

PIETRO BATTISTON
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I am a researcher in Economics with a background in Mathematics and a passion for programming. My main research interests are Network Theory (and in particular applications to economic and financial networks), Law & Economics, Experimental Economics, and Bibliometrics.

Since November 2018, I am a researcher at the Department of Economics (DEMS) of University of Milan Bicocca (Italy).

Academic curriculum

- 2017, February: Weiss Visiting International Scholar, Barnard College, Columbia University.
- 2014, January - 2016, December: research fellow at the Institute of Economics of the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa.
- 2014, May: PhD at DEFAP Graduate School, University of Milan Bicocca. Title of the thesis: “*Essays on networks and information dynamics*”, advisor: prof. Luca Stanca.
- 2013, April-June: visiting at Central European University, in Budapest, working under the supervision of Prof. Adam Szeidl.
- 2010, July: Laurea Magistralis in Economics (grade 104/110), at the Bologna Department of Economics, with the dissertation *Smart or rational? An auction study with simulation.*; advisor: Prof. Giacomo Calzolari;
- 2008, September: bachelor degree in Mathematics (grade 110/110), at the Dipartimento di Matematica di Pisa, with the dissertation *Alternanza, parallelismo e complessità* (“*Alternance, parallelism and complexity*”); advisor: Prof. Alessandro Berarducci;
- 2004 Diploma (high school qualification) in classical studies at Liceo A. Mariotti (Perugia) (grade 100/100);

Articles

- Battiston, P., Duncan, D. R., Gamba, S., Santoro, A. (forthcoming) “Audit publicity and tax compliance: a natural experiment” *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*
- Battiston, P. (2016) “Constrained network formation”: *Italian Economic Journal*, 2(3), 347-362
- Battiston, P., Gamba, S. (2016) “The Impact of Social Pressure on Tax Compliance: a Field Experiment”, *International Review of Law and Economics*, 46, 78-85

- Battiston, P., Stanca, L. (2015), “Boundedly Rational Opinion Dynamics in Directed Social Networks: Theory and Experimental Evidence”, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 119, 400-421

Working papers

- “What exactly is public in a public good game? A lab-in-the-field experiment” (with Simona Gamba, Matteo Rizzolli, Valentina Rotondi), 2018
- “When the two ends meet: an experiment on cooperation across the Italian North-South divide” (with Simona Gamba), *submitted, 2018*
- “Lies have long legs. Cheating, public scrutiny and loyalty in teams” (with Simona Gamba, Matteo Rizzolli, Valentina Rotondi), *Revise and resubmit, 2018*
- “Social Interaction and Technology Adoption: Experimental Evidence from Improved Cookstoves in Mali” (with Jacopo Bonan, Jamie Bleck, Philippe LeMay-Boucher, Stefano Pareglio, Bassirou A. Sarr, Massimo Tavoni), *submitted, 2017*
- “Growth and financial exposition in times of crisis” (with Mauro Napoletano), 2017
- “Citations are Forever: Modeling Constrained Network Formation”, 2014

Work in progress

- “Using big data to predict tax compliance” (with Simona Gamba, Alessandro Santoro)
- “Judge a paper by the cover? Evidence from 30 years of Nature” (with Pierluigi Sacco, Luca Stanca)
- “Cost and benefits of tax audits: an empirical analysis” (with Alessandro Santoro, Nicola Sartori)
- “Rational Bubbles in closed economies”
- “Snapshots of Sunspots: Experimental Evidence” (with Sharon Harrison)

Teaching activity

- Academic:
 - Advanced Calculus (Teaching Assistant), Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, Fall 2017
 - Political Economics I (Teaching Assistant), Catholic University of Milan, Spring 2012, Spring 2013.
- Non-academic:
 - Introductory course on Python programming for scientific applications, Pisa, Spring 2015.
 - Introduction to Economics for high school students, Pisa, Spring 2016, Fall 2016.

Awards

- GSS Young Scholar Award 2015: finalist
- SIE (Italian Economic Association) yearly award for the best PhD thesis in economics: winner (ex-aequo)

Invited talks

- Scientific:
 - June 2018: *Data Science for Economics* Workshop, University of Turin (presenting “Using big data to predict tax behavior”)
 - April 2018: Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, Pisa (presenting “Using big data to predict tax behavior”)
 - October 2017: University of Campinas, Brasil (workshop “The use and role of big data for enhancing agri-food chains and public policy”)
 - February 2017: Barnard College - Columbia University, New York (Weiss International Fellow Lectures in Literature and the Arts)
 - May 2014: Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Milan (presenting “Boundedly Rational Opinion Dynamics in Directed Social Networks: Theory and Experimental Evidence”)
- Scientific computing:
 - PiterPy 2017, November, Saint Petersburg,
 - PyConLT 2018, May, Kaunas.

Contributions to scientific conferences and workshops

- April 2018: ZEW Public Finance Conference, Mannheim (presenting “Using big data to predict tax behavior”)
- October 2017: 58th Annual Scientific Conference of the Italian Economic Association, University of Calabria (presenting “When the two ends meet: an experiment on cooperation and social capital”)
- June 2017: Workshop on the Law and Economics of Migration and Mobility, Bern (presenting “When the two ends meet: an experiment on cooperation and social capital”)
- June 2017: 3rd Maastricht Behavioral Economic Policy Symposium, Maastricht (presenting “When the two ends meet: an experiment on cooperation and social capital”)
- September 2016: European Association of Law and Economics (EALE) conference, Bologna (presenting “The Italian Blitz: a natural experiment on audit publicity and tax compliance”)
- August 2015: 30th Annual Congress of the European Economic Association (EEA), Mannheim (presenting “Rational bubbles in closed economies”)

- May 2015: WEHIA '15, Sophia Antipolis (presenting “Speculation in financial networks: it’s not just fundamental”)
- April 2015: ARS '15, Capri (presenting “Purely speculative behaviour and heterogeneous agents: a look at the Bitcoin transaction network”)
- September 2014: ECCS Warm-up, Lucca (presenting “Not *that* fundamental - bubbles and financial networks”)
- October 2013: 2nd Annual CIRANO-CIREQ Workshop on Networks in Trade and Finance, Montreal (presenting “Not *that* fundamental - bubbles and financial networks”)
- September 2013: European Conference on Complex Systems (ECCS), Barcelona (presenting “Not *that* fundamental - bubbles and financial networks”, “Opinion Dynamics in Social Networks: Theory and Experimental Evidence”)
- July 2013: World Meeting of Economic Science Association (ESA), Zurich (presenting “The Ins and Outs of Social Influence - An Experiment on Communication Networks”)
- June 2013: ARS '13, Roma (presenting “The Ins and Outs of Social Influence - An Experiment on Communication Networks”, “Citations and Funerals: Modeling Constrained Network Growth”)
- June 2013: NEXT Workshop on Networks and Externalities, Budapest (presenting “Information Flows and Reservoirs”)
- May 2013: International Conference on Evolutionary Patterns, Lisbon (presenting “The Ins and Outs of Social Influence - An Experiment on Communication Networks”)
- September 2012: European Association of Law and Economics (EALE) conference, Stockholm (presenting “Social pressure as a determinant for tax compliance: a field experiment”)
- September 2012: Economic Science Association (ESA) European conference, Köln (presenting “Social pressure as a determinant for tax compliance: a field experiment”)
- July 2012: 5th Italian Doctoral Workshop in Economics and Policy Analysis, Torino (presenting “Social pressure as a determinant for tax compliance: a field experiment”)

Language knowledge

- Italian: mother tongue
- French: excellent fluency in speaking and writing
- English: very good fluency, (IBT) TOEFL test passed with score 112/120
- German: very basic reading and listening skills
- Spanish: very basic reading and listening skills

Other work experience

- 2017, May: Consultant of Python for data analysis (for Thunder Systems s.r.l., Milan)
- 2008: Part-time programmer in Python, employed in the development of a graphical user interface for databases management.
- 2006, 2007, 2008: Mathematics tutor for workshops aimed at middle- and high school students (projects PORTA and “Pianeta Galileo”).

Computer and programming skills

- Deep programming experience, in particular with the Python programming language, scientific and Gtk+ graphic libraries; good skills in other languages, such as C, Php, Haskell, Povray, Fortran;
- Core developer of *pandas* – reference library for data manipulation in Python – and occasional contributor of other open source projects;
- Very good knowledge of L^AT_EX, professional software for text processing;
- Maintainer, for the GNU/Linux distributions *Debian* and *Ubuntu*, of some packages, including *gvb*, a waves and vibrations simulator developed by myself, and the *gbutils* utilities for command line econometrics;
- experience with the Z-Tree software for running laboratory experiments;
- Strong knowledge of GNU/Linux systems, experience as server administrator;
- I realized and maintained several websites in the past: among them, *unicerca.it*, a website devoted to the Italian academic job market.

Other activities and interests

- I'm member of *Libera - Associations, names and numbers against mafias*,
- I'm a member of SELP (Seminario di Logica Permanente, “*Permanent Logic Seminar*”), a group recognized and supported by AILA (Associazione Italiana di Logica e sue Applicazioni, “*Italian Association for Logic and its Applications*”);
- Former member, during 9 years, of AGESCI (main Italian Scouting association), I also had experiences in the staff, for groups of boys and girls of age ranging from 8 to 16;
- Volunteer, in the years 2005-2010, for Casa Santa Chiara (Bologna), an ONG operating in support of people with disabilities;
- active promoter of Open Source Software; I am a member, and have been a consellour, of the Pisa Linux User Group (GULP), where I have been responsible in the organization of several public events;

- Passioned by music, I have been singing in several choirs and as solo, and still sing. I like to also occasionally play the guitar, the piano and other instruments;
- coordinator, from February 2012 to March 2013, of the Milan local group of the ONG Libertà e Giustizia (“*Liberty and Justice*”),
- I have a modest experience in developing simple electronic circuits devoted to audio processing.

Last update: November 6, 2018.