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References

Professor Barbara Petrongolo
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Interests

Applied Microeconomics, Health Economics, Labour Economics

Education

2016 - 2021	PhD in Economics, Queen Mary University of London
	advisor: prof. Barbara Petrongolo
2015 - 2016	MRes in Economics, Queen Mary University of London
2010 - 2013	MSc in Economics and Social Sciences (ESS), Bocconi University
2007 - 2010	BSc in Economics and Social Sciences (CLES), Bocconi University

Relevant Positions

2021	Post-doctoral fellow at the University of Milan, Department of Economics
2019	R.A. for Profs. Marco Manacorda and Andrea Tesei
2018	Italian Parliament, Camera dei Deputati
	Technical consultant for the revision of MPs' pension scheme rules
2013 - 2015	Full-time R.A. to Prof. Tito Boeri at fRDB, and R.A. on behalf of fRDB on projects by Profs. Andrea Ichino, Enrico Moretti, and Jerome Adda

Teaching

2022	University of Milan
	Lecturer for Patients' Needs and Healthcare Market
2021	Queen Mary University of London
	Lecturer for Economics of Social Issues
2016 - 2020	Queen Mary University of London
	Teaching Assistant for Econometrics I and Principles of Economics
2013 - 2015	Bocconi University
	Teaching Assistant for Labour Economics and Macroeconomics

Seminars

2022	PAA 2022 (co-author, Atlanta), Unimi Brown bag Seminar (Milan)
2021	HESG Winter 2021 (London, virtual), Unimi Brown bag Seminar (Milan), SMYE 2021 (Bologna, virtual), 2021 IIPF Congress (Reykjavík, virtual), 2021 EEA-ESEM (Copenhagen, virtual, coauthor), EuHEA Seminar Series Fall 2021 (virtual, coauthor), MEEW 2021 (Melbourne, virtual)
2020	X Workshop of the fRDB Fellows and Affiliates (Milan), AIES XXV National Conference (Milan, cancelled), EUHEA Conference (Oslo, cancelled)
2019	VisitINPS Seminars (Rome), IX Workshop of the fRDB Fellows and Affiliates (Reggio Calabria), Queen Mary Internal Seminars (London), EUI Micro-Econometrics Working Group (co-author, Florence), Queen Mary Ph.D. Conference (Discussant, London)
2018	VIII Workshop of the fRDB Fellows and Affiliates (Pavia), Queen Mary Internal Seminars (London)
2017	Queen Mary Ph.D. Conference (London), VII Workshop of the fRDB Fellows and Affiliates (discussant, Ancona)

Grants

2019	VisitINPS Scholars Fellowship
2015 - 2019	MRes/Ph.D. Scholarship, Queen Mary University of London

Affiliations

Affiliated Scientist at RFF-CMCC EIEE

fRDB Affiliate

Publications

"Accesso alla giustizia e mercato del lavoro", 2020 XVIII Rapporto Annuale Inps, pp 47-48

"Premi variabili e redditività aziendale: i risultati di uno studio sui dati 2011", 2013, Indagine sul mercato del lavoro nell'Area Milanese, Assolombarda, Chapter 4.6, pp 122-135

Refereeing Activity

The Economic Journal

Additional Information

Softwares: STATA, Python, qGIS, LaTeX

Summer Schools and Other Courses: Masterclass in Health Economics (UCD, 2022); Artificial Neural Networks with Tensorflow (Unimi, 2021); Intro to Machine Learning using Stata (Unimi-CEEDS, 2020); Applied Data Science with Python (Coursera, 2019)

Languages: Italian (native), English (fluent), Spanish (advanced), Portuguese (intermediate).

Others: author at lavoce.info

Ongoing Projects

The Medium-Term Impact of Prenatal Exposure to Air Pollution *with Alessandro Palma and Chiara Serra*
We investigate the *medium-term* effects of prenatal exposure to *moderate* air pollution on health matching satellite

estimates of PM_{10} concentration with administrative longitudinal data on the universe of live-births, hospitalisation records and pharmaceutical consumption in a large Italian region. Employing quasi-random variation in air pollution and controlling for weather and economic activity, we show that PM_{10} leads to worse health outcomes at birth and to substantially higher pharmaceutical consumption and hospitalization rates in early life, especially for less healthy individuals. We rule out in-sample compositional effects and show that the geographical mobility of expectant mothers does not respond to air pollution. The effects of PM_{10} are long-lasting and entail sizeable monetary costs even at moderate levels.

The Role of Social Behaviour in Mediating the Effect of Weather on COVID-19 Infections [PREPRINT]
with Chiara Serra
We combine mobile locations, weather data, and COVID-19 confirmed cases in a transformed two-way fixed effects mediation model to estimate the causal impact of weather on the COVID-19 infection rate in the United States, disentangling its direct impact from the indirect effect via the endogenous response of social activity. We show that, while temperature has a negative impact on viral infectiousness, it also increases the amount of time individuals spend out of home, which instead favours the spread of the virus. This second channel substantially attenuates the beneficial effect of temperature in curbing the spread of the virus, offsetting half of the potential seasonal fluctuations in the reproduction rate. The mediation role of social activity is particularly relevant when viral incidence is low, while it becomes negligible when the epidemiological situation is more serious. Wind speed and precipitation, despite being significant predictors of social activity, do not induce sufficient variation to affect infections. Estimates are robust to an alternative definition of social activity based on the number of visits to indoor venues. This suggests that our results are not driven by individuals spending less time indoors on warmer days, leaving a biological effect of temperature on the virus as the most probable mechanism. Finally, our estimates show that school closures and lockdowns are effective in reducing infections.

The Italian Judicial Geography and the Labour Market
In 2012, a major reform of the judicial geography was implemented in Italy. Many court districts were suppressed, and the jurisdiction of others was extended accordingly. Through a matched diff-in-diff analysis of Italian administrative data on the universe of hires and firings from Inps, and employing firms located in unaffected areas as a control group, I quantify the effects of this reform on the local labour market disentangling the discrete impact of the court suppression from the consequences of the increased travel time from the firm to the court. Results suggest that increased distance reduces job flows and that this channel explains most of the observed reduction in turnover. This may be rationalized by firms internalising the increase in the travel time to court as part of the firing costs or by an increase in informal hires at the expenses of the formal sector.

The Year of the Dragon: a Natural Experiment on Class-Size in California
As individuals born under the sign of the Dragon are traditionally believed to be lucky, Chinese live-births in US have been higher than normal in 2000, affecting total enrolment in schools with a higher presence of Chinese students. I employ this variation to investigate the effects of class-size on students' achievement in California with an instrumental variable approach. Results suggest that increased enrolment negatively affects primary school achievement of White, Hispanic, and Black students in particular. Increased enrolment did not cause students' displacement, nor it was accommodated by schools through new hires, and Dragon students in US are not significantly different from Asian kids in other cohorts. The effects can be explained by increased class-size and an overall reduction of available resources per student.