

Sara Bagagli

sbagagli@fas.harvard.edu
sarabagagli.github.io

Education

Postdoc, Department of Economics, Harvard University	09.2022 – current
PhD, Department of Economics, University of Zurich, <i>summa cum laude</i>	08.2022
MA Economics, University of Bologna, 110/110 <i>cum laude</i>	03.2015
BA Economics and Marketing, University of Bologna, 110/110 <i>cum laude</i>	07.2012

Research Visits

Visiting Fellow, Department of Economics, UC Berkeley	02.2020 – 09.2020
Visiting Student, University of Bologna in Buenos Aires	08.2014 – 02.2015
Erasmus Student, Department of Business Administration, Lund University	08.2011 – 02.2012

Research Interests

Urban Economics, International Trade, Public Economics

Job Market Paper

“The (Express)Way to Segregation: Evidence from Chicago”

How do man-made barriers shape racial segregation within cities? I study the long-run effects of the construction of expressways in Chicago in the 1950s on racial segregation. These multilane roads (i) produce a local shock to residential amenities, and (ii) divide the areas they cross through, creating local barriers to the interaction of nearby communities. I find that expressways affect within-city racial segregation through two main channels. First, a price or disamenity channel: Racial segregation increases because of income differences between Black and white residents, which on average lead the two groups to react differently to changes in house prices induced by proximity to expressways. Second, a physical barrier channel: Racial sorting appears to be affected by expressway-induced changes in accessibility to different portions of the city and, in turn, to neighborhoods with different demographic compositions. Motivated by these findings, I build a structural urban model to study the link between urban barriers and racial preferences in shaping the allocation of people across space. The model is used to estimate racial preference parameters and to undertake counterfactual experiments to inform current public policies targeting the social issues of transport infrastructures in U.S. cities.

Working Paper

“The Fastest Route to Specialization? Evidence from the Expansion of the Italian Highways System”

I analyze the effects of a large public transportation infrastructure investment on the industrial structure of local economies in modern Italy. In 20 years, between 1955 and 1975, more than 5,000 km of highways were laid down in the peninsula, making the Italian highway network the third longest worldwide at the time. The setting is used to investigate how changes in market integration affect the degree of industrial specialization of Italian municipalities. I show that proximity to highways is associated with a sizable and persistent decrease in the degree of industrial specialization. A decomposition exercise further shows that the results are mainly driven by a reallocation of employment shares between sectors in the economy, rather than by an extensive margin effect through the formation of new sectors in the economy. Finally, I analyze potential mechanisms. I find that (i) the change in specialization cannot be explained by differences in population alone; (ii) highways seem to have facilitated the shift away from agriculture-intensive economies; (iii) there are large degrees of heterogeneity by sector.

Work in Progress

“Once Upon a Time in the (Canadian) West: Railroads, Location Fundamentals, and the Growth of Cities”

“No Way to the Highway: The Political Economy of Highway Revolts” (with Natalie Yang)

“Building(s) Equality” (with Elena Lutz)

Non-Refereed Publication

“Atlantia,” Stigler Center case study n. 6, June 2020 (with Guy Rolnik and Stefano Feltri)

Work Experience

Research Assistant for Prof. Luigi Zingales and Prof. Guy Rolnik, Chicago Booth	08.2015 – 07.2016
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Teaching

<i>Teaching Assistant, University of Zurich</i>	
Empirical Methods (Master level, 200+ students)	Fall 2020, 2019, 2018
Organizational Economics (Master level)	Spring 2019
Trade Policy (Master level)	Spring 2018
<i>Teaching Assistant, University of Bologna</i>	
International Marketing (Bachelor level)	Spring 2014

Professional Activities

Referee: Journal of International Economics	
BA and MA thesis co-supervision, University of Zurich	
Empirical Micro Doctoral Seminar Organizer, University of Zurich	2018, 2019

Grants & Awards

Swiss National Science Foundation Postdoc Mobility Grant	09.2022 – 08.2024
Forschungskredit der Universität Zürich, Candoc	08.2021 – 07.2022
Best Teaching Assistant Award, Department of Economics, University of Zurich	Fall 2019
Marco Fanno Scholarship, Unicredit Foundation (<i>declined</i>)	2016 - 2017
Study and Research Scholarship, University of Bologna	Fall 2014
Scholarship Award, University of Bologna	2013 – 2014

Presentations

UEA Toronto; CHS summer workshop (Stanford GSB); EUI PhD workshop; Interdisciplinary workshop on “Neighborhoods and Social Interactions” (PSE); NBER online conference on the “Economics of Transportation in the 21st Century;” Workshop on the “Economics of Crime for Junior Scholars” (NU, discussant); MIT CRE; RIEF Brussels; RUSH; HKS Growth Lab Seminar	2023
SEA Basel; Università della Svizzera Italiana; Conference on “The End of Globalization?” (NYUAD); Universität Luzern; DUP workshop (Harvard, online)	2022
DUP workshop (Harvard, online); 3rd Annual workshop in International Economics St. Gallen; Swiss workshop on Political Economy; SSES Annual congress (online); UEA Europe (online)	2021
DUP workshop (Harvard, online); Trade workshop (UC Berkeley, online); Trade workshop (UC Berkeley); Development lunch (UC Berkeley); Economic History lunch (UC Berkeley)	2020
Urban Economics Conference Zurich	2019

Languages

Stata, R, GIS, Matlab
English (proficient), Spanish (conversational), German (beginner), French (beginner), Italian (native)

References

			Placement Director
Ralph Ossa	Lorenzo Casaburi	Ed Glaeser	Joachim Voth
WTO & University of Zurich	University of Zurich	Harvard University	University of Zurich
ralph.ossa@econ.uzh.ch	lorenzo.casaburi@econ.uzh.ch	eglaeser@harvard.edu	voth@econ.uzh.ch