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DATE OF BIRTH: 11-7-1979

SEX: M

CITIZENSHIP: Italian

CURRENT POSITION:

July 2020 – present Full Professor, University of Bologna (Department of Economics)

OTHER AFFILIATIONS:

2013 – present IZA, Fellow

PAST POSITIONS:

Sep 2016 – July 2020 Associate Professor, University of Bologna (Department of Economics)

Dec 2014 – Aug 2016 Reader, University of Sussex (Department of Economics)

2012 – 2015 CEP, London School of Economics, Research Associate

Oct 2014 – Nov 2014 Senior Lecturer, University of Sussex (Department of Economics)

2012 – Sep. 2014 Lecturer, University of Sussex (Department of Economics)

2009 – 2012 Research Fellow, University of Mannheim (Department of Economics)

2007 – 2009 Max Weber Fellow, European University Institute

EDUCATION:

2002 – 31st December 2007 Phd in Economics, London School of Economics and Political Sciences
THESIS TITLE: "The role of ethnic diversity and education in determining national identity and political behavior"

ADVISOR: Prof. Maitreesh Ghatak

2001-2002 Msc in Economics (with distinction), Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain

1997-2001 BA (Laurea) in Economics, 110/110 cum laude, Universita' di Pisa, Italy

DESIRED TEACHING AND RESEARCH:

Primary Fields: Development, Political Economy, Economics and Culture

Secondary Fields: Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics

PUBLICATIONS:

Cultural Determinants of Household Saving Behavior (joint with N. Fuchs-Schündeln and Hannah Paule), *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking*, August 2020, Vol. 52, Issue 5, pp. 1035-1070

Relying on the epidemiological approach, we show that culture is a significant driver of household saving behavior. Second-generation immigrants from countries that put strong emphasis on thrift or wealth accumulation tend to save more in Germany. We confirm these results in data from the UK. By linking parents to their children, we show that these two cultural components affect the saving behavior of both first-generation immigrants and their children.

Competition and the Role of Group Identity (joint with F. Cornaglia and M. Drouvelis), *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, June 2019, Vol. 162, pp. 136-145

The emergence of competition is a defining aspect of human nature and characterizes many important social interactions. However, its relationship with how social groups are formed has received little attention. We design an experiment to analyze how individuals' willingness to compete is affected by group identity. We find that individuals display substantially stronger competitiveness in within group (ingroup) interactions than in between group (outgroup) interactions or in a control setting where no group identity is induced. We also find that the effect of group identity is stronger for subjects who participated more actively in the team-building task.

The Long Lasting Effects of Socialist Education (joint with N. Fuchs-Schündeln), *Review of Economics and Statistics*, July 2016, Vol. 98, No. 3: 428–441

Political regimes influence the content of education and criteria used to select and evaluate students. We study the impact of a socialist education on the likelihood of obtaining a college degree and on several labor market outcomes by exploiting the reorganization of the school system in East Germany after reunification. Our identification strategy uses cutoff birth dates for school enrollment that lead to variation in the length of exposure to the socialist education system within the same birth cohort. An additional year of socialist education decreases the probability of obtaining a college degree and affects longer-term labor market outcomes for men.

Citizenship, Fertility and Parental Investment (joint with Ciro Avitabile and Irma Clots), *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, October, pp. 35-65, 2014

Legal status is associated with better economic opportunities for immigrants. This paper studies how immigrants' fertility responds to a change in child legal status at birth. The introduction of birthright citizenship in Germany, following the reform of the German nationality law in 1999, represented a positive shock in the return to the investment in child human capital. Consistent with the Becker "quantity-quality" model of fertility, we find that birthright citizenship determined i) a reduction in immigrants' fertility, ii) an increase in the time spent with their children and iii) a reduction in childhood obesity among children affected by the reform.

Media Coverage: U.S.News and World Report, *Trump is wrong, birthright citizenship makes America great*, August 2015; Le Monde Economie, *Laissez venir à nous les enfants étrangers*, 10 décembre 2013, Sole 24 ore, *Nella UE lus Soli a geometria variabile*, 19 Settembre 2017

Incentives and Group Identity (joint with S. Meier and P.Zahn), *Games and Economic Behavior*, 86, pp 12-25, 2014

Groups and teams are very prevalent in society and organizations. Our paper investigates in a principal-agent environment whether and how group membership influences the effectiveness of incentives and when incentives can have "hidden costs", i.e., when they result in reduced effort. We show experimentally that whether the principal and agent belong to and identify with the same group or with different groups changes how incentives, i.e. control mechanisms, are perceived. Control as an incentive has detrimental effects in in-group interactions because the agent doesn't expect to be controlled and reacts negatively when being controlled after all. If agents and principals don't share the same group identity, agents perceive control more hostile conditional on their beliefs about principal's behavior. As a result, in all interactions, control can have "hidden costs" but for reasons specific to group membership. Our finding contributes to the micro-foundation of psychological effects of incentives.

Education, Language and Identity (joint with Irma Clots) *Economic Journal*, 123: F332-F357, August 2013

The process of individual identity formation is still an enigma, as it is the capacity of public bodies to intervene on it. In 1983 the Catalan education system became bilingual, and Catalan, together with Spanish, was taught in schools. Using survey data from Catalonia and exploiting within and between cohort variation in exposure to Catalan language at school, results show that individuals who have experienced greater exposure to teaching in Catalan are more likely to say that they feel more Catalan than Spanish. Interestingly, the effect appears to be present also among individuals whose parents do not have Catalan origins. In addition, the reform also affects actions, as individuals exposed to greater teaching in Catalan are more likely to vote in regional elections and vote for Catalan regionalist parties. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first paper to analyze how policies affect individual identity.

Media Coverage: El Pais, *Espanolizar ya lo hizo Franco.. y fracaso´*, October 2012

The Effect of Birthright Citizenship on Parental Integration Outcomes (joint with Ciro Avitabile and Irma Clots), *Journal of Law and Economics*, 56 (3), pp777-810, August 2013

The integration of immigrants is constantly a subject of public debate, and measures to foster assimilation of newcomers are central in the political agenda of many countries. This paper focuses on the legal institution of citizenship and analyzes the consequences of the introduction of birthright citizenship in Germany. Exploiting the exogenous variation provided by the 1999 reform of the German nationality law, we study the effect of child legal status on the cultural integration of immigrant parents. We find evidence that foreign born parents are more likely to interact with the local community and use German language when their children are entitled to German citizenship at birth.

Media Coverage: Handelsblatt, *Das Rätsel der Integration*, November 2010, Sole 24 ore, *Nella UE Ius Soli a geometria variabile*, 19 Settembre 2017

Markets and Jungles (with Thomas Gall) *Journal of Economic Growth*, 17 (2), 103-141, June 2012

Economic institutions determine prospects for growth and development. This paper examines necessary conditions for an economy to support institutions that implement markets. Agents differ in land holdings, skill, and power. A competitive market assigns land to the skilled, not necessarily to the powerful. Therefore a market allocation needs to be robust to coalitional expropriation. In a dynamic setting, market payoffs may induce sufficient inequality in next period's endowments for markets to alternate with expropriation in a limit cycle, decreasing efficiency and amplifying macroeconomic fluctuations. Long run stability of markets is favored by higher social mobility, more initial equality, and less mismatch between demand and supply.

National Identity and Ethnic Diversity *Journal of Population Economics*, 26(2), 437-454, April 2013

In countries with high levels of ethnic diversity "nation building" has been proposed as a mechanism for integration and conflict reduction. We find no evidence of lower intensity of national sentiment in more ethnically fragmented countries or in minority groups. National feelings in a minority can be higher or lower than in a majority, depending on the degree of ethnic diversity of a country. On the one hand, in countries with high ethnic diversity, nationalist feelings are less strong in minority groups than in the majorities; on the other hand, in countries with low ethnic diversity, the reverse is true.

"Compulsory Language Educational Policies and Identity Formation" (with O. Aspachs, I. Clots and J. Costa) *Journal of European Economic Association*, 6 (2-3), April-May 2008

Education can be at the root of the process of identity formation. Using survey data from Catalonia and the Basque Country, where in 1983 the education system became bilingual, we study how parental choices and schooling interact with each other and contribute to the development of individual identity. The difference between the reforms implemented in the two Spanish regions is that whereas in Catalonia the reform was compulsory, in the Basque Country parents could choose the language used to educate their children. Results show a significant effect of the compulsory language policy implemented in Catalonia on identity, whereas the non-compulsory language policy implemented in the Basque Country does not have any effect.

Working Papers:

The Dynamics of the Debate about Gay Rights: Evidence from U.S. newspapers (joint with A. Manning)

Changing attitudes are the result of a battle for hearts and minds in which agents for and against change try to persuade others. We know very little about this process. This paper develops a methodology for measuring the intensity and the contents of arguments for and against an idea in the media which we apply to attitudes to gay rights. We uncover several stylized facts: First, the expression of both pro- and anti-gay arguments in U.S. newspapers follow an S-shaped pattern, characteristic of diffusion processes. Anti-gay arguments start their diffusion process later but they catch up with pro-gay arguments. Second, in the year gay marriages are introduced we observe a dramatic increase in coverage of both pro- and anti-gay arguments; the increase in the latter is larger. The rise in coverage is still present in the three years subsequent to the institutional change. Third, we document the existence of substantial spatial autocorrelation in media coverage.

SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

"Ius Culturae" workshop, Italian Parliament (2019), RES conference (2018), University of Alicante (2018), ASREC conference, Bologna (2017), Università Roma Tor Vergata (2017), Mills Workshop, Fondazione De Benedetti & Università Cattolica, Milano (2017), UCL, School of Slavonic and East European Studies (2017), Università di Bologna (2015), Royal Holloway (2015), University of Nottingham (2014), IZA, Bonn (2014), University of East Anglia (2014), University of Warwick, workshop on Human Capital and Productivity (2013), University of Bristol (2013), IWH, Halle (2012), University of Surrey (2012), University of Sussex (2012), WZB, Berlin (2012), University of Southampton (2011), Bocconi University (2011) Lausanne University (2011) Queen Mary, University of London (2011), NBER Summer Meeting (2010), CEPR Meeting, Milano (2010), Università di Bologna (2009) Mannheim University (2008, 2009, 2010), North American Summer Meeting, Pittsburgh (2008), European University Institute (2008) IMT Lucca (2008), Università di Pisa (2008), European Economic Association Congress, Budapest (2007) *invited session*, Universitat de Barcelona (2007) "Polarization and conflict" meeting, Cordoba (2006) NEUDC conference, Ithaca, NY (2006), EOPP Seminar LSE/STICERD (2003-2006, and 2009).

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE:

2016-2018 RES (Royal Economic Society) conferences, paper selection committee
2008 Asset, Firenze, paper selection committee

REFEREE ACTIVITY:

Review of Economic Studies, Journal of Political Economy, Economica, Journal of Population Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Journal of European Economic Association, Journal of Economics, Journal of Economic Theory, Applied Economics Quarterly, Journal of Labor Research, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Development Studies, Kyklos, Labour, Management Science, Economics of Education, Journal of International Money and Finance, American Political Science Review, American Economic Review

RESEARCH GRANTS:

- 2019 **Principal Investigator, PRIN**, joint project with M.Squicciarini (Bocconi University), 395520 Euros
- 2017 **Principal Investigator, Alma Idea**, University of Bologna, joint project with Davide Raggi (University of Bologna) and Giuseppe Pignataro (University of Bologna), 20000 Euros
- 2017 **co-Principal Investigator, British Academy Small Research Grant Program**, joint with Richard Dickens (University of Sussex), 10000£.
- 2014 **Principal investigator, BMEc (Business Management and Economics, U. of Sussex) Research Development Funds Program**, joint with Francesca Cornaglia (Queen Mary University) and Alan Manning (LSE), 30000£
- 2010 **Principal investigator, University of Mannheim, Small Grant**, joint with Stephan Meier (University of Columbia) and Philipp Zahn (University of Mannheim), 4000 Euros.

PRIZES, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

2014 Kuznets Prize (best paper Journal of Population Economics)
2004-2005 LSE studentship

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

PHD LEVEL

Academic Year 2016-2019 Applications of high-dimensionality data analysis in Economics, University of Bologna (Lecturer)

GRADUATE

Academic Year 2017-2020 Economic Development, University of Bologna (Lecturer)
Academic Year 2016-2017 Topics in Macroeconomics, University of Bologna (Lecturer)
Academic Year 2009-2012 Economics and Culture, University of Mannheim (Lecturer)
Academic Year 2010-2012 Development Economics, University of Mannheim (Lecturer)

UNDERGRADUATE

Academic Year 2016-2020 Macroeconomics, University of Bologna (Lecturer), approx. 100-150 students
Academic Year 2012-2016 Development Economics, University of Sussex (Lecturer)

Paolo Masella

Phd Students Supervised:

Alvaro Monge, Hector Rufrancos, Edgar Salgado Chavez, Egidio Farina, Robson Tigre, Yanjun Li, Angelina Nazarova, Christoph Pfeufer

Phd Examiner:

Internal PhD Examiner for Lucio Castro (February 2014)

Internal PhD Examiner for Omofolamihan Olaboye Malomo (July 2014)

External Phd examiner for Anna Baiardi, Warwick (Jan 2017)