

Enrico Rubolino

Education

University of Essex

PhD in Economics, Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER)

Colchester, UK

Oct. 2017–

University of California, Berkeley

Visiting student. Center for Equitable Growth (CEG). Host: Emmanuel Saez

Berkeley, USA

Sep. 2019–Dec. 2019

Uppsala University

MSc in Economics. With distinction

Uppsala, SWE

2015–2017

University of Siena

MSc in Economics. 110/110 cum laude

Siena, ITA

2014–2016

Professional experience

University of Essex

Intermediate Macroeconomics (18/19); Mathematical Methods in Economics (19/20)

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Dec. 2018–

ESRC Research Centre on Micro-Social Change (MiSoC)

Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER)

Affiliate

Oct. 2017–

Bank of Italy

Directorate General for Economics, Statistics and Research

Research Assistant

Jun. 2017–Oct. 2017

Paris School of Economics & Lund University

For Prof. Daniel Waldenstrom & Prof. Erik Bengtsson

Research Assistant

Jul. 2016–Jun. 2017

Publications

Mocetti, S., G. Roma, E. Rubolino. (2020). "Knocking on parents' doors: Regulation and intergenerational mobility." *Journal of Human Resources*, forthcoming.

This paper studies the effect of regulation on intergenerational mobility. Focusing on the case of Italy since the early 2000s, we exploit the impact of two major reforms in the regulation of professional services. We built an OECD-style indicator of strictness of regulation for 14 occupations and three different cohorts (i.e., before and after each reform) to leverage the differential effect of regulation among occupations and over time. We find that the progressive liberalization of professional services has affected the propensity to follow the parents' career, which is our proxy for intergenerational occupational persistence. The impact is driven by a relaxation of anti-competitive conduct rules rather than variation in entry requirements. Regulation distorts the career choices significantly more in social sciences, in provinces with higher rents for professionals and, at individual level, among less able children.

Rubolino, E., D. Waldenstrom. (2020). "Tax progressivity and top incomes: Evidence from tax reforms." *The Journal of Economic Inequality*, forthcoming.

We study the link between tax progressivity and top income shares. Using variation from large-scale Western tax reforms in the 1980s and 1990s and synthetic control method estimation, our results suggest that reductions in tax progressivity had large and lasting positive impacts on top income shares. The effects are largest within the top percentile while being almost zero in the lower half of the top decile, and they seem mainly related to cuts in top marginal tax rates. The results are robust to different model specifications, placebo tests in time and space and controlling for other simultaneous institutional reforms. Searching for mechanisms, we observe that the share of capital income of total income in the top income percentile increased after the reforms, which indicates that tax avoidance behavior related to the management of capital incomes could lie behind some of the observed effects.

Rubolino, E., D. Waldenstrom. (2019). "Trends and gradients in top tax elasticity: Cross-country evidence, 1900-2014." *International Tax and Public Finance* 26(3): 457–485.

We construct a cross-country dataset spanning 1900–2014 to estimate the tax elasticity of top incomes. Our results show that top tax elasticities vary tremendously over time; they were medium to low before 1950, dropped to almost zero during the postwar era and increased to unprecedented levels since 1980. We document a marked income gradient of increasing tax responsiveness at the top. Tax avoidance, especially income shifting between wage and capital income, appears to be one important driver of these patterns. Wars, financial crises, and country-specific effects and trends also have a bearing on top elasticities.

Working papers

Rubolino, E. (2019). "Can local governments implement a progressive income tax?" ISER WP No. 2019-02. [Awarded with the *SIEP Prize*]

This paper studies the effects of local income taxation on taxable income and within-country migration, using data from tax returns and all transfers of fiscal residence since the early 2000s in Italy. Over this period of tax decentralization, regions and municipalities have been granted greater power to set different tax rates across income brackets. Several complementary empirical strategies are implemented, all giving consistent results: municipalities switching from a flat to a progressive income tax schedule experience a drop in their tax base. Moving the fiscal residence from high- to low-tax places is the main driver of this response and mostly reflects fiscal address relocation rather than real (i.e., workplace) relocation. Despite the threat of repelling wealthy residents, these estimates imply that the benefit of additional revenues from adopting a progressive income tax significantly exceeds the cost of foregone revenue due to migration response.

Rubolino, E. (2020). "Tax evasion, public goods and tax progressivity: Evidence from taxing the ghosts." Working paper forthcoming.

This paper studies the effects of tackling tax evasion on revenue, public goods provision and tax progressivity. It focuses on the "Ghost Buildings" program: an anti-tax evasion policy carried out in Italy that detected more than 2 million of buildings not included in the land registry. The empirical strategy exploits cross-municipality variation in the share of detected unregistered buildings and the staggered introduction of the program to implement a difference-in-differences analysis. The results show a sharp and persistent increase in tax revenue, equal to four-fifth of the projected mechanical increase. This discrepancy is due to falling revenue by professionals than benefited from the informal housing market and imperfect compliance in ensuring enforcement by mayors in financially unconstrained municipalities. The central government offset any revenue increase with lower transfers, thus changing how municipalities are financed. Relying more on own revenue and on a broader and more enforced tax base makes local politicians more likely to i) increase school spending; ii) raise the progressivity of local taxes on income and property. As a result of these policies, within-municipality inequality is gradually shrinking.

Bengtsson, E., E. Rubolino, D. Waldenstrom (2020). "Capital shares over the long-run of history." IZA and CEPR Working Paper forthcoming.

This paper offers the first historical analysis on the determinants of the labor-capital split. Focusing on a panel of 20 countries since the late 1800s, we combine an existing dataset on the capital share of income with historical data on various economic and political variables. We implement several empirical approaches, resting on both country-specific event studies and cross-country panel regressions. Our findings show that capital shares significantly decreased as a response to radical institutional and political shifts, such as the introduction of universal suffrage in the early 1900s, the undoing of colonialism and the implementation of redistributive policies during the post-war period. By contrast, the recent erosion in trade unionism explains a significant part of the upward surge in the capital share registered over the last decades. Finally, we show that wars, despite destroying the capital stock, generated windfall profits that ultimately increased the capital share.

Works in progress

Pavese, C., E. Rubolino "Another brick in the school wall? School spending and educational performance."

Rizzo, L., E. Rubolino, R. Secomandi "Who bears the burden of the corporate income tax? Evidence from the Robin Hood tax."

Rubolino, E. "For (un)love or(of) taxes? The impact of the 1927 bachelor tax on marriage market."

Rubolino, E. "Taxing superstars in the XX Century."

Other publications & media coverage

Rubolino, E. (2019). "La tassazione locale dei redditi in Italia e la mobilità dei ricchi." *Eticaeconomia*.

Bonomi Bezzo, F., E. Rubolino. (2019). "Gatsby in Italia: Mobilità sociale e disuguaglianze *Forum Disuguaglianze e Diversità*.

Mocetti, S., G. Roma, E. Rubolino. (2018). "Di padre in figlio: Gli effetti delle liberalizzazioni sulla mobilità sociale nelle professioni." *Eticaeconomia*.

Mocetti, S., G. Roma, E. Rubolino. (2018). "Intergenerational mobility in profession: Nature, nurture and regulatory rents." *VoxEU*.

Rubolino, E., D. Waldenstrom. (2017). "How to tax the rich: Trends and gradients in top tax responses." *VoxEU*.

Rubolino, E., D. Waldenstrom. (2017). "Tax reforms and top incomes." *VoxEU*.

Presentations

2020 (including scheduled). University of Ferrara; Scottish Fiscal Commission (Edinburgh); RES Congress (Queen's University Belfast); University of Essex.

2019. UC Berkeley; 112th NTA Conference (Tampa); 34th EEA Congress (University of Manchester); 6th Shadow Economy Conference (University of Trento); 8th ECINEQ Meeting (Paris School of Economics); 18th LAGV Conference (Aix-en-Provence) - chair of the session "Regulation"; IEB Workshop on Economics of Taxation & Social Expenditure (Universitat de Barcelona); RES Congress (Warwick University) - chair of the session "Intergenerational mobility"; 7th TARC Conference (University of Exeter); Workshop on Applied Microeconomics (University of Essex) - co-organizer; PIWRG Meeting (University of Essex).

2018. 111th NTA Conference (New Orleans); Student seminar (University of Essex); 5th MaTax Conference (ZEW, University of Mannheim); 30th SIEP Conference (University of Padua) - chair of the session "Family and child"; 74th IIPF Conference (University of Tampere) - chair of the session "Social mobility"; Workshop on Economics of Higher Education - poster presentation; JESS Seminar (University of Essex) ; PIWRG Meeting (University of Essex)

2017. Bank of Italy (Rome).

Awards and scholarships

SIEP Prize (youngest winner ever)	2018
HIC scholarship (MiSoC, University of Essex)	Oct. 2017–Sep. 2020
Advanced quantitative method scholarship (MiSoC, University of Essex)	Oct. 2017–Sep. 2020
Student Travel Award (European Economic Association)	2019; 2020
Research scholarship (Bank of Italy)	Jun. 2017–Sep. 2017
Outstanding distinction, "Bonaldo Stringer" fellowship (Bank of Italy)	2016

Other professional services

Empirical Economics; International Tax and Public Finance; Public Finance Review.	<i>Referee</i>
AEA; ECINEQ; EEA; IIPF; NTA; RES.	<i>Membership</i>

Intensive courses

Measurement errors (tutor: Chris Bollinger)	2019
Panel data methods (IFS, tutor: Jeffrey Wooldridge)	2018
Policy evaluation methods (IFS, tutor: Barbara Sianesi)	2017