

Stefano Lombardi

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VATT Institute for Economic Research,
Arkadiankatu 7, 00100 Helsinki, Finland

Nationality: Italian

Date and place of birth: 06/06/1985, Milano

Phone: (+358) 050-327 62 75

Email: stefano.lombardi@vatt.fi

Website: <http://stefano-lombardi.github.io>

SUMMARY

My primary fields of interest are Labor and Health economics. I am also interested in worker-firm matching, dynamic treatment evaluation, and microsimulation techniques.

CURRENT POSITION

2020– [VATT](#), Institute for Economics Research (Helsinki) · senior researcher

AFFILIATIONS

2019– [IZA](#), Institute of Labor Economics (Bonn) · research affiliate

2019– IFAU · external researcher

2015– [UCLS](#), Uppsala Center for Labor Studies (Uppsala) · research affiliate

2017–2019 [IFAU](#), Institute for Evaluation of Labor Market and Education Policy (Uppsala)

EDUCATION

2019 Uppsala University · PhD in Economics (supervisors: Johan Vikström, Oskar Skans)

2016 *Harvard University* · visiting PhD student

2013 Bocconi University · M.Sc. in Economics (110/110)

2012 *Mannheim University* · exchange student

2010 Bocconi University · B.Sc. in Economics

2009 *Queen Mary University of London* · exchange student

2007 San Raffaele University · B.Sc. in Psychology (110/110 *cum laude*)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer reviewed journals

- Lombardi, S., Skans, O. N., and Vikström, J. (2018). “Targeted wage subsidies and firm performance.” *Labour Economics*, 53: pg. 33-45 · [\[published version\]](#)

This paper studies how targeted wage subsidies affect the performance of the recruiting firms. Using linked employer-employee Swedish administrative data from the period 1998–2008, we show that treated firms substantially outperform other recruiting firms after hiring through subsidies, despite identical pre-treatment performance levels and trends in a wide set of key dimensions. The pattern is less clear from 2007 onwards, after a reform removed the involvement of caseworkers from the subsidy approval process. Overall, our results suggest that targeted employment subsidies can have large positive effects on post-match outcomes of the hiring firms, at least if the policy environment allows for pre-screening by caseworkers.

Policy reports and Book chapters

- Lombardi, S., and Vikström, J. (2019), “Arbetsförmedlingens kontrollarbete, sanktioner och de arbetslösas sökbeteende” IFAU rapport 2019:23.
- Vikström, J., Lombardi, S., and O. Nordström Skans (2018), “Hur påverkar anställningsstöd och nystartsjobb de anställande företagen?” IFAU rapport 2018:13.
- Bratu, C., Lombardi, S., Rodrigues, M., Santangelo, G., and A. Shaleva (2014), “Knowledge gaps in evaluating labour market and social inclusion policies”. European Commission, DG Joint Research Center & DG Employment.
- Lombardi, S. and M. Florio (2014), “Chapter 8: Risk Assessment” in Florio, M.: “Applied Welfare Economics: Cost-Benefit Analysis of Projects and Policies”, Routledge Advanced Texts in Economics and Finance, pg. 222-262.

WORKING PAPERS

- *Threat Effects of Monitoring and Benefit Sanctions: Evidence from two Reforms* · [\[working paper\]](#)
The paper provides the first quasi-experimental estimates of the threat of unemployment insurance (UI) benefit sanctions on job-exit rates. Using a difference-in-differences design, I exploit two reforms of the Swedish UI system that made monitoring and sanctions considerably stricter at different points in time for i) UI claimants and ii) job-seekers who exhausted their UI benefits and therefore receive alternative “activity support” benefits instead. Results show that men (in particular if long-term unemployed) respond to monitoring and the threat of sanctions by finding jobs faster. In contrast to this analysis, the existing literature has almost exclusively focused on estimating how job-finding rates respond for those actually receiving a sanction. I estimate such “sanction-imposition effects” and further show that when properly aggregated they explain very little of the overall reform effects.
- *Empirical Monte Carlo evaluation of the Timing of Events approach*,
with Johan Vikström and Gerard J. van den Berg · [\[working paper\]](#)
This paper uses an Empirical Monte Carlo simulation approach to study estimation of Timing-of-Events (ToE) models. We exploit population-wide Swedish administrative data on job-seekers with information on participation in a training program to simulate realistic placebo treatment durations. We then estimate ToE models by omitting some of the covariates previously used to simulate the placebo treatments. This generates unobserved heterogeneity correlated across the treatment and outcome durations. We compare different specifications of the model and find that it performs well, in particular when time-varying covariates are exploited for identification. When estimating ToE models, we use a discrete distribution for the unobserved heterogeneity. We find that using too many or too few mass points leads to large bias. We show that information criteria that penalize parameter abundance can be very useful to select the number of support points.

TEACHING

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| 2015–2016 | Teaching Assistant, Econometrics I and II (Uppsala University, PhD level). |
| 2016 | Academic Teacher Training Course (5 weeks). |

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS (INCLUDING SCHEDULED)

- 2021 IFAU, Uppsala; seminar presentation (*invited*)
VATT, Helsinki; seminar presentation
Labour Institute for Economic Research, Helsinki; seminar presentation (*invited*)
- 2020 Health Inequality workshop; Institute for Fiscal Studies, London
42th Finnish Economic Association Annual Meeting; Tampere, Finland
- 2019 18th “Brucchi Luchino” Labor Economics workshop, Turin
Ministry of Labor, Helsinki; seminar presentation (*invited*)
VATT, Helsinki; seminar presentation
Ministry of Finance, Helsinki; seminar presentation (*invited*)
15th IZA & 2nd IZA/CREST Conference on Labor Market Policy Evaluation, Bonn
IZA / UCPH Workshop (*invited*); Copenhagen, Denmark
31st EALE conference; Uppsala, Sweden
IZA, Bonn; seminar presentation
Stockholm University, Stockholm; seminar presentation
University of Milan - Bicocca, Milan; seminar presentation
Joint Research Center - European Commission, Ispra; seminar presentation
IRVAPP, Trento; seminar presentation
- 2018 Uppsala University, Economics department research seminar; Uppsala, Sweden
30th European Association Labour Economists conference (EALE); Lyon, France
Uppsala Center for Labor Studies conference (UCLS); Sigtuna, Sweden
71th European Meeting of the Econometric Society (ESEM); Cologne, Germany
Society of Labor Economists, 23rd Conference (SOLE); Toronto, Canada
- 2017 13th IZA Conference: Labor Market Policy Evaluation; Bonn, Germany
Annual Congress of the European Economic Association (EEA); Lisbon, Portugal
Uppsala University, Economics department research seminar; Uppsala, Sweden
IFAU seminar; Uppsala, Sweden

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2019 IFAU grant for project 157/2019, “The Costs of Job Loss Across Europe”
- 2016 Full Wallander and Hedelius scholarship to visit Harvard University (2016–2017).

WORK AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Dec. 2014 CSIL, Centre for Industrial Studies · *Statistical software developer*
Developed *MoSL*, a customized risk analysis program integrating Excel-VBA and R to run Monte Carlo simulations using copulas.
- Oct. 2013 –
Aug. 2014 DG Joint Research Centre, European Commission (Ispra, Italy)
Trainee in Econometrics and Statistics at [CRIE](#).
- 2013 Bocconi University · *Research assist.* for Prof. Marco Bonetti and Raffaella Piccarreta