

LORENZO PESSINA

Department of Economics
Columbia University
420 West 118th Street
New York, NY 10027

September 2020
Email: l.pessina@columbia.edu
Website: lorenzopessina.com
Phone: (+1) 646-549-4512
Citizenship: Italian

Placement Chairs: Don Davis, drd28@columbia.edu, Suresh Naidu, sn2430@columbia.edu
Placement Assistant: Amy Devine, (+1) 212-854-6881, aed2152@columbia.edu

EDUCATION

Columbia University

Ph.D. in Economics	(expected) 2021
M.Phil. in Economics	2018
M.A. in Economics	2017

Bocconi University, Milan

M.Sc. in Economics and Social Sciences, <i>summa cum laude</i>	2015
B.A. in International Economics, Management, and Finance, <i>summa cum laude</i>	2012

RESEARCH FIELDS

Public Finance, Migration, Economic Inequality, Applied Micro

RESEARCH PAPERS

Who Writes the Check to the Government Does Matter: Evidence from Firm-to-Firm Links (Job Market Paper)

This paper quantifies the behavioral response of firms to a reform to the collection of Value Added Tax (VAT). Combining administrative data on firm-to-firm links from Italy and a quasi-experimental design, I find that the reform had limited impact in improving compliance, yet it distorted firm operations and market outcomes along two main dimensions. First, business transactions affected by the reform are 2.5pp more likely to become inactive. Second, firms are not able to completely substitute these transactions with new ones. As a result, firms more exposed to the reform report lower business sales and a lower survival probability.

Importing Inequality: Migration, Mobility, and the Top 1 percent (joint with Arun Advani, Felix Koenig, and Andy Summers)

In this paper we study the contribution of migrants to the rise in UK top incomes. Using administrative data on the universe of UK taxpayers we show migrants are concentrated at the top of the income distribution, with migrants twice as prevalent in the top 0.1 percent as anywhere in the bottom 96 percent. These high incomes are predominantly from labour, rather than capital, and migrants are concentrated in only a handful of industries, predominantly finance. Almost all (85%) of the growth in the UK top 1% income share over the past 20 years can be attributed to migration.

RESEARCH PAPERS IN PROGRESS

Taxation and International Relocation of Top Earners: Estimates from UK Tax Records
(joint with Arun Advani, Felix Koenig, and Andy Summers)

The Saved and the Probate: The Trade-off between Control and Inheritance Tax Minimization (joint with Cameron LaPoint)

RESEARCH GRANTS

NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, SES-1919322, \$19,877	2019-2021
Data Purchase Support, Program for Economics Research, Columbia University, \$5,000	2019
Student Research Travel Grant, CDEP, Columbia University, \$600	2017

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Economics, Columbia University	2020-2021
Wueller Pre-Dissertation Award (runner-up), Columbia University	2018
Vickrey Prize for Best Third Year paper, Columbia University	2018
Wueller Teaching Award (runner-up), Columbia University	2017
Dean's Fellowship, Columbia University	2015-2020
Graduate Merit Award, Bocconi University	2012-2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Intermediate Macroeconomics	Summer 2018
-----------------------------	-------------

Teaching Assistant

Intermediate Macroeconomics, TA for Xavier Sala-i-Martin	Fall 2016, 2017, 2019
<i>Wueller Teaching Award (Fall 2017)</i>	
Public Economics, TA for Wojciech Kopczuk	Fall 2018
Urban Economics, TA for Jason Barr	Fall 2018

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PhD Student Affiliate, CAGE, University of Warwick	2019 - present
Research Assistant for Francois Gerard, Columbia University	2017

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Intern, Global Investment Research, Goldman Sachs, London UK	2014-15
---	---------

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2020: National Tax Association Annual Conference (NTA, $\times 2$), CEMIR Junior Economist Workshop on Migration Research (CESifo Munich), Agenzia delle Entrate (Rome), LMU Munich, Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence (ESCoE), Annual Mannheim Taxation Conference (ZEW Mannheim), Econometric Society World Congress, Young Economist Symposium, IIPF Annual Congress*, APPAM DC Regional Student Conference (canceled due to Covid-19)

2019: National Tax Association Annual Conference (NTA, poster session)

2018: Young Economist Symposium

**presented by co-authors.*

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Invited Attendance: NBER Business Tax Graduate Workshop and Meeting 2018

Referee for the Young Economist Symposium 2018-2020

Co-organizer of reading group: Public Economics and Taxation Summer 2018

Student Organizer: Lunch with the Applied Micro Speaker 2018-2020

PERSONAL

Citizenship: Italy

US status: F-1 Visa

Languages: English (fluent), Italian (native), French (basic)

REFERENCES

Wojciech Kopczuk

Professor of Economics and
Professor of International and Public Affairs
Columbia University
(+1) 212-854-2519
wk2110@columbia.edu

Eric Verhoogen

Professor of Economics and
Professor of International and Public Affairs
Columbia University
(+1) 212-854-4428
eric.verhoogen@columbia.edu

Michael Best

Assistant Professor of Economics
Columbia University
(+1) 415-316-5006
michael.best@columbia.edu

Arun Advani

Assistant Professor of Economics
Warwick University
+44-24-765-23056
a.advani.1@warwick.ac.uk