

ALESSANDRA BONFIGLIOLI

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Contact Information

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Personal Information

Birth: 12 March 1977

Marital Status: Married

Citizenship: Italian

Current Position

2005 – 2006

CREI, Universitat Pompeu Fabra – Barcelona

Visiting Researcher

Research Interests

Economic Growth and Income Distribution, Financial Economics and International Macroeconomics

Education

2000 – 2005

IIES, Stockholm University – Stockholm

Ph.D in Economics

Thesis: *Essays on Financial Markets and Macroeconomics*

Supervisors: Torsten Persson and Fabrizio Zilibotti

August 2002

Center for Financial Studies – Frankfurt

Summer School

Winter 2002

GPEFM, Universitat Pompeu Fabra – Barcelona

Visiting Ph.D. student

1995-1999

Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi – Milan

BA in Economics: 110/110 summa cum laude

Teaching and Research Experiences

Spring 2003

SDPE, Stockholm University – Stockholm

Teaching Assistant in Macro II, Graduate level

1999 – 2000

Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi – Milan

Teaching Assistant in Monetary and Financial Economics,
Intermediate and Advanced Undergraduate level

2000 – 2002

IIES, Stockholm University – Stockholm

Research Assistant, mainly for Prof. Torsten Persson

Honors

European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society 2004, invited presenter

Jan Wallander's Foundation Scholarship 2003 – 2005

Bocconi University scholarship 2000 – 2002

Publications

“Explaining Co-movements Between Stock Markets: The Case of US and Germany” (with Carlo A. Favero), *Journal of International Money and Finance* 24(8), 1299-1316 (December 2005)

“Essays on Financial Markets and Macroeconomics,” *IIES Monograph Series* 51

Working Papers

“Equities and Inequality,” IIES Seminar Paper 737

“How Does Financial Liberalization Affect Economic Growth?,” IIES Seminar Paper 736

“Financial Liberalization, Banking Crises and Growth: Assessing the Links,” SSE/EFI Working Paper 567

Work in Progress

“Openness and Inequality Across Countries and Datasets” (with Paolo Epifani and Gino Gancia)

Presentations

“How Does Financial Liberalization Affect Economic Growth?” presented at:

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, January 2006

University of Leicester, November 2005

“Equities and Inequality” presented at:

IGIER and Bocconi University, January 2006

Institut d'Anàlisi Econòmica, January 2006

University of Warwick, January 2006

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, October 2005

CREI, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, October 2005

Universitat Carlos III de Madrid, February 2005

University of Leicester, February 2005

Tinbergen Institute, University of Amsterdam, February 2005

European Central Bank, February 2005

Banco de España, January 2005

St. Andrews University, January 2005

Stockholm Institute for Financial Studies, January 2005

ASSET Meeting, Barcelona, November 2004

European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society, Stockholm, October 2004

Institute for International Economic Studies, Stockholm, September 2004

European Economic Association Annual Meeting, Madrid, August 2004

Society for Economic Dynamics Annual Meeting, Florence, July 2004

“Economic Growth and Distribution” Conference, Lucca, June 2004

ENTER Jamboree, Barcelona, February 2004

“Financial Liberalization, Banking Crises and Growth: Assessing the Links” (with Caterina Mendicino) presented at:

European Economic Association Annual Meeting, Stockholm, August 2003

“Explaining Co-movements Between Stock Markets: the Case of US and Germany” (with Carlo A. Favero) presented at:

Institute for International Economic Studies, January 2003

GRETA Conference, Venice 2000

Languages

Italian (mother tongue), English (fluent), Spanish (good), French (fair)

Other Activities

Member of the EEA 2006 Programme Committee

Referee for: Oxford Economic Papers, Giornale degli Economisti

References

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Fabrizio Zilibotti, IIES, Stockholm University, SE-106 91 Stockholm

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John Hassler, IIES, Stockholm University, SE-106 91 Stockholm

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“Equities and Inequality” (Job Market Paper)

This paper studies the relationship between investor protection, the development of financial markets and income inequality. In the presence of market frictions, investor protection promotes financial development by raising confidence and reducing the costs of external financing. Developed financial systems spread risks among financiers and firms, allocating them to the agents bearing them the best. Therefore, financial development plays the twofold role of encouraging agents to undertake risky enterprises and providing them with insurance. By increasing the number of risky projects, it raises income inequality. By extending insurance to more agents, it reduces it. As a result, the relationship

between financial development and income inequality is hump-shaped. Empirical evidence from a cross-section of sixty-nine countries, as well as a panel of fifty-two countries over the period 1976-2000 supports the predictions of the model.

“How Does Financial Liberalization Affect Economic Growth?”

This paper assesses the effects of international financial liberalization on investments and productivity in a sample of 93 countries (at its largest) observed between 1975 and 1999. In the analysis I control for the occurrence of bank crises and assess whether it is made more likely by financial liberalization. I provide empirical evidence that financial liberalization spurs productivity and marginally affects capital accumulation. Banking crises depress both investments and TFP. The effect of financial liberalization on productivity is remarkable in the short run and persistent in the long run. This pattern does not depend on the initial TFP level. These results are robust to a number of econometric specifications.

“Explaining Co-movements Between Stock Markets: the Case of US and Germany” (with Carlo A. Favero)

We explain co-movements between stock markets by explicitly considering the distinction between interdependence and contagion. We propose and implement a full information approach on data for US and Germany to provide answers to the following questions:

- (i) is there long-term interdependence between US and German stock markets ?
- (ii) Is there short-term interdependence and contagion between US and German stock markets, i.e. do short-term fluctuations of the US share prices spill over to German share prices and is such co-movement unstable over high volatility episodes?

Our answers are, respectively, no to the first question and yes to the second one.

“Financial Liberalization, Banking Crises and Growth: Assessing the Links” (with Caterina Mendicino)

This paper studies the effects of financial liberalization and banking crises on growth. It shows that financial liberalization spurs on average economic growth. Banking crises are harmful for growth, but to a lesser extent in countries with open financial systems and good institutions. The positive effect of financial liberalization is robust to different definitions. While the removal of capital account restrictions is effective by promoting financial development, equity market liberalization affects growth directly. The empirical analysis is performed through GMM dynamic panel data estimations on a panel of 90 countries observed in the period 1975-1999.