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Education

PhD Economics, UNSW Sydney Australia
Thesis Title: *"New perspectives on health choices and social interactions"* Oct 2018
Supervisor: A. Prof. Isabella Dobrescu

MSc Economics, Ca' Foscari University of Venice Italy
Thesis Title: *"The rising NEET phenomenon in Italy: an empirical study of the SHIW sample"* Oct 2013
Supervisor: Prof. Agar Brugiavini

BSc Economics and Commerce, University of Padova Italy
Thesis Title: *"The effects of immigration on wages and employment: theory, empirical evidence and Italy's distinctive features"* Jul 2011
Supervisor: A. Prof. Giovanni Caggiano

References

A. Professor Isabella Dobrescu
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Professor Denzil Fiebig
School of Economics, UNSW Sydney
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Professor Agar Brugiavini
School of Economics,
Ca' Foscari University of Venice
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Fields of Interest

Health Economics, Experimental Economics

Teaching Experience

ECON1107 Elements of Environmental Economics Lecturer-in-charge (<i>1st year Undergraduate</i>)	UNSW Sydney Semester 1, 2018
ECON2206 Introductory Econometrics Teaching Assistant (<i>'Tutor', 2nd year Undergraduate</i>)	UNSW Sydney Semester 1, 2017 Semester 2, 2017

Academic/Work Experience

Traineeship Unit I.1 Modelling, Indicators and Impact Evaluation JRC of the European Commission, Ispra	Jun 2018 - in progress Italy
Academic Undergraduate Advisor School of Economics, UNSW Sydney	Jun 2016 - Mar 2017 Australia
Casual Research Assistant UNSW Business School Experimental Research Laboratory	during 2015 - 2016 Australia
Exchange Students Tutor University of Padova	Sep 2010 - Jan 2011 Italy
Internship (Economic Consultant) Legambiente Padova	Oct 2010 - Mar 2011 Italy

Conferences and Presentations

Dietary choices of older Europeans: a panel data analysis. Poster presentation. VIU Summer Institute on Ageing. Venice, Italy. June 2017.

Formal vs. informal care in old age: the role for social ties. Presentation. 13th CEPAR Summer Workshop in the Economics of Health and Ageing. Coogee, Australia. February 2016.

Awards and Scholarships

CEPAR Supplementary Scholarship ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research	Jan 2015 - Jan 2018
University International Postgraduate Award (UIPA) Scholarship plus Faculty Stipend UNSW Sydney	Jul 2014 - Jan 2018
ERASMUS Program Scholarship at Católica Lisbon School of Business and Economics	Sep 2009 - Jun 2010

Software

Stata (advanced), Excel (good), LyX (good), R (basic), EViews (basic), ArcMap (basic)

Language Skills

Italian (native), English (fluent), Portuguese (fluent), French (intermediate), Arabic (beginner)

Research

"Formal versus informal care in old age: the role for social ties"

I examine how social network members affect the use of formal care in old age. In doing so, I explore not only their provision of informal care, but also of other types of support, including information and peer effects. I use SHARE data for 11 European countries to analyse the use of professional help, hospitals, doctor visits, GPs and specialists. As a novelty, I use the newly available data on individual social network characteristics to account for the role of the extended family, as well as friends and neighbours in affecting formal care use after controlling for informal care provision. The characteristics I examine are social network size, composition (e.g. family vs. friends and neighbours), and homogeneity (in terms of both sex and age). My results confirm that children informal care is crucial in substituting formal care, and show how substitution changes when one considers informal care provided more generally, by anyone. More importantly, I find that the overall size and characteristics of one's social network matter greatly in shaping his/her formal care use.

"Dietary choices of older Europeans: a panel data analysis"

This paper explores the determinants of dietary choices among Europeans aged 65+. I focus on individuals from nine European countries grouped into three regions (Scandinavia, Central Europe and Mediterranean) and study their preferences for four food categories: dairy products; legumes/eggs; meat; fruits/vegetables. Methodologically, I employ a unique matching process to combine large-scale survey data (SHARE) with dietary composition information, standard caloric counts and price indices. Exploiting the panel dimension of my sample, I use fixed effects to capture unobserved heterogeneity in food expenditure after controlling for caloric intake and other individual-level shocks. The estimated preference indicators vary across Europe, but are not fully reflective of the commonly perceived diet differences. They are however very well aligned with the less-known dietary patterns that Europe has indeed experienced in the last decades. My analysis indicates possible channels of intervention to induce healthy ageing through diet.

"An experiment on group effects and Bayesian rationality" (with Zhihua Zhang)

Our lab experiment offers new insights on Bayesian probability updating and the effects of group discussion on risk decision making. We exploit a within-subject experimental setting based on Bougheas et al. (2015). We find that the majority of participants react to conflicting signals in a rational way, while we find no convincing evidence for (reverse) confirmation bias. More importantly, we study how group interaction affects investment decisions and investigate the motives behind the observed group convergence of decisions. We find a range of motives, with a large share of participants exhibiting the effects of persuasion and/or peer effects in that they tend to maintain the group stage investment level. This result suggests that group interactions can modify the individually preferred investment level. We also find evidence for social preferences.

Work in progress

"Access to disability support in Australia and the new NDIS scheme" (with Nary Hong)

"Family background and adult sport/physical activity"