

Erich Battistin

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CONTACTS

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AFFILIATIONS

- 01/2018 – *Professor of Economics, University of Maryland*
11/2025 – *Research Fellow, ROCKWOOL Foundation Berlin*
03/2018 – *Faculty Associate, Maryland Population Research Center*
01/2015 – *Research Fellow, Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR)*
02/2012 – *Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA)*
09/2008 – *Research Fellow, IRVAPP, Trento, Italy*

PAST EMPLOYMENT

- 09/2013 – 01/2018 *Professor of Economics, Queen Mary University of London*
09/2006 – 08/2013 *Associate Professor of Econometrics, University of Padua*
09/2004 – 08/2006 *Assistant Professor of Econometrics, University of Padua*
10/2001 – 08/2006 *Research Economist, Institute for Fiscal Studies, London*

EDUCATION

- February 2002 *Ph.D. in Statistics, University of Padua*
March 1997 *Laurea in Statistics summa cum laude, University of Padua*

FIELDS OF SPECIALISATION

Applied micro-econometrics and causality in the social sciences; Economics of Education; Measurement of welfare and social inequalities; Design and evaluation of public interventions.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE**Institutional courses**

Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics; University of Maryland (since 2019/20):

- [Introductory Econometrics](#) (Ph.D.);
- [Policy Design and Causal Inference for Social Science](#) (Ph.D.)

Invited courses

- Econometrics 2, Ph.D. in Economics (Bocconi University, Winter 2026).
- Methods for Policy Evaluation, Ph.D. in Social and Political Science (Bocconi University, Spring 2025).
- Panel Data for Causal Research Designs, Italian Econometric Society (2025 and 2026).
- Impact Evaluation (advanced), Italian National Social Security Institute (2022).
- Winter School on Impact Evaluation (introductory and advanced), IRVAPP (from 2010 to 2024).
- United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service (2019).
- Impact Evaluation (advanced), Bank of Italy (2017).
- Impact Evaluation (introductory and intermediate), European Commission (2017).
- Impact Evaluation (advanced), University of Milan Bicocca (2016).
- Methods for Assessing the Impact of Lumpy Investments like Infrastructures, World Bank (2016).
- Sound observational results?, Graduate School in Social and Political Sciences, University of Milan Statale (2016).
- Impact Evaluation (advanced), Bank of Italy (2015).
- Validity Across Methods, Graduate School in Social and Political Sciences, University of Milan Statale (2015)
- Detecting Causality, Graduate School in Social and Political Sciences, University of Milan Statale (2014).
- Impact Evaluation (intermediate), Graduate Institute, Geneva (from 2010 to 2012).
- Panel Data Analysis, Italian Econometric Society (from to 2009 to 2014).
- FAO, Impact Evaluation Workshop (Chair of Methodology Section), Rome (2010_).
- Impact Evaluation (introductory), World Bank, Agricultural and Community-Driven Impact Evaluations, Addis Ababa (2009).
- Impact Evaluation (introductory), World Bank, Cross-Country Workshop on Impact Evaluation of HIV/AIDS Programs in Africa, Cape Town (2009).

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Visiting Professor, Bocconi University, 2025/26

Visiting Professor, Bocconi University, 2024/25

Visiting Scholar, Department of Economics, MIT, 2012/13

Best Ph.D. thesis in Applied Statistics, Italian Statistical Society, 2002

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE – SELECTED LIST

Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics; University of Maryland:

Director of Graduate Studies (from 07/2021 to 06/2024)

Chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee (2020/21)

School of Economics and Finance; Queen Mary University of London:

Chair of the hiring panel (2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17)

University of Padua; Department of Statistics

Deputy Director, Ph.D. in Statistics (from 2008/09 to 2009/10)

Head of Research (from 2007/08 to 2009/10)

University of Padua; Department of Economics

Head of International Relations (from 2010/11 to 2011/12)

REFEREE ACTIVITY – SELECTED LIST

American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review, Economic Journal, Econometrica, Econometric Theory, Econometrics Journal, Empirical Economics, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Business and Economics Statistics, Journal of Econometrics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Official Statistics, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of the American Statistical Association, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society A, Journal of the Italian Statistical Society, Labour Economics, National Science Foundation, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies.

FUNDING**Research grants (as PI)**

1. 03/2013 – 09/2014: “Instruction time, Student Achievement and Labour Supply of Mothers: Evidence from the ‘One Teacher’ Reform in Italy” (with D. Vuri); Fondazione per la Scuola (Compagnia San Paolo, Torino, Italy), 110,000 EUR
2. 12/2010 –12/2014: “The Policy Implications of Demographic Ageing” (with M. Fort and M. Padula); three-year research project funded by the Italian Ministry of Education and Scientific Research under the programme “Futuro in Ricerca” (Future in Research), 516,000 EUR
3. 10/2007 – 10/2011: “ML²: Modified Likelihood Methods for Evaluating the Effects of the Mobility Lists Program in the Veneto Region” (with E. Rettore, A. Salvan and C. Varin); research project funded as “Progetto di Eccellenza” by the CARIPARO (Cassa di Risparmio di Padova e Rovigo) Foundation, 100,000 EUR
4. 04/2005 – 04/2006: “Misreported Schooling and Returns to Education in the UK”(with B. Sianesi); research project supported by the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), 45,000 GBP

Research grants (as co-investigator) – selected list

1. 01/2018 – 10/2021: “Fostering Opportunities of Refugee Workers” (with P. Monti and P. Pinotti); sponsored by EaSI, European Commission, 2,339,568.00 EUR.
2. 09/2009 – 09/2011: “Short-run and Long-run consequences of imbalanced sex ratios” (with S. Becker and L. Nunziata); research project funded by the University of Padua, 62,000 EUR
3. 10/2006 – 10/2010: “The Evolution of Inequality in the US: Consumption, Earnings and Wages” (with O. Attanasio and M. Padula); research project funded by the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research
4. 02/2002 – 12/2005: “The Evaluation of the UK Employer Training Pilots”; research project supported by the UK Department for Education and Skills. I was part of the team designing the **Employer Training Pilots** impact evaluation, conducted for the UK Department of Education and Skills with the aim of piloting elements of the Train to Gain reform in selected areas of England. Train to Gain is still an important financial scheme, projected to cost around £1 billion (0.06% of GDP) in 2010-11, and represents over a third of the government’s adult skills and further education budget.
5. 10/2001 – 12/2004: “Evaluation of the Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots”; research project supported by the UK Department for Education and Skills. I was part of the team evaluating the effects of the **Education Maintenance Allowance** pilots that were instigated by the UK

Department for Education and Skills in selected areas of England to face low rates of participation in post-16 education.

Other grants – selected list

1. 09/2017 – 06/2018: “GSG2 Market & Institutions for Poverty Reduction and Shared Prosperity and Jordan HEIS” (Lead Investigator); sponsored by the World Bank, 18,000 USD.
2. 09/2016 – 06/2017: “MNA Regional Data and Poverty Measurement” (Lead Investigator); sponsored by the World Bank, 16,000 USD.
3. 09/2011 – 06/2012: “Impact Evaluation of the Commercial Agriculture Development Project (CADP) in Nigeria” (Lead Investigator); sponsored by the World Bank, 25,000 USD.
4. 09/2010 – 06/2011: “Impact Evaluation of the Commercial Agriculture Development Project (CADP) in Nigeria” (Lead Investigator); sponsored by the World Bank, 22,072 USD.
5. 09/2009 – 06/2010: “Impact Evaluation of the Commercial Agriculture Development Project (CADP) in Nigeria” (Lead Investigator); sponsored by the World Bank, 25,202 USD.

Journal articles:

1. *Quantiles of the Gain Distribution of an Early Child Intervention* (with C. Lamarche and E. Rettore), **Journal of Applied Econometrics**, 2024, Volume 39, Issue 6, pp. 1045-1064.
2. *School Performance, Score Inflation and Neighborhood Development* (with L. Neri), **Journal of Labor Economics**, 2024, Volume 42, Number 3, pp. 753-792.
3. *The Insights and Illusions of Consumption Measurements* (with M. De Nadai and N. Krishnan), **Journal of Development Economics**, 2023, Volume 161, 102991.
4. *More Choice for Men? Marriage Patterns after World War II in Italy* (with S. Becker and L. Nunziata), **Journal of Demographic Economics**, 2022, Volume 88, Issue 3, pp. 447-472.
5. *Rising Stars: Expert Reviews and Reputational Yardsticks in the Research Excellence Framework* (with M. Ovidi), **Economica**, 2022, Volume 89, pp. 830-848.
6. *Threat of Grade Retention, Remedial Education and Student Achievement: Evidence from Upper Secondary Schools in Italy* (with A. Schizzerotto), **Empirical Economics**, 2019, Volume 56, Issue 2, pp. 651-678.
7. *Counting Rotten Apples: Student Achievement and Score Manipulation in Italian Elementary Schools* (with M. De Nadai and D. Vuri), **Journal of Econometrics**, 2017, Volume 200, Issue 2, pp. 344-362.
8. *In a Small Moment: Class Size and Moral Hazard in the Mezzogiorno* (with J.D. Angrist and D. Vuri), **American Economic Journal: Applied Economics**, 2017, Volume 9, Number 4, pp. 216-249.
9. *The Effects of Private Equity on Targets: Majority versus Minority Investments* (with P. Bortoluzzi, F. Buttignon, and M. Vedovato), **Journal of Management and Governance**, 2017, Volume 21, Issue 3, pp. 659-684.
10. *Should We Increase Instruction Time in Low Achieving Schools? Evidence from Southern Italy* (with E. Meroni), **Economics of Education Review**, 2016, Volume 55, pp. 39-56.
11. *Survey Instruments and the Reports of Consumption Expenditures: Evidence from the Consumer Expenditure Surveys* (with M. Padula), **Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series A – Statistics in Society**, 2016, Volume 179, Issue 2, pp. 559-581.
12. *Identification and estimation of Engel curves with endogenous and unobserved expenditures* (with M. De Nadai), **Journal of Applied Econometrics**, 2015, Volume 30, Issue 3, pp. 487-508.
13. *Misreported Schooling, Multiple Measures and Returns to Educational Qualifications* (with M. De Nadai and B. Sianesi), **Journal of Econometrics**, 2014, Volume 181, Issue 2, pp. 136-150.
14. *Treatment Effect Estimation with Covariate Measurement Error* (with A. Chesher), **Journal of Econometrics**, 2014, Volume 178, Issue 2, pp. 707-715.
15. *Food and Cash Transfers: Evidence from Colombia* (with O. Attanasio and Alice Mesnard), **Economic Journal**, 2012, Volume 122, Issue 559, pp. 92-124.
16. *Connections and Performance in Bankers' Turnover* (with C. Graziano and B. Parigi), **European Economic Review**, 2012, Volume 56, Number 3, pp. 470-487.
17. *Misclassified Treatment Status and Treatment Effects: An Application to Returns to Education in the UK* (with B. Sianesi), **Review of Economics and Statistics**, 2011, Volume 93, Number 2, pp. 495-509.

18. *Providing Employers with Incentives to Train Low-Skilled Employees: Evidence from the UK Employer Training Pilots* (with L. Abramovsky, E. Fitzsimons, A. Goodman and H. Simpson), **Journal of Labor Economics**, 2011, Volume 29, Number 1, pp. 153-192.
19. *Why is Consumption More Log Normal Than Income? Gibrat's Law Revisited* (with R. Blundell and A. Lewbel), **Journal of Political Economy**, 2009, Volume 117, Number 6, pp. 1140-1154.
20. *The Retirement Consumption Puzzle: Evidence from a Regression Discontinuity Approach* (with A. Brugiavini, E. Rettore and G. Weber), **American Economic Review**, 2009, Volume 99, Number 5, pp. 2209-2226.
21. *Ineligibles and Eligible Non-Participants as a Double Comparison Group in Regression Discontinuity Designs* (with E. Rettore), **Journal of Econometrics**, 2008, Volume 142, Issue 2, pp.715-730.
22. *Choosing Among Alternative Classification Criteria to Measure the Labour Force Status* (with E. Rettore and U. Trivellato), **Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series A – Statistics in Society**, 2007, Volume 170, Number 1, pp. 5-27.
23. *What Can We Learn From Recall Consumption Data?* (with R. Miniaci and G. Weber), **Journal of Human Resources**, 2003, Volume 38, Number 2, pp. 354-385.
24. *Testing for Programme Effects in a Regression Discontinuity Design with Imperfect Compliance* (with E. Rettore), **Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series A – Statistics in Society**, 2002, Volume 165, Number 1, pp. 39-57.

Book chapters and reviews:

1. *Measurement Error Models* (with M. De Nadai and A. Lewbel), in **Handbook of Labor, Human Resources and Population Economics**, 2023, Zimmermann, K.F. (eds), Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-57365-6_49-1.
2. *Counterfactuals with Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Variation* (with M. Bertoni), in **Causality in Policy Studies: a Pluralist Toolbox**, 2023, Alessia Damonte and Fedra Negri (Eds.), Springer. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-12982-7>
3. *How manipulating test scores affects school accountability and student achievement*, **IZA World of Labor**, 2016.
4. *What Really Happened To Consumption Inequality in the US?* (with O. Attanasio and H. Ichimura), in **Hard-to-Measure Goods and Services: Essays in Honor of Zvi Griliches**, 2007, by E. Berndt and C. Hulten (Eds.), University of Chicago Press.
5. *Why do subsidised firms survive longer? An evaluation of a program promoting youth entrepreneurship in Italy* (with A. Gavosto and E. Rettore), in **Econometric Evaluation of Labour Market Policies**, 2001, by M. Lechner and F. Pfeiffer (Eds.), Heidelberg: Physica-Verlag.

Monographs:

1. *Inequality and Living Standards since 1980* (with O. Attanasio and M. Padula); **American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research Press**, 2011.

Other publications/reports (selected list):

1. *La riforma di decentramento dei concorsi in Italia* (with D. Checchi and S. Verzillo), **Rassegna Italiana di Valutazione**, 2014, Volume 58, pp. 50-79 (in Italian).
2. *What's Missing from Policy Evaluation: Identification and Estimation of the Distribution of Treatment Effects* (with M. Fort), **Atti della XLIV Riunione Scientifica, Società Italiana di Statistica**, 2008, pp. 127-134 (in Italian).
3. *Evaluation of Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots: Young People Aged 16-19 Years Final Report of the Quantitative Evaluation* (with C. Emmerson, E. Fitzsimons et al.), **Research Report for the Department of Education and Skills**, 2005, Institute for Fiscal Studies, London.
4. *How Effective Are Conditional Cash Transfers? Evidence from Colombia* (with O. Attanasio, E. Fitzsimons, A. Mesnard and M. Vera-Hernandez), **IFS Briefing Note BN54**, 2005, Institute for Fiscal Studies, London.
5. *The Impact of ETP on the Take-up of Training among Employers: Year 1 Report* (with L. Abramovsky, A. Goodman and H. Simpson), **Research Report for the Department of Education and Skills**, 2004, Institute for Fiscal Studies, London.
6. *The Evaluation of Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots: Three Years' Evidence. A Quantitative Evaluation* (with L. Dearden, C. Emmerson, E. Fitzsimons and C. Meghir et al.), **Research Report for the Department of Education and Skills**, 2004, Institute for Fiscal Studies, London.

Projects (selected list):

1. *Fostering Opportunities of Refugee Workers* (with G. Abbiati, P. Monti and P. Pinotti).
2. *The Long-Term Effects of Teacher Wage Differentials* (with M. Vega Monge).
3. *Huachicoleo: Oil theft and public provision of services in Mexico* (with A. Lopez Aguilar).
4. *Anatomy of the Child Penalty: Preferences, Constraints, and Discrimination* (with M. De Nadai and M. Padula).
5. *Bitter Dolce Vita: Tax Incentives, Return Migration, and Local Housing Prices* (with D. Vuri and M. Ovidi).
6. *By the Roll of a Die: Public Functions and Private Wealth in Pre-Modern Europe* (with A. Brioschi and M. Fochesato).
7. *Skin in the Game* (with M. De Nadai and L. Neri).
8. *Reducing Inequality Through Efficient Policing* (with R. Hahn and B. Sun).