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Personal Details:

Date of birth: July 23, 1977
Gender: Male
Civil Status: Single
Nationality: Italian

Current Position

09/2007-present Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Real Estate Economics and Finance; Department of Geography and Environment, London School of Economics (LSE), London.

09/2011-present Director, PhD Programme in Economic Geography, Department of Geography and Environment, London School of Economics (LSE)

Other Affiliations

06/2008-present Research Associate; Spatial Economics Research Centre (SERC), LSE, London.

09/2007-present Research Associate; Centre for Economic Performance (CEP), LSE, London.

05/2006-present Research Fellow; IZA (Institute for the Study of Labor), Bonn.

Current Research Interests

Primary: Economics of Education; Entrepreneurship; Urban Economics.

Secondary: Applied Growth; Applied Microeconometrics.

Education

09/01-01/06 European University Institute (EUI), Dept. of Economics, Florence: PhD in Economics.

02/04-08/04 University College London (UCL), Dept. of Economics, London: Marie Curie Fellow.

09/00-06/01 Bocconi University, Dept. of Economics, Milan: Master in Economics (Distinction).

01/99-07/99 Institut d'Etudes Politiques (IEP), Paris: International Certificate of Political and Social Sciences.

09/96-09/00 Bocconi University, Dept. of Economics, Milan: B.Sc. in Economics.

Previously Held Positions

08/11-12/11 Visiting Scholar, Taubman Center for State and Local Government, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

09/04-08/07 Research Officer, Education and Skills Programme; CEP, LSE, London.

12/02-02/04 Research Assistant (RA), Prof. A. Ichino; Dept. of Economics, EUI, Florence.

07/01-07/02 RA, Prof. F. Daveri; IGIER, Bocconi University, Milan.

Refereed Journal Articles and Chapters

‘The Good, The Bad and The Average: Evidence on Ability Peer Effects in Schools’ (with V. Lavy and F. Weinhardt); *Journal of Labor Economics*, forthcoming, 2011 (NBER WP 15600).

‘Faith Primary Schools: Better Schools or Better Pupils?’ (with S. Gibbons); *Journal of Labor Economics*, vol. 29(3), pp. 589-635, 2011 (IZA DP 4089).

‘School Quality, Child Wellbeing and Parents’ Satisfaction’ (with S. Gibbons); *Economics of Education Review*, vol. 30(2), pp. 312-331, 2011 (CEE DP 103).

‘Choice, Competition and Pupil Achievement’ (with S. Gibbons and S. Machin), *Journal of the European Economic Association*, vol. 6(4), pp. 912-947, 2008 (IZA DP 2214).

‘Urban Density and Pupil Attainment’ (with S. Gibbons), *Journal of Urban Economics*, vol. 63(1), pp. 631-650, 2008 (IZA DP 2728).

‘Why So Many Local Entrepreneurs?’ (with C. Michelacci), *Review of Economics and Statistics*, vol. 89(4), pp. 615-633, 2007 (CEMFI WP 0506 and CEPR DP 5828).

‘The Jack-of-All-Trades Entrepreneur: Innate Talent or Acquired Skill?’, *Economics Letters*, vol. 97, pp. 118-123, 2007 (IZA DP 2264).

‘New Technology in Schools: Is there a Payoff?’ (with S. Machin and S. McNally), *Economic Journal*, vol. 117, pp.1145-1167, 2007 (IZA DP 2234).

‘Competition and Accessibility in School Markets: Empirical Analysis Using Boundary Discontinuities’ (with S. Gibbons), in T.J. Gronberg and D.W. Jansen (eds.), *IMPROVING SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY: CHECK-UPS OR CHOICE?*, *Advances in Applied Microeconomics*, Vol.14, Elsevier, 2006.

‘Not only Nokia: What Finland tells us about *new economy* growth’ (with F. Daveri), *Economic Policy*, vol. 19(38), 2004.

Submitted Articles and Completed Research Papers

‘Does Self-Employment Measure Entrepreneurship? Evidence from Great Britain’ (with G. Faggio); mimeo LSE, 2011.

‘Everybody Needs Good Neighbours? Evidence from Students’ Outcomes in England’ (with S. Gibbons and F. Weinhardt); IZA DP 5980, 2011 (previously SERC DP 0063) (submitted).

‘Homeownership and Entrepreneurship’ (with P. Bracke and C. Hilber); mimeo LSE, 2011.

‘Targeting Non-Cognitive Skills to Improve Cognitive Outcomes: Evidence from a Remedial Education Intervention’ (with H. Holmlund); IZA DP 4476, 2009 (submitted).

‘Valuing School Quality Using Boundary Discontinuity Regressions’ (with S. Gibbons and S. Machin); SERC DP 0018, 2009 (under revision for the *Journal of Public Economics*).

Research in Progress and Research Projects

‘Entrepreneurial Sorting: Facts and Determinants’ (with G. Faggio); work-in-progress, 2011 (SERC-related project).

‘The Co-Agglomeration of Entrepreneurs’ (with G. Faggio and W. Strange); work-in-progress, 2011.

‘School Admissions Systems’ (with S. Gibbons); work-in-progress, 2011 (CEP-related project).

‘Homeownership and Social Capital: An Exploration Across European Countries and Institutions’ (with C. Hilber); research project (SERC-related project).

‘School Governance in England’ (with S. Gibbons and S. Machin); research project (CEP-related project).

Selected Policy Reports and Non-Academic Articles

Book Review, 'The Triumph of the City: How Our Greatest Invention Makes us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier and Happier, by Edward Glaeser, Penguin Press. Accessible via *LSE British Politics and Policy Blog* (<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/category/book-reviews/>), April 2011.

'The Good, The Bad and The Average: Evidence of Ability Peer Effects in Schools' (with V. Lavy and F. Weinhardt), *Vox* (<http://www.voxeu.org/>), January 2010.

'What Works in Primary Schools?', *Centrepiece*, vol. 14(1), Spring 2009.

'Targeting Pupils at Risk of Exclusion: An Evaluation of the xl Club Programme' (with H. Holmlund), Report to The Prince's Trust, June 2008.

'The Effectiveness of Primary Education', in C. Beria di Argentine (ed.), *SISTEMI EDUCATIVI E CAPITALE UMANO*, Atti del Congresso, 22-23 June 2007, Milano, Giuffrè Editore, 2007 (updated as IZA PP 5, 2009).

'Computers in Schools – New Technology in Schools: Is There a Payoff?' (with S. Machin and S. McNally), *Vox* (<http://www.voxeu.org/>), December 2007.

'The Educational Impact of Parental Choice and School Competition' (with S. Gibbons and S. Machin), *Centrepiece*, vol.11(3), Winter 2006/2007 (lead article).

'An Evaluation of the Impact of Aimhigher: Excellence Challenge Using the Labour Force Survey' (with C. Emmerson, C. Frayne and S. McNally), Department for Education and Skills (DfES), Research Report RR813, 2006.

Grants

Renewal of BIS/ESRC/WAG-funded Spatial Economics Research Centre (SERC), 2012-2013; co-applicant for extension of funding (with H. Overman, S. Gibbons and others): £1.4m total.

ESRC funded Centre for Economic Performance Education (CEP), 2010-2015; co-applicant for education-related projects within core funding (with J. Van Reenen, S. Machin and others): £6.08m total.

BERR/CLG/ESRC/WAG funded Spatial Economics Research Centre (SERC), 2008-2010; co-applicant for core-funding (with H. Overman, S. Gibbons and others): £2.87m total.

Evaluation of the xl Clubs, The Prince's Trust, London; principal investigator (with H. Holmlund): £24,375.

Teaching

2008-present 'Applied Location and Spatial Analysis'; 3rd Year Undergraduate Course.

2007-present 'Real Estate Finance'; Master Programme Course.

2007 only 'Applied Urban and Regional Economics'; Master Programme Course.

2006-present 'Theories of Regional Development and Change'; 3rd Year Undergraduate Course.

PhD Students' Supervision

Jose-Maria Casado Garcia: *Three Essays on the Geography of Household Consumption Decisions* (review supervisor). Defended: July 2011. First employment: Bank of Spain.

Teresa Schlueter: *The Effects of Location on Labour Supply* (review supervisor).

Phil Wales: *Graduate specialisation, training and labour market outcomes in the context of disparities in local economic performance in the UK* (review supervisor).

Felix Weinhardt: *Applied Essays in Education and Urban Economics* (main supervisor).

Recent Conferences and Seminars

Speaker at conferences (selected): *NARSC Annual Conference 2011 (Miami)*; *SERC Annual Conference 2011 and 2010 (London)*; *SOLE Annual Conference 2010 (London) and 2009 (Boston)*; *Workshop on the Economics of the Family and Child Development 2010 (Stavanger)*; *CEP Annual Conference 2010 (Brighton)*; *CEPR Research Network 'The Economics of Education and Education Policy in Europe' (EEEPE) Annual Conference 2009 (London), 2007 (Madrid), 2006 (Padua), 2005 (Uppsala) and 2004 (Amsterdam)*; *IZA-SOLE Transatlantic Conference, 2008 (Buch/Ammresee)*; *EALE Annual Conference 2006 (Prague) and 2004 (Lisboa)*; *WPEG Annual Conference 2006 (Canterbury)*; *EEA Annual Conference 2005 (Amsterdam)*; *ESSLE-IZA 2009, 2005 and 2004 (Buch/Ammresee)*.

Speaker in seminars (selected): *Bocconi University (Milan)*; *Brown University (Providence, RI)*; *Catholic University of Milan*; *CEIS-Tor Vergata (Rome)*; *CEP, London School of Economics*; *CMPO, University of Bristol*; *CPB (The Hague)*; *DIW (Berlin)*; *Harvard Business School (Cambridge, MA)*; *Harvard Department of Economics (Cambridge, MA)*; *Harvard Kennedy School (Cambridge, MA)*; *HECER (Helsinki)*, *IFAU (Uppsala)*; *IZA (Bonn)*; *PSI (London)*; *Stockholm University*; *University of Barcelona*; *University of Bologna*; *University of Chicago, Harris School (Chicago, IL)*; *University of Essex*; *University of Leicester*; *Tinbergen Institute (Amsterdam)*.

Seminar series co-organizer: 'Urban and Regional Economics', hosted by the Spatial Economics Research Centre (SERC), London School of Economics (joint with Christian Hilber and Henry Overman).

Seminar series co-organizer: 'Work-in-Progress Meetings – PhD in Economic Geography', hosted by the Department of Geography and Environment, London School of Economics (joint with S. Iammarino and Henry Overman).

Conference organizer: 'The Educational impact of School Competition and Choice'; Department for Education and Skills, London; May 2006.

Referee And Professional Activities

Referee for (selected): *Economic Development and Cultural Change*; *Economic Journal*; *Environment and Planning A*; *Journal of Economic Geography*; *Journal of Human Resources*; *Journal of Labor Economics*; *Journal of Population Economics*; *Journal of Public Economics*; *Journal of Urban Economics*; *Labour Economics*; *Regional Science and Urban Studies*; *Regional Studies*; *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*; *Small Business Economics*.

Scientific Committee (paper selection), ASSET Annual Conference, 2008; EUI (Florence).

Scientific Advisory Board, HEINE (Network for Higher Education and Innovation Research), Helsinki, Finland, 2011-present.

Selected Media Coverage

Articles/research featured in: *BBC News*, *Channel 4 (Richard Dawkins' reportage)*, *The Daily Mail*, *The Evening Standard*, *The Guardian*, *The Economist*, *The Independent*, *Slate*, *The Telegraph* and *The Times Educational Supplement*.

Language Skills

Italian (native), English (fluent), French (good), Spanish (basic).
