Last update: Oct 2023

Supervisor: **Prof. Alexander Moradi**
Research area(s): Public Economics, Regional Economics, Identity Economics, Political Economy; South Tyrol
Current research: My research focuses on the evaluation of public policies. I am also interested in fundamental causes of economic development. My work is applied, quantitative domain.
Language: German, English

Available thesis projects:

Project 1) Identity Economics and Politics.
By shaping preferences, beliefs and norms, identity influences people's choices. First, the project should aim to measure identity. Identity is multidimensional, but the project should focus on one identity (e.g. ethnicity, gender, religion, occupational class). Second, it should test human responses when identity becomes more salient. Examples of outcome indicators are voting behaviour and public goods contributions. The project may lean towards behaviourial economics and implement field experiments. You can run an online survey or exploit historical shocks using existing observational data. What are the implications of your findings for identity politics?

Akerlof, George A. and Rachel E. Kranton. 2000. "Economics and Identity." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 115(3), 715-53.
Atkin, David; Eve Colson-Sihra and Moses Shayo. 2021. "How Do We Choose Our Identity? A Revealed Preference Approach Using Food Consumption." *Journal of Political Economy*, 129(4), 1193-251.
Hjort, Jonas. (2014). Ethnic Divisions and Production in Firms. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *129*(4), 1899–1946.

Project 2) Public Policy Evaluation.
I take on projects that aim to apply public policy evaluation methods, such as randomized control trials, instrumental variable regressions, regression discontinuity designs, from surveying to data analysis. Ideally, this should involve a partner from the public administration whereby the dissertation is following and evaluating an actual policy change (at the local level).

Fritz Sager und Markus Hinterleitner. 2014. „Evaluation." In Schubert Klaus und Nils C. Bandelow, Lehrbuch der Politikfeldanalyse, 3. Auflage, De Gruyter Oldenbourg, (438 462).

Project 3) Time preference of policy makers, proposed and implemented policies.
Does the expected time in power influence planned and implemented policies? This is a hypothesis that can be quantified. First, the project involves classifying the proposed policies as taken from party election manifestos. These are "promised policies". Second, the promised policies should be checked with what policies were actually implemented. An ideal (and do-able) testing ground are the provinces of South Tyrol and Trentino.

On classification:
Verberne, Suzan; Eva D'hondt; Antal van den Bosch and Maarten Marx. 2014. "Automatic Thematic Classification of Election Manifestos." Information Processing & Management, 50(4), 554-67.
Lehmann, Pola; Matthieß, Theres; Merz, Nicolas; Regel, Sven and Annika Werner. 2015. Manifesto Corpus. Berlin: WZB Berlin Social Science Center. https://manifesto project.wzb.eu/

Supervisor: Prof. Davide Ferrari
Research area: Statistics, applied econometric methods for policy analysis
Current research: My methodological research focuses on the development of model selection and inference methods for complex data. Recently, I have started to apply my methods to spatio-temporal econometric data in order to improve the quality of inferences and predictions in the context of policy evaluation and analysis. This allows me to combine my interest in statistical methodology with my interest in econometric applications.
Available thesis projects:

Project 1) Robust aggregation of non-representative polls with applications to political opinion data. A poll aggregator tracks and combines individual polls or surveys conducted by different organizations in order to measure public sentiment on key issues such as the rating of a political figure or the perceived effectiveness of a policy measure. Common aggregators simply take averages of polls leading to severely biased estimates and misleading forecasts in the presence of non-representative polls. This project develops an aggregator by applying a statistical technique called exponential tilting; the resulting aggregator is robust in the sense that it mitigates the effect of biased individual polls, thus leading to more accurate inference and forecasting. The methodology will be illustrated through the analysis of the 2020 US presidential election polling data.

Atkeson, Lonna Rae, and R. Michael Alvarez, eds. The Oxford handbook of polling and survey methods. Oxford University Press, 2018.

Project 2) Respondent-driven sampling for surveys on networks. This project develops a new statistical technique to conduct surveys when responses are correlated and subjects are organized within a network structure. Differently from existing approaches, the new sampling model takes into account the interactions between statistical units, thus leading to more efficient use of information using small samples. The properties of the new sampling technique will be investigated by examining various datasets, such as contagion epidemiological network data related to the evaluation of health policy measures.

De Paula, Á. (2020). Econometric models of network formation. Annual Review of Economics, 12, 775-799.

Supervisor: **Prof. Mirco Tonin**
Research area(s): Empirical applied microeconomics using experimental, administrative or survey data.
Current research: see https://sites.google.com/site/mircotonin/research
Available thesis projects: Contact the supervisor to discuss topics of interest. Proficiency with econometric methods (e.g., regression analysis) and data management skills are required to write a good thesis.

Supervisor: **Prof. Laura Valle**
Research area(s): Private Law, Contract of the Public Administration, Digitalization of the PA
Current research: Contract law, digital aspects of IT, consumer protection, fundamental rights and contract law, CSR and economic and environmental sustainability of economic activities.

Available thesis projects:

Project 1) Identità personale e firme digitali
Project 2) Le procedure per l'assegnazione degli appalti pubblici e digitalizzazione del procedimento
Project 3) Le particolarità della disciplina dei contratti pubblici nella Provincia di Bolzano rispetto alla disciplina nazionale
Project 4) Indicatori di sostenibilità economica, ambientale e sociale nella contrattazione pubblica

Supervisor: Prof. Steven Stillman
Research area(s): labor economics, health economics, political economy and development economics
Current research: My research focuses on empirical labour economics, specializing in the behavior of individuals and households, and the interplay between government policy and human behavior. I have done extensive work examining the impact of migration on immigrants and their families exploiting a lottery used to allocate migrant quota slots. In recent work, I have also examined voting behavior along a number of dimensions and how individuals have responded to changes in a number of policies, including minimum wages, the drinking age and doctor's fees.
Available thesis projects: Contact the supervisor to discuss available topics.

Supervisor: **Prof. Monica Rosini**
Research area(s): Law of Regions and Autonomies; constitutional end public law
Current research: the effect of the "major favour clause" on the competences of Autonomies Provinces of Bolzano; right to study; new features of the Italian economic constitution; e-voting
Available thesis projects:
-   Uso delle lingue nella pubblica amministrazione
-   Gli effetti del diritto europeo sulla autonomia altoatesina

- Esercizio associato delle funzioni nei comuni altoatesini/trentini
- Forma di governo della Provincia di Bolzano
- Proporzionale linguistica
- Autonomia finanziaria provinciale o comunale. Confronto con Regioni ordinarie e/o Land Tirol
- Le competenze provinciali a 20 anni dalla riforma del Titolo V Cost. e a 50 anni dalla Statuto di autonomia
- C'è bisogno di un nuovo statuto di autonomia?
- Plurilinguismo e sistema scolastico
- Sono possibili ulteriori temi relativi alle regioni ordinarie o in prospettiva comparata.

Supervisor: **Prof. Florian Kiesel**
Research area(s): Empirical Finance, Sustainable Finance
Current research: Sustainable Investing and its impact on society. Framework for an ESG agenda. Incentives for sustainable investing. Impact of political changes on the economy (Covid, Russian-Ukraine conflict, elections, etc.). For a detailed list, please check the supervisor's website.
Available thesis projects: Please contact the supervisor to discuss topics of interest. Topics can be in all areas related to finance.

Supervisor: **Prof. Marjaana Gunkel**
Research area(s): (International) Human Resource Management, (International) Organizational Behavior, Topics related to the area of Organization (incl. Organizational Culture, Organization Design, Organization Structure)
Current research:
https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=de&user=cgpnbEsAAAAJ&view_op=list_works&sortby=pubdate
Available thesis projects: Contact the supervisor to discuss topics of interest.

Supervisor: **Prof. Roberto Farneti**
Research area(s): Political theory; Theory of International Relations; International Political Theory; Political Communication
Current research: Current research revolves around the participatory tools and techniques that shape democratic publics; on art, films, and museums as soft power tools to influence democratization, on the strategies to design democratic audiences; and on the relationship between rhetoric and contemporary advocacy.
Available thesis projects: There is no specific indication. Students are invited to think of a general topic, possibly related with the themes listed above, and start their research of relevant literatures. Prof. Farneti values interdisciplinarity and recommends that students identify a small set of academic journals, at the intersection of disciplines and discourses. Reading scholarly articles will inspire their choice of a specific theme.

Supervisor: **Dr. Jan Ditzen**
Research area(s): applied econometrics, growth empirics
Current research: My methodological research focuses on large panel data models with dependence across units, panel data models with structural breaks and machine learning. My applied research focuses on the estimation of long run growth models (growth empirics) and house prices.
Available thesis projects: Please contact me to discuss topics of interest. A strong empirical focus of the dissertation is required.

Supervisor: **Prof. Ivo De Gennaro**
Research area(s): Ethics, Philosophy of science
Current research: My research is in fundamental and applied ethics, including the ethics of science. Currently, I'm interested in understanding trends in the evolution of scientific knowledge, science governance, and the relation between the scientific and the – broadly construed – political sphere.
Available thesis projects: Contact me to discuss possible thesis topics.

Supervisor: **Prof. Kaniovskyi Yuriy**
Research area(s): Econometrics of business cycles, Markov models in survey analysis.
Current research: The dynamics of productive capacity utilization over business cycles.
Available thesis projects: Contact the supervisor to discuss available topics. The most recent reference:

Exploring the Dynamics of Business Survey Data Using Markov Models,
 Computational Management Science, 2019, 16(4), p. 621-649 (with W.Hölzl and S.Kaniovski) Comment. *In general, a solid background in mathematics and statistics is **desirable**. There are topics related to risk analysis (credit and systemic). However, I am not sure that they are relevant dealing with LM- 63 students.*

Supervisor: **Prof. Stefania Baroncelli**
Research area(s): Italian and European Union constitutional law, Public Economic Law, European Economic and Monetary Union, Independence of ECB, Implementation and Formation of European Union Law in Italy, Regions and regionalism, Regions and EU Law, Minorities protection, Language pluralism and equality, rights to education, university and city cooperation, women's studies, right to housing, form of government.
Current research: Next Generation EU and PNRR, Autonomy of South Tyrol, Rule of Law, Supremacy and the EU, inclusion in the cities and in schools, digital divide and rights
Available thesis projects: Contact the supervisor to discuss possible thesis topics.

Supervisor: **Dr. Ralf Lüfter**
Research area(s): Ethics; Ethical Decision-Making; Responsibility Ethics; Economic Ethics; Philosophy of Economics; Transformative Knowledge.
Current research: The focus of the research is on fundamental questions of philosophy, especially in the field of Ethics. Key-concepts such as responsibility, sustainability, decision-making, inclusivity and future-fitness form the basis of a research agenda whose character is largely interdisciplinary. With regard to such key-concepts criticalities are addressed that can be relevant for both, the understanding of our time and of the development of transformative capacities to encounter an open future. In the context of this research, responsibility is consistently and explicitly seen as a constitutive element of the ethical dimension of economics and consequently as a key element of a transformative knowledge that promotes the development of a sustainable economy.
Available thesis projects: Contact the supervisor to discuss available topics and suggest topics that might be of interest to you.