

Matteo Gamalerio

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Education

- 2017 PhD in Economics
 University of Warwick
 Advisors: Ben Lockwood, Mirko Draca
 Thesis: “Rules, discretion and quality of government: evidence from Italian municipalities”
 Committee: James Fenske, Andrea Tesei
- 2012 MSc in Economics (research)
 London School of Economics and Political Science
- 2010 MSc in Economics
 Catholic University of Milan, Italy
- 2007 B.Sc. in Economics and Management of Arts and Entertainment
 Catholic University of Milan, Italy
- 2006 Erasmus Exchange program
 University of Valladolid, Spain

References

[Ben Lockwood](#)

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[Mirko Draca](#)

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[Jeremy Smith](#)

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Research Interests

Applied Econometrics, Political Economy, Public Economics, Economics of Migration.

Affiliations

Political Economy and Public Economics Warwick research group.

Working papers

M. Gamalerio (September 2017). “Not welcome anymore: the effect of electoral incentives on the reception of refugees” *Job market paper*

M. Gamalerio (June, 2017). “Fiscal rules and the selection of politicians: evidence from Italian municipalities” *Winner of the EEA Young Economist Award at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the European Economic Association*

M. Gamalerio (June, 2017). “Do national political parties matter? Evidence from Italian municipalities”

M. Bordignon, M. Gamalerio, G. Turati (July, 2017). “Manager or politician? The effect of local fiscal autonomy on political selection” SUBMITTED

Teaching Experience

2017-2018 Econometrics 2 - EC338, micro-econometrics, Lecturer
University of Warwick, Department of Economics

2017-2018 Econometrics - EC9760, Teaching Assistant
Warwick Business School

2017-2018 EC9A3 – Advanced Econometric Theory (PhD)
University of Warwick, Department of Economics

2015-2018 Econometrics 1 - EC226, Senior Tutor
University of Warwick, Department of Economics

2016-2017 Introduction to statistics and Stata, Teaching Assistant
Warwick Business School

2015-2017 Econometrics A - EC902/EC907 (MSc), Teaching Assistant
University of Warwick, Department of Economics

2014-2016 Econometrics, Teaching Assistant
Warwick Economics Summer School

2013-2015 Econometrics 1 - EC226, Teaching Assistant
University of Warwick, Department of Economics

Research Experience and Other Employment

2016-2017 Research Assistant, Fernanda Brollo and Mirko Draca
University of Warwick, Department of Economics

2015 Research Assistant, Fernanda Brollo and Juan Carlos Gozzi
University of Warwick, Department of Economics

2015 Research Assistant, Thiemo Fetzer
University of Warwick, Department of Economics

2014-2015 Research Assistant, Mirko Draca
University of Warwick, Department of Economics

2010-2011 Research Assistant, Massimo Bordignon and Gilberto Turati
Catholic University of Milan, Department of Economics

Referee

American Political Science Review, Canadian Journal of Economics, European Journal of Political Economy, International Tax and Public Finance

Seminars Presentations and Conferences

2017 *Not welcome anymore: the effect of electoral incentives on the reception of refugees*
CReAM/RWI Workshop on the economics of migration; Petralia Workshop (Job market boot camp); Advances in Political Economy and Public Economics Workshop, Max Planck Institute (Scheduled); 11th Workshop on Political Economy, Ifo Institute (Scheduled); European Winter Meeting – Econometric Society (Scheduled); 42nd SAEe meeting (Scheduled); RES PhD meeting (Scheduled);

Fiscal rules and the selection of politicians: evidence from Italian municipalities

Royal Economic Society Conference; RES Symposium of Junior Researchers; Warwick PhD Conference; Warwick Public Economics/Political Economy workshop; EEA- ESEM;

2016 *Do national political parties matter? Evidence from Italian municipalities*
Royal Economic Society Conference; First Marco Fanno Alumni Workshop, Unicredit, Milan; Evidence-Based Economics Summer Meeting, Universities of Munich, Erlangen-Nuremberg and Regensburg;

Manager or politician? The effect of local fiscal autonomy on political selection

EEA-ESEM;

2015 *Do national political parties matter? Evidence from Italian municipalities*
Conference of Italian Public Economics Society (SIEP);

Manager or politician? The effect of local fiscal autonomy on political selection

VI Alghero Workshop on “Institutions, Individual Behaviour and Economic Outcomes”;

2014 *Manager or politician? The effect of local fiscal autonomy on political selection*
Canadian Public Economics Group; Political Economy Workshop, Catholic University of Milan;

Awards and Extra Curricular Achievements

2017 Paper “Fiscal rules and the selection of politicians: evidence from Italian municipalities”
Winner of the EEA Young Economist Award, EEA-ESEM 2017, Lisbon
Awarded by Unicredit & Universities Foundation

2012 ESRC DTC scholarship for 3 years of full-time study.
Awarded by the Graduate School of the University of Warwick

2010 “Marco Fanno” scholarship for graduate studies in economics, academic year 2011-2012.
Awarded by Unicredit & Universities Foundation

2010 Toefl certificate (Internet based test, final mark 101)

- 2010 GRE (Graduate Record Examination): quantitative 780/800
- 2008 Working Experience Abroad, Catholic University of Melbourne (Australia)
- 2007 Dele certificate (Diploma de Español como lengua extranjera, intermediate level, 95/100)

Skills

Languages: Italian (native), English (fluent), Spanish (fluent)
 Computer: Stata, Excel, Latex, Scientific Workplace, Word

Research papers – Abstracts

“Not welcome anymore: the effect of electoral incentives on the reception of refugees” *Job market paper*

Do electoral incentives affect immigration policy decisions? I study this question in the setting of Italian municipalities making decisions about the reception of refugees. The localized control of the reception policy (SPRAR), combined with the exogenous timing of policy decisions and staggered elections, enables me to study the effect of electoral incentives on the reception of refugees. Although municipalities receive substantial fiscal grants from the central government for hosting refugees, electoral incentives reduce the probability of opening a refugee reception centre by 24 per cent. The effect is driven by municipalities with higher shares of extreme-right voters, and migrants, and is persistent in the medium-long run. The results suggest two potential drawbacks of elections: first, the heterogeneity behind the negative effect may explain why it is difficult to reach an equal redistribution of refugees across and within countries. Second, the fear of losing popular support induces municipal governments to give up fiscal grants that could benefit the local economy.

“Fiscal rules and the selection of politicians: evidence from Italian municipalities” *Winner of the EEA Young Economist Award at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the European Economic Association*

Many countries have recently introduced fiscal rules to constrain governments' fiscal policies and action. Despite the wide adoption, there is little evidence on the consequences of fiscal rules for the quality of government. I use data from Italian municipalities to study how fiscal rules affect the selection of politicians. In 1999, the Italian government applied fiscal rules to all municipalities, and in 2001 it removed them for municipalities with less than 5000 inhabitants. Using a Difference-in-Discontinuity (Diff-in-Disc) design, which enables control for an institutionally mandated increase in the wage paid to politicians at the 5000-inhabitant threshold, I provide the following empirical evidence: 1) fiscal rules negatively affect the quality of politicians, and in particular their level of education; 2) consistent with the idea that competent individuals enter politics if they are given enough discretion, the effect is driven by municipalities with low deficits; 3) fiscal rules offset the positive effect of the wage increase on the selection of politicians.

“Do national political parties matter? Evidence from Italian municipalities”

Recently several countries have experienced a drop in popularity of national political parties, accompanied by the success of independent movements (e.g. Civic Lists in Italy). I exploit the success of Civic Lists in Italian municipalities and use them as a comparison group for party-affiliated politicians, to test whether national parties affect fiscal discipline. In particular, using a Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD), I show that party-affiliated mayors are more fiscally responsible: they run lower deficits, accumulate less debt and reduce expenditures. The effect is significant only for municipalities not constrained by fiscal rules. This suggests that national parties act as a substitute for fiscal rules in constraining politicians. Besides that, I provide evidence

that the discipline of party-affiliated politicians is linked to better career prospects: party-affiliated mayors have a higher probability of being re-elected and better chances of being promoted to higher levels of government. Finally, the results are not driven by political orientation, alignment with the central government, the presence of criminal organizations nor by unobserved political ability.

“Manager or politician? The effect of local fiscal autonomy on political selection” (with M. Bordignon and G. Turati) SUBMITTED

In a model of politics with different types of politicians, following a tax decentralization reform, politicians with high administrative skills are elected in rich municipalities and politicians with high political skills are elected in poor municipalities. As a result, voter welfare increases only, or mainly, in rich municipalities. These results provide a different rationale for the observed poor performance of local governments largely financed by grants. We test these predictions by exploiting the decentralization reforms in Italy in the 90's. These reforms introduced the direct election of the mayor and new autonomous tax tools, that affected differently rich and poor municipalities because of the differences in their tax bases. Results support our predictions and are robust to several alternative stories.