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Postdoctoral Student

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Citizenship: Italian

Fields of Concentration:

Development Economics
Political Economy
Applied Econometrics

Desired Teaching:

Development Economics
Political Economy
Econometrics

Postgraduate Studies:

Universitat Pompeu Fabra, spring 2016 –
Department of Economics
Visiting postdoc, Host: Professor Alessandro Tarozzi

London School of Economics, fall 2014- spring 2015
STICERD
Visiting postdoc, Host: Professor Timothy Besley

JPAL-South East Asia (Jakarta, Indonesia), summer 2014
Visiting researcher

Stockholm University, spring 2014
IIES
Visiting postdoc, Host: Professor Jakob Svensson

University of Gothenburg, 2013 -

Graduate Studies:

University of Gothenburg, 2008-2012
Supervisors: Professor Ola Olsson and Professor Måns Söderbom
Dissertation Title: *Essays in Development Economics*

SMERU Research Institute (Jakarta, Indonesia), summer 2010
Visiting researcher

Master of Science in Economics, University of Edinburgh, 2006

Fellowships, Honors and Awards:

Partnerprogrammet Internationaliseringsstöd, 2015
 J.Wallander and T.Hedelius Scholarship and T.Browaldhs Scholarship, 2014
 Partnerprogrammet Internationaliseringsstöd, 2014
 Small planning grant (GCGD centre), 2013
 Stiftelse för Ekonomisk Forskning i Västsverige, 2013
 Stiftelse Lars Hiertas Minne, 2012
 IDA scholarship, 2012
 The Royal Society of Arts and Sciences in Göteborg, 2010
 Paul och Marie Berghaus donationsfond, 2010
 Adlerbertska stipendiefonden, 2009
 Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation, 2009

Awards:

Young Economist Prize from the Econometric Society at the EEA/ESEM Meeting 2013.

Research Experience:

Short Term Consultant, The World Bank Group, The Development Research Group (DE CRG).
 Survey design and pilot on malnutrition and migration in Guatemala, 2007.

Teaching Experience:

Lecturer, Advanced Development Economics (Master-level), 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013.
Lecturer, Development Economics (Bachelor-level), 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011.
Lecturer (and TA), Graduate Econometrics (Master-level), 2015, 2013, 2012, 2011.
Lecturer, European Integration (Master-level), 2011.

Teaching assistant, Econometrics II (PhD-level), 2013 and 2011.
Teaching assistant, Econometrics I (PhD-level), 2012 and 2010.
Teaching assistant, Development Econometrics (PhD-level), 2011.
Teaching assistant, Mathematics for Economists (PhD-level), 2010.

Papers:

“The Political Economy of Corruption in the Bureaucracy” [**job market paper**]
 “Ethnic Favoritism: An Axiom of Politics?” (with Giacomo de Luca, Roland Hodler and Paul Raschky), *CEPR Discussion Paper* 11351, June 2016 (*submitted*)
 “Land Property Rights and International Migration: Evidence from Mexico,” *Journal of Development Economics*, Volume 110, September 2014, Pages 276-290).
 “Resource Windfalls and Local Government Behavior: Evidence from a Policy Reform in Indonesia” (with Ola Olsson). 2015. SWOPEC Working Paper No.635.
 “Quantifying Ethnic Cleansing: An Application to Darfur”. 2010. SWOPEC Working Paper No.479.
 “Ethnic Diversity, Economic Performance and Civil Wars”. 2010. SWOPEC Working Paper No.433.

Works in Progress:

“Local Elections and Corruption during Democratization: Evidence from Indonesia”.
 “Segregation Measurement” (with R. Hodler and A.Vesperoni).
 “Media and Religiosity” (with G.Tagliaferri).

Invited Seminars:

2016: Max Plack Institute for Research on Collective Goods (Germany), Quality of Government Institute (Göteborg).
 2015: PSE (France), St. Gallen (Switzerland), Essex (UK), Alicante (Spain), Grantham Institute (UK);
 2014: NTNU (Trondheim, Norway), IIES (Stockholm University), PSPE-LSE (UK), York (UK), STICERD (UK);
 2013: IIES (Stockholm University), Oslo University (Norway), Lancaster University (United Kingdom).
 2012: LICOS (KU Leuven, Belgium).

Conference and Workshop Presentations:

2016: Political Economy of Development Workshop (University of Navarra, Madrid), GREThA Conference in International Development (Bordeaux), Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Corruption (King's College, London), NOVAfrica conference on Economic Development in Africa (Lisbon), National Conference of Swedish Economists (Göteborg).
 2015: NBER Workshop in Political Economy (Boston), SSDEV-IDEAS (Garda, Italy), Workshop on Political Economy and Public Finance (IEB, Barcelona), SITE conference on corruption (SSE, Stockholm).
 2013: NEUDC (Harvard), EEA/ESEM (Göteborg), Conflict and Cooperation with Natural Resources (Wageningen).
 2012: Asian Meeting of the Econometrics Society (Delhi), Growth and Development Conference at ISI (Delhi), SSDEV-IDEAS (Ascea, Naples), NCDE 2012 (Göteborg).
 2011: NEUDC (Yale), European Peace Science Conference (Tinbergen Institute), Decentralization and Democratization in South-East Asia (Freiburg), NORFACE 2011 (UCL).
 2010: Migration and Development (Paris School of Economics), LACEA (Medellin), EUDN Workshop (Clermont-Ferrand), CSAE (OXFORD), NCDE (Helsinki), DIW (Berlin).

Languages:

Italian (native), English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), Swedish (beginner).

Other activities:

Organizing Committee, General Economic Seminars 2012-2013.

References:

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 University of St. Gallen
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“The Political Economy of Corruption in the Bureaucracy” [job market paper]

I use corruption prosecutions in Indonesia to construct a new measure of corruption in local governments for different types of agents and test whether electoral accountability affects the corruption behavior of non-elected bureaucrats. I find significantly 40 percent less corruption in districts where mayors can get reelected than in districts where they cannot. The effect is spread out throughout most of the political cycle. I also find that the same districts are associated with more demotions of top bureaucrats and promotions of administrative bureaucrats. The findings are consistent with a mechanism where politicians with reelection incentives reshuffle their top bureaucracy and bureaucrats respond to the increased likelihood of promotion (or demotion) by engaging less in corruption.

“Ethnic Favoritism: An Axiom of Politics?” (with Giacomo de Luca, Roland Hodler and Paul Raschky), CEPR Discussion Paper 11351, June 2016. (submitted)

We investigate the prevalence and determinants of ethnic favoritism, i.e., preferential public policies targeted at the political leader's ethnic group. We are the first to study ethnic favoritism in a global sample and to use a broad measure - nighttime light intensity - that allows capturing the distributive effects of a wide range of policies. We construct two panel datasets with several thousand ethnographic regions from around 140 multi-ethnic countries and annual observations from 1992 to 2013. We find robust evidence for ethnic favoritism: ethnographic regions enjoy 7%-10% more intense nighttime light and 2%-3% higher GDP when being the current political leader's ethnic homeland. We further document that ethnic favoritism is a global phenomenon prevalent both within and outside of Africa; that economic development and better political institutions have at best weak effects on ethnic favoritism; that ethnic favoritism is partly motivated by electoral concerns and extends to linguistically close groups; and that ethnic favoritism does not contribute to sustainable development.

“Land Property Rights and International Migration: Evidence from Mexico,” *Journal of Development Economics*, Volume 110, September 2014, Pages 276-290).

In this paper, I ask whether there is a relationship between land property rights and international migration. In order to identify the impact of property rights, I consider a country-wide land certification program that took place in Mexico in the 1990s. My identification strategy exploits the staggered implementation and the households' eligibility for the program. I find that the program increased the eligible households' likelihood of having one or more members abroad by 12%. In terms of the number of migrants, my coefficient estimates explain 26% of the 1994–1997 increase in migrants from ejido areas and 13–15% of the increase from all of Mexico. Consistent with our theoretical model, the impact is strongest for households without a land will. This implies that land inheritance issues drive at least part of the effect.