

**LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Department of Economics**

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**DATE OF BIRTH:** August 25, 1974

**SEX:** Male

**CITIZENSHIP:** Italian

**PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES:**

**Bocconi University**, Milan, Italy.

Laurea (BS) in Economics, summa cum laude. April 1998.

**Universitat Pompeu Fabra**, Barcelona, Spain.

Master in Economics (with distinction). June 2000.

**DOCTORAL STUDIES:**

**London School of Economics**

DATES: September 2000 - present

THESIS TITLE: "A study of European Labour Markets using the European Community Household Panel"

EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE: Summer 2004

THESIS ADVISOR AND REFERENCES:

Prof. Steve Pischke (Advisor)  
Department of Economics  
London School of Economics  
*On leave 2003-2004:*  
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1. Prof. Alan Manning  
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2. Dr. Barbara Petrongolo  
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3. Prof. Tito Boeri  
Bocconi University and IGER  
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**DESIRED TEACHING AND RESEARCH:**

Primary Fields: Labour Economics, Panel data econometrics

Secondary Fields: Microeconomics, Microeconometrics

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

November-December 2002      Bocconi University, Milan.  
Temporary lecturer in European Labour Markets

2001-2002                      London School of Economics  
Class Teacher in Microeconomic Principles II

2000-2001                      London School of Economics  
Class Teacher in Economics of Social Policy

**RELEVANT POSITIONS HELD:**

November 2002-June 2003      Researcher  
Fondazione Rodolfo Debenedetti, Milan

November 2002-June 2003      Occasional Research Assistant  
Centre for Economic Performance, London

Summer 1998 & 1999              Intern/Junior Consultant  
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Paris

January-June 1999                Research Assistant  
Fondazione Rodolfo Debenedetti, Milan

October-December 1997        Intern  
International Labour Organisation (ILO), Geneva

**LANGUAGES**

Italian (mother tongue)  
English: fluent spoken and written  
French: fluent spoken, basic written  
Spanish: basic spoken and written

**HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS:**

2001-2003              ESRC Research Studentship  
2001-2003              University of Verona, Postgraduate Studentship  
1999-2001              Bocconi University Postgraduate Studentship  
1997                      Bocconi University Internship Grant

**CONFERENCES/PRESENTATIONS**

August 2003              European Economic Association (EEA), Stockholm.  
June 2003                European Society for Population Economics (ESPE), New York.  
June 2003                CEPR-ECB Conference: "What Explains the Pattern of Labour Supply in Europe", Frankfurt.  
July 2002                Research Laboratory Workshop, London School of Economics.  
Sept 2001                IZA European Summer School in Labour Economics, Munich.

**PUBLICATIONS:**

Forster M., Pellizzari M., “Trends and driving factors in income distribution and poverty in the OECD area”, OECD Labour Market and Social Policy Occasional Papers, n. 42, Paris, 2000.

Oxley H., M. Forster, T. Dang, M. Pellizzari “Income inequalities and poverty among households with children in selected OECD countries: trends and determinants”, in Koen Vleminckx and Timothy M. Smeeding, “Child Well-Being, Child Poverty and Child Policy in Modern Nations”, The Policy Press, 2001.

Boeri, T., M. Pellizzari, “Ammortizzatori Sociali del Terzo Livello”, in “Mercato del Lavoro e Ammortizzatori Sociali”, Centro Studi Confindustria, Il Mulino, 1999.

**COMPLETED PAPERS:**

***Job Market Paper:***

*“Do Friends and Relatives Really Help in Getting a Good Job?”*, mimeo, October 2003

Informal contacts are extensively used by both firms and workers to find jobs and fill vacancies. The common wisdom in the economic literature is that jobs created through this channel are of better quality and pay higher wages than jobs created through formal methods. This paper explores the empirical evidence for European countries using the European Community Household Panel (ECHP) and discovers a large cross-country as well as cross-industry variation in the wage differentials between jobs found through informal and formal methods. Across countries and industries wage premiums and wage penalties to finding jobs through personal contacts are equally frequent. This paper argues that such variation can be explained by looking at firms' recruitment strategies. In labour markets where employers invest largely in formal recruitment activities, matches created through this channel are likely to be of average better quality than those created through informal networks. A simple theoretical model is used to show that employers invest more in recruitment for high productivity jobs and for positions that require considerable training. The empirical predictions of the theory are successfully tested using industry-level data on recruitment costs.

***Other Papers:***

*“Unemployment Insurance and Social Assistance: Interactions and the Need for Joint Policy Design”*, mimeo, 2002

The large existing literature on the effects of unemployment insurance finds that workers search less intensively when they receive generous benefits that last for a long time. Nevertheless, reforms that have reduced either the length or the amount of UI benefits have not been successful in reducing unemployment. This paper argues that this can be explained by the interactions of UI with other welfare schemes. In particular, evidence from the European Community Household Panel (ECHP) indicates that UI recipients who simultaneously receive some other social assistance benefits are less sensitive to changes in the level or the duration their benefits. From a more policy oriented perspective, these findings point towards careful joint design of unemployment benefit and social assistance reforms.

**RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:**

*“Why Do Firms Screen Workers?”*, 2003

In investigating the matching process in the labour market, economists have focused on the search behaviour of workers, while firms' recruitment strategies have attracted surprisingly little attention. This paper uses an original dataset of hires in more than 5000 UK establishments to investigate the determinants of recruitment investment. Preliminary results suggest that employers invest more in recruitment when filling positions that require hardly-observable skills (leadership, ability to motivate co-workers, et.).

*“Welfare Magnets in Europe”* (joint with Giacomo De Giorgi), 2003

The enlargement of the European Union is likely to generate a beneficial inflow of mobile and young workers into the Union. However, the excessive welfare take up normally found among migrants could put significant pressure on the European welfare systems. Using data from the European Community Household Panel (ECHP), we apply an empirical model of migration decisions and we find that workers are, *ceteris paribus*, attracted by the generosity of the welfare system.