. By contrast, in the period after 1427 and until 1457, we find a strong positive correlation between the frequency of access to political offices and the Florentine households' wealth. This change occurred when the Medici, a family of rich

bankers, emerges as the main political actor of the city. Exploiting a fiscal crises, the Medici family used part of its liquidity to finance a large share of the Florentine public debt gaining the citizens' recognition. We document that, while keeping institutions formally unchanged, the Medici was able to softly capture the institutions of the Florentine Republic and to manipulate the functioning of the system of selection by lot. Consistently, we also show that the positive correlation between individual wealth and participation in political offices is driven by families belonging the Medici's network.

**Date:** June 17th

**Presenter:** Andrea Bernini

**Title:** A Quarter Century of the Voting Rights Act: Black Officeholding in County Governments in the US South

**Abstract:** The Voting Rights Act of 1965 put in place special measures that, in 2013, have been struck down by the Supreme Court as no longer needed. Yet, the extent to which these key provisions have advanced descriptive representations of African Americans remains moot, since we still do not know how they affected black officeholding across county governments in the Deep South. Using a novel data set on the universe of black elected officials, we study how the VRA affected black representation in county commissions, local judiciary, and law enforcement bodies in a quarter-century after its passage. By exploiting exogenous differences in the coverage of the VRA across US southern states, we find that, between 1962 and 1990, those counties subject to the VRA with more pre-VRA shares of blacks in the population experienced larger increases in the shares of black elected officials than counties that were not covered by the VRA's special measures. We also directly test other factors that could have had an effect on electoral outcomes, and find that education, a long-standing culture of white supremacy, and electoral rules, all played important roles.