

DANTE DONATI

DOCTORAL STUDIES

2016- Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain. PhD candidate in Economics
Affiliations: UPF, BGSE, IPEG and LEAP
Expected date of completion: 2019/2020

Research interests:

Development and Labor Economics, Political Economy, Economics of Media and Technology

Marta Reynal-Querol,
Ruben Durante, [ruben.](#)

PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES

2016 Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain. MRes in Economics
2013-2016 Bocconi University, Milan, Italy. MSc in Economic and Social Sciences
Final grade: 110/110 cum laude
2014-2015 Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. Visiting program
2013 Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, US. Visiting program
2010-2013 Bocconi University, Milan, Italy. BA in Economic and Social Sciences
Final grade: 110/110

References:

Eliana La Ferrara

Nicola Gennaioli

Francesco Giavazzi

TEACHING AND TUTORING

Development Economics, Master course, Barcelona Graduate School of Economics
Econometrics, Undergraduate course, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Data Analysis, Undergraduate course, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Probability and Statistics, Undergraduate course, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

2017- Principal Investigator and Consultant, The World Bank, DIME
2016- Research Assistant, PI: Marta Reynal-Querol, UPF
2015-2016 Research Assistant, PI: Nicola Gennaioli, Bocconi University

2014-2016 Research Assistant, PIs: Abhijit Banerjee, Eliana La Ferrara and Victor Orozco, Ibadan, Nigeria

Languages: Italian (native), English (fluent), French (good), Spanish (basic)
Programming: Stata, LaTeX, R, GIS, Python, Matlab, SurveyCTO

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

2016 LEAP Student Grant, Project: "The effect of digital technologies on behavior"
2016 Fondazione Grazioli, MSc Thesis Award, "The roots of domestic terrorism: evidence from Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria"
2010-2015 Bocconi University Scholarship

CONFERENCES AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2018 NBER Economics of Digitization Tutorial, Stanford; NBER Economics of Digitization Meeting, Stanford; Digital Economics Conference, Toulouse School of Economics; World Bank workshop on Mass Media Entertainment Education Impact Evaluation, New Delhi; GSE-UPF Media Seminar, Barcelona; Workshop on Political Economy of Development and Conflict, Barcelona
2017 Annual Media Economics Workshop, Barcelona; GSE-UPF Media Seminar, Barcelona
2016 World Bank workshop on Mass Media Entertainment Education Impact Evaluation, Mexico City

Refereed articles for:
Journal of Public Economics

WORKING PAPERS

Mobile Internet access and political outcomes: Evidence from South Africa, 2018

Under review: AEJ, Economic Policy

I exploit variation over time and space in the arrival of 3G Internet in South Africa to estimate its impact on political participation, electoral competition, voters' preferences and protests. Combining granular coverage data with administrative records on municipal elections, I show that in 2016 Internet availability caused a 7pp reduction in the vote share of the ruling party. The main opponents gained from Internet arrival. Political participation, electoral competition and number of protests increased. I find relatively larger effects for localities more exposed to corruption and administrative scandals. This points out the information role the Internet played in municipal elections.

WORK IN PROGRESS

(Un)Informed consumers and (Un)Observable product quality: the effect of on-line information shocks on urban entrepreneurship

I study how information shocks that decrease consumers' uncertainty on product quality affect labor market outcomes in the restaurant industry. The research focuses on Italy and exploits the approval by the European Parliament of a new policy on the EU roaming regulation which led to the abolition of all

roaming charges for EU travelers. Combining information from online reviews platforms (such as TripAdvisor) with social security data, this study examines the effect of this policy change on the content and usage of online review services, as well as employment conditions in the restaurant industry.

Can social media Edu-tainment reduce gender-based violence? An experimental pilot using Facebook Messenger in India, with Victor Orozco (DIME, The World Bank)

This online randomized intervention seeks to assess the impact of educational-entertainment content on gender-based violence in urban India. In particular, this study explores the effectiveness of two web series broadcasted through Facebook Messenger to a) raise awareness and promote discussions about gender equality; b) change attitudes regarding women's role in the household and society; c) change attitudes regarding GBV and survivors; d) increase awareness of the different forms of violence and its link with social norms; e) promote behavioral change around gender-based violence.

The health cost of the digital era: the effect of the Internet on mental disorder, with Ruben Durante and Francesco Sobbrío

A public debate on potential adverse Internet effects on physical and mental health exists. This paper estimates the effect of Internet access on health outcomes using a quasi-experiment from Italy. We combine municipal level administrative data on hospitalizations from Italian hospitals (ASL) with broadband and mobile Internet access over the period 2001-2013. We exploit differences in the availability of ADSL broadband technology and 3G coverage across municipalities, using the exogenous variation induced by the fact that the cost of providing Internet services in a given municipality depends on its relative position in the pre-existing voice telecommunications infrastructure. With this instrument in hands, we study the effects on anorexia, bulimia, obesity, depression and borderline personality, among other pathologies.
