

Curriculum Vitae – Fall 2021

Name: Luca Parisotto
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Qualifications

PhD in Economics and Finance – Bocconi University <i>Milano, Italy</i>	2021 - present
MSc in Economics for Development – University of Oxford <i>Oxford, United Kingdom</i>	2014 - 2015
BA in Economics – University of Edinburgh <i>Edinburgh, United Kingdom</i>	2010 – 2014

Research Interests

Development economics, social protection, and sexual and reproductive health. Econometrics, adaptive experiments, and the estimation of heterogenous treatment effects.

Publications

"Children on the move: Progressive redistribution of humanitarian cash transfers among refugees." *Journal of Development Economics* (2021), 153, 102733,. with Berk Özler, Çiğdem Çelik, Scott Cunningham, and P. Facundo Cuevas.

Abstract: We evaluate the impact of the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) in Turkey, the largest cash transfer program for international refugees in the world. We provide *prima facie* evidence that the program quickly caused substantial changes in household size and composition, with a net movement of primarily school-aged children from ineligible to eligible households. As a result, we observe a sharp decline in poverty and inequality in the entire study population. ESSN also caused a moderate increase in the diversity and frequency of food consumption among eligible households. To strike the right balance between transfer size and coverage, key parameters in the design of any cash transfer program, policymakers should consider the possibility that refugee populations may respond to their eligibility status by altering their household structure and living arrangements.

Working papers

"Shared decision-making: Can improved counselling increase willingness to pay for modern contraceptives?" *Under review*, with Susan Athey, Katy Bergstrom, Vitor Hadad, Julian C. Jamison, Berk Özler, and Julius Dohbit Sama.

Abstract: Long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs) are highly effective in preventing unintended pregnancies, but take-up remains low. This paper analyzes a randomized controlled trial of interventions addressing two barriers to LARC adoption: credit and informational constraints. We offered discounts to the clients of a women's hospital in Yaoundé, Cameroon and cross-randomized a counselling strategy that encourages shared decision-making (SDM) using a tablet-based *app* that ranks modern methods. Discounts increased uptake by 50%, with larger effects for adolescents. SDM tripled the share of clients adopting a LARC at full price, from 11% to 35%, and discounts had no incremental impact in this group.



"Estimating Poverty in a Fragile Context: The High Frequency Survey in South Sudan." (2019) *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper Series No. 8722*. with Utz. J. Pape.

Abstract: The High Frequency South Sudan Survey, implemented by the South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with the World Bank, conducted several waves of representative surveys across seven of the ten former states between 2015 and 2017. These surveys provided a long overdue update to poverty numbers in South Sudan, with the previous national poverty estimates dating as far back as 2009. The escalation and expansion of the civil conflict posed severe challenges to the planning and implementation of fieldwork. The surveys therefore capitalized on several technological and methodological innovations to establish a reliable system of data collection and obtain valid poverty estimates. Focusing on the 2016 urban-rural wave, this paper describes the design and analysis of the survey to arrive at reliable poverty estimates for South Sudan, utilizing the Rapid Consumption Methodology combined with geo-spatial data for inaccessible survey areas.

Work in Progress

"An adaptive experiment to improve quality in contraceptive counseling and increase the uptake of long-acting reversible contraceptive methods in Cameroon." with Susan Athey, Sarah J. Baird, Vitor Hadad, Julian C. Jamison, Craig McIntosh, Berk Ozler, and Julius Dohbit Sama.

Work Experience

The World Bank

*Development Economics Research Group,
Poverty and Inequality Global Practice,*

Washington D.C., U.S.A.

Aug. 2018 – Sept. 2021

Aug. 2016 – July 2018

United Nations ESCAP

Trade Policy and Analysis Section,

Bangkok, Thailand

Sep. 2015 – Aug. 2016

Language Skills

Italian, French, and English

IT Skills

- *Stata, R (Excellent)*
- *Microsoft Office, Latex (Excellent)*
- *ODK Platforms: Survey Solutions, SurveyCTO (Excellent)*
- *GIS Software: ArcGIS, ArcMap, Q-GIS (Good)*
- *Matlab: (Basic)*