

# AUGUSTO CERQUA

## Curriculum Vitae

“Ai fini della pubblicazione in ottemperanza all’art. 15 del D. Lgs. 33/2013”

### Part I – Education

Type	Year	Institution	Notes (Degree, Experience,...)
B.Sc. graduation	2007	Sapienza University of Rome	B.Sc. in Statistics. B.Sc. thesis “Obiettivi e Strumenti di Politica Monetaria della BCE”. Final mark: 110/110 cum laude (1st)
Erasmus student	2008-2009	University College London	Department of Statistical Science
M.Sc. graduation	2010	Sapienza University of Rome	M.Sc. in Statistics. M.Sc. thesis “Gli effetti delle politiche di incentivazione alle imprese valutati con un RDD multiplo: il caso della legge 488/92”. Final mark: 110/110 cum laude (1st)
Visiting PhD Student	2011-2012	University College London	Department of Economics
PhD	2014	Sapienza University of Rome	PhD in Economic Statistics, Doctoral School of Economics. PhD thesis “Developments in the evaluation of capital subsidy policies”.

### Part II – Appointments

#### IIIA – Academic Appointments

Start	End	Institution	Position
12/2018	ongoing	Sapienza University of Rome	Assistant Professor (RTD-A). Settore Scientifico-disciplinare SECS-S/03
10/2016	12/2018	University of Westminster	Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Economics & Quantitative Methods
06/2015	10/2016	University of Westminster	Research Fellow in the Department of Economics & Quantitative Methods
03/2014	06/2015	University of Westminster	Research Associate in the Department of Economics & Quantitative Methods

### IIIB – Other Appointments

Start	End	Institution	Position
03/2014	12/2018	University of Westminster	Centre for Employment Research, Westminster Business School

### Part III – Teaching experience

Year	Institution	Lecture/Course
Spring 2021	Sapienza University of Rome	Lecturer on Statistical Methods for Public Policies to master students
Spring 2021	Sapienza University of Rome	Lecturer on Programme Evaluation Techniques to master students
Spring 2021	Sapienza University of Rome	Lecturer on Econometrics to undergraduate students
Spring 2020	Sapienza University of Rome	Lecturer on Statistical Methods for Public Policies to master students
Spring 2020	Sapienza University of Rome	Lecturer on Statistical Methods for Economics to master students
Spring 2020	Sapienza University of Rome	Lecturer on Econometrics to undergraduate students
Spring 2019	Sapienza University of Rome	Lecturer on Econometrics to master students
Spring 2018	Sapienza University of Rome	Lecturer on Statistics to undergraduate students
Fall 2016	Sapienza University of Rome	Lecturer on Statistics to PhD students
Spring 2016	Sapienza University of Rome	Lecturer on Advances in Statistics to PhD students
Fall 2015	University of Westminster	Lecturer on Principles of Statistics to undergraduate students
Fall 2012	Roma Tre University	Teaching assistant on Economic Statistics to both undergraduate and master students
Fall 2012	Sapienza University of Rome	Teaching assistant on Programme Evaluation Techniques to master students

### Part IV - Society memberships, Awards and Honors

Year	Title
From 06/2021	Global Labor Organization (GLO) fellow
2016	Best Evaluation Proposal – European Commission DG REGIO
2015	Certificate of Honor for the PhD thesis (Italian Regional Science Association)
2010-2014	Winner of Ph.D. scholarship, Sapienza University of Rome

## Part V - Funding Information [grants as PI-principal investigator or I-investigator]

Year	Title	Program	Grant value
2020	Principal investigator. Project title “The impact of place-based policies when public transfers fade out.”	RICERCHE DI ATENEO – PROGETTI DI RICERCA MEDI – SAPIENZA UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA.	€12,000
2019	Co-investigator. Project title “Migration and cross cultural influences: Is there a role for ethnocentrism?”	RICERCHE DI ATENEO – PROGETTI DI RICERCA MEDI – SAPIENZA UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA.	€13,000
2016	ESRC (ES/P000975/1), Co-investigator. Project title “Early identification of young people at risk of poor educational and labour market outcomes: the role of educational institutions”	ESRC	£200,000

## Part VI – Current research Activities

<p>My research interests concentrate on Economic Statistics, Regional and Industrial Policy, Policy Evaluation, Labour Economics and Applied economics. I adopt cutting-edge micro-econometric methods in order to understand the effectiveness of regional and industrial policies, active labour market policies and environmental interventions.</p> <p>I am among the few international researchers who are trying to exploit the predictive power of machine learning methods to carry out counterfactual analyses in a scenario in which all units receive the treatment. Below I provide more details on my current research agenda:</p>	
<b>Keywords:</b>	<b>Selected projects:</b>
Machine learning, policy evaluation, counterfactual analysis, COVID-19	The purpose of this project is to exploit Machine Learning techniques for counterfactual building rather than for predictive purposes. This novel approach allows studying the causal impact of unexpected shocks or policies which affect all units. We apply the so-called Machine Learning Control method to study the demographic and economic effects of COVID-19, and explore its heterogeneous spatial impact.
European Union, Cohesion Policy, causal analysis	Are place-based policies capable of taking lagging areas to a higher growth trajectory permanently? This study answers this crucial question by investigating what happens when strongly subsidised regions experience a substantial reduction in funding. By analysing an extensive database via the mean balancing approach, we estimate the causal impact of exiting the convergence region status of the EU regional policy. We find that only regions which experienced a considerable reduction in funding during a recession suffered a negative impact on economic growth. However, the impact varies with the features of the regions and the local economic context.
Political economy, natural disasters	This study investigates the potential of unanticipated local shocks in shaping the ‘geography of discontent’. Using comprehensive data at a fine spatial scale and a comparative natural experiment approach, we document that the occurrence of two destructive earthquakes in Italy resulted in sharply diverging electoral outcomes: while the 2012 Emilia quake did not alter voting behaviour, the 2009 L’Aquila earthquake paved the way for an

	impressive and persistent surge in right-wing populism in the most affected areas. Our findings are consistent with the idea that not only “places that don’t matter”, but also “places that don’t recover”, can become populist hotbeds.
Migration, political outcomes, discrimination	This paper examines the influence of anti-immigrant parties on foreigners’ location choices in Italy. Considering municipal elections from 2000 to 2018, we create a database that includes a scientific-based classification on the anti-/pro-immigration axis of all Italian political parties based on experts’ opinions. Via the adoption of a regression discontinuity design, we find that the election of a mayor supported by an anti-immigrant coalition significantly affects immigrants’ location choices only when considering the most recent years.
Mass layoffs, resiliency, spillovers	This project investigates how local labor market systems react to a mass layoff in a manufacturing plant during the Great Recession. We adopt a nonparametric generalization of the difference-in-differences estimator and a comprehensive dataset to gauge the short- and the long-run sectoral effects of this negative employment shock in Italy. The preliminary results show that a shock in the tradable sector has a negative and persistent effect only on the same industry of the affected LLM, while the rest of the local economy remains unaffected.

## Part VII – Summary of Scientific Achievements

Product type	Number	Data Base	Start	End
Papers [international: peer reviewed + WP]	44	Google Scholar	2011	2021
Papers [international]	16	Scopus and Orcid	2014	2021
Papers [national]	2		2015	2017
Papers [with DOI or ISBN/ISSN]	24		2014	2021
Chapters in books [scientific] [international]	1		2019	2019
Chapters in books [scientific] [national]	3		2014	2021
Books [teaching]	-			

Number of “ <b>Class A</b> ” publications (Anvur/CUN <b>only for the S.C. 13/D2</b> )	13
Total Citations (Google Scholar, 17/11/2020)	425
Average Citations per Product	$425/44 = 9,66/\text{product}$
Hirsch (H) index (Google Scholar, 28/09/2021)	8
Normalized H index*	$8/(2021-2011)=0,73$

## Part VIII – Selected Publications

- Celli, V., Cerqua, A., Pellegrini, G., 2021. Does R&D Expenditure Boost Economic Growth in Lagging Regions? **SOCIAL INDICATORS RESEARCH**, published online: 25 September 2021. IF: 2.614, Citations: 0, pubblicazione di classe A ANVUR per il settore concorsuale 13/D2.
- Cerqua, A., Di Stefano, R., Letta, M., Miccoli, S., 2021. Local mortality estimates during the COVID-19 pandemic in Italy. **JOURNAL OF POPULATION ECONOMICS**, 34, 1189–1217. IF: 2.813, Citations: 3, pubblicazione di classe A ANVUR per il settore concorsuale 13/D2.
- Cerqua, A., Di Stefano, R., 2021. When did coronavirus arrive in Europe? **STATISTICAL METHODS AND APPLICATIONS**, published online: 20 May 2021. IF: 1.314, Citations: 5, pubblicazione di classe A ANVUR per il settore concorsuale 13/D2.
- Cerqua, A., Urwin, P., Thomson, D., Bibby, D., 2020. Evaluation of Education and Training Impacts for the Unemployed: Challenges of New Data. **LABOUR ECONOMICS**, 67. IF: 1.772, Citations: 0, pubblicazione di classe A ANVUR per il settore concorsuale 13/D2.
- Cerqua, A., Pellegrini, G., Tarola, O., 2020. Quality competition and environmental damage: is there a role for relative preferences? **JOURNAL OF CLEANER PRODUCTION**, 266, 1-13. IF: 9.297, Citations: 1, pubblicazione di classe A ANVUR per il settore concorsuale 13/D2.
- Cerqua, A., Pellegrini, G., 2020. Local multipliers at work. **INDUSTRIAL AND CORPORATE CHANGE**, 29(4), 959–977. IF: 3.085, Citations: 8, pubblicazione di classe A ANVUR per il settore concorsuale 13/D2.
- Bernini, C., Cerqua, A., Pellegrini, G., 2020. Endogenous amenities, tourists' happiness and competitiveness. **REGIONAL STUDIES**, 54(9), 1214-1225. IF: 4.672, Citations: 10, pubblicazione di classe A ANVUR per il settore concorsuale 13/D2.
- Bernini, C., Cerqua, A., 2020. Are eco-labels good for the local economy? **PAPERS IN REGIONAL SCIENCE**, 99(3), 645-661. IF: 2.858, Citations: 6, pubblicazione di classe A ANVUR per il settore concorsuale 13/D2.
- Cerqua, A., Pellegrini, G., 2019. Quantitative Evaluation Techniques for Regional Policies. In R Capello, P Nijkamp (ed.) **Handbook of Regional Growth and Development Theories, Second Edition**, Edwar Elgar Publishing, chapter 28. ISBN: 978 1 78897 001 3. Citations: 4.
- Cerqua, A., Pellegrini, G., 2018. Are we spending too much to grow? The case of Structural Funds. **JOURNAL OF REGIONAL SCIENCE**, 58(3), 535-563. IF: 2.713, Citations: 53, pubblicazione di classe A ANVUR per il settore concorsuale 13/D2.
- Cerqua, A., Pellegrini, G., 2017. Industrial policy evaluation in the presence of spillovers. **SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMICS**, 49(3), 671-686. IF: 8.164, Citations: 46, pubblicazione di classe A ANVUR per il settore concorsuale 13/D2.
- Bernini, C., Cerqua, A., Pellegrini, G., 2017. Public subsidies, TFP and Efficiency: a tale of complex relationships. **RESEARCH POLICY**, 46(4), 751–767. IF: 8.110, Citations: 31, pubblicazione di classe A ANVUR per il settore concorsuale 13/D2.
- Cerqua, A., Di Pietro, G., 2017. Natural disasters and university enrolment: evidence from L'Aquila earthquake. **APPLIED ECONOMICS**, 49(14), 1440-1457. IF: 1.835, Citations: 10.
- Cerqua, A., 2017. The signalling effect of eco-labels in modern coastal tourism. **JOURNAL OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**, 8, 1159-1180. IF: 7.968, Citations: 25, pubblicazione di classe A ANVUR per il settore concorsuale 13/D2.
- Cerqua, A., Pellegrini, G., 2014. Do Subsidies to Private Capital Boost Firms' Growth? A Multiple Regression Discontinuity Design Approach. **JOURNAL OF PUBLIC ECONOMICS**, 109, 114-126. IF: 3.111, Citations: 167, pubblicazione di classe A ANVUR per il settore concorsuale 13/D2.

## Part IX – Other Publications

- Cerqua, A., Di Stefano, R., Letta, M., Miccoli, S., 2021. Was there a Covid-19 Harvesting Effect in Northern Italy? In: Bernini, C., Emili, S., “Regions Between Challenges and Unexpected Opportunities”. ISBN: 9788835125860.
- Cerqua, A., Pellegrini, G., 2020. Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Firm Subsidies in Lagging-Behind Areas: The Italian Job. *Scienze Regionali*, 3/2020, 477-500. doi: 10.14650/98288
- Bowyer, A., Cerqua, A., Di Pietro, G., Gorman, E., Urwin, P., 2019. Assessing Factors that Affect the Labour Market Decisions of Young People aged 16 to 24: Research Informing LPC Review of Youth Rates. Project Report. Low Pay Commission, UK.
- Cerqua, A., Pellegrini, G., 2018. The Effects of EU Regional Policy on the Growth of European Regions. Chapter of the "The Impact of Cohesion Policies in Europe and Italy" dossier published by the Impact Assessment Office of the Senato della Repubblica Italiana.
- Gifford, J., Urwin, P., Cerqua, A., 2017. Strengths-based performance conversations: an organisational field trial. Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development November 2017 Report, London.
- Cerqua, A., Pellegrini, G., 2017. Intensità ed efficacia dei Fondi Strutturali Europei. *EyesReg 7(6)*. ISSN:2239-3110.
- Cerqua, A., Urwin, P., 2017. Identifying Variation in Learner Outcomes by Further Education Provider. Project Report. Department for Education, London. ISBN: 978-1-78105-721-6
- Pellegrini, G., Cerqua, A., 2016. Measuring the impact of Structural and Cohesion Funds using the regression discontinuity design in the period 1994-2011. Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission, Luxembourg, 2016.
- Cerqua, A., Urwin, P., 2016. Returns to Maths and English Learning in Further Education. Project Report. BIS, London.
- Cerqua, A., 2015. La valutazione delle politiche di incentivazione agli investimenti. *EyesReg 5(6)*. ISSN:2239-3110.
- Bibby, D., Cerqua, A., Thomson, D., Urwin, P., 2015. Further Education: Social Mobility, Skills and Second Chances. Project Report. BIS, London.
- Bibby, D., Cerqua, A., Thomson, D., Urwin, P., 2015. Impact of skills and training interventions on the unemployed. Project Report. BIS, London.
- Cerqua, A., Pellegrini, G., 2015. La dimensione spaziale nella valutazione degli incentivi alle imprese: cosa cambia se si tiene conto degli spill-over? In: Antonietti, R., Corò, G., Gambarotto, F., “Uscire dalla crisi. Città, comunità, specializzazione intelligenti”. ISBN: 9788891733122.
- Bibby, D., Buscha, F., Cerqua, A., Thomson, D., Urwin, P., 2014. Further development in the estimation of labour market returns to qualifications gained in English Further Education using ILR-WPLS Administrative Data. Project Report. BIS, London.
- Cerqua, A., 2014. If You Get Knocked Down, How Long Before You Get Up Again? *International Journal of Sport Finance* 9(4), 284-304. ISSN: 15586235.
- Cerqua, A., Pellegrini, G., 2014. Conviene incentivare le piccole imprese piuttosto che le grandi? Un’analisi basata sul multiple regression discontinuity design. *Rassegna Italiana di Valutazione* a. XVIII - n. 58, 197-219. doi: 10.3280/RIV2014-058009
- Cerqua, A., Pellegrini, G., 2014. Spillovers and Policy Evaluation. In: Mazzola, F., Musolino, D., Provenzano, V., “Reti, nuovi settori e sostenibilità. Prospettive per l’analisi e le politiche regionali”. ISBN: 9788891708878.

## **Part X – Conference Presentations**

Sep 2021	Italian Regional Science Association, web conference
June 2021	COMPIE, web conference
June 2021	Italian Statistical Society (SIS), web conference
May 2021	Regional Science Association International, Marrakech
Feb 2021	Lynn University (US), online seminar
Dec 2020	Politecnico di Milano, webinar
Nov 2020	JRC, European Commission, online seminar
Sep 2020	Italian Regional Science Association, web conference
Dec 2019	GDS17, Roma Tre University, Rome
Oct 2019	Italian Economic Association, Palermo
Sep 2019	European Regional Science Association, Lyon
Aug 2019	Italian Regional Science Association, L'Aquila
Dec 2018	Scientific Meeting of the Department of Social Sciences and Economics, Rome
Sep 2018	Italian Regional Science Association, Bolzano
Sep 2018	European Association of Labour Economists Conference, Lyon
Mar 2018	Challenges in Evaluating Regional and Urban Policy Conference, Rome
Oct 2017	MasterClass on EU Cohesion Policy, Bruxelles
Sep 2017	Italian Regional Science Association, Cagliari
Aug 2017	EEA Conference, Lisbon
Oct 2016	Sapienza University, Rome
Sep 2016	CVER conference, London
Jun 2016	European Commission conference, Sofia
Nov 2015	European Commission seminar, Rome
Nov 2015	Roma Tre University, Rome
Sep 2015	Italian Regional Science Association, Rende
Nov 2014	COMPIE, Rome
Jul 2014	WPEG, Sheffield
Aug 2013	European Regional Science Association, Palermo
Sep 2011	European Regional Science Association, Barcelona

## **Part XI – Selected Referee Assignments**

European Economic Review; Regional Science and Urban Economics; Economic Inquiry; Research Policy; Journal of Population Economics; Journal of Regional Science; Regional Studies; World Development; Journal of Development Studies; Papers in Regional Science; Social Indicators Research; Tourism Management; Spatial Statistics; Socio-Economic Planning Sciences; Applied Economics.

## **Part XII – Scientific Committees**

- Royal Economic Society's PhD Meeting in 2016, 2017, and 2018;
- Recent Advances in Causal Inference for Policy Evaluation, Roma Tre International Workshop in 2017.
- Member of the Italian National Institute of Statistics' committee aimed at validating the methodologies defined for the classification of national and regional areas of specialization for the period 2020-2023.

### **Part XIII – Computer Skills**

- MS Office      Advanced
- ArcGIS        Advanced
- STATA         Advanced
- QGIS          Advanced
- R              Advanced
- Matlab        Basic

Roma, 29/09/2021

Augusto Cerqua