

LUCA J. UBERTI

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CURRENT POSITION

Assistant Professor (rtdA) 2023-
University of Milano-Bicocca, Department of Economics, Management and Statistics

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Post-doc 2020 - 2022
University of Luxembourg, Department of Economics and Management

Alexander Nash Fellow 2018 - 2020
University College London, UCL Centre for New Economic Transitions

Post-doc 2017 - 2018
University of Oslo, Department of Politics
'Disentangling the Economic Effects of Political Institutions' (DEEPI) project

EDUCATION

PhD Political Economy (Politics) 2013 - 2017
University of Otago, New Zealand

BSc Physics & Philosophy, First-class honours 2006 - 2009
King's College London, UK

VISITING POSITIONS

São Paulo School of Economics (FGV) Summer 2023
Collegio Carlo Alberto, Turin Spring 2023
University of San Francisco, Department of Economics March 2017

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Political economy, economics of culture, growth & development, applied micro

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles

- (2023) 'Opportunistic Privatization', *European Journal of Political Economy*, 102479 (with Vladan Ivanović, Drini Imami)
- (2023) 'The Feminisation U, Cultural Norms, and the Plough', *Journal of Population Economics*, 36(1), 36: 5-35 (with Elodie Douarin)

7. (2022) 'Corruption and Growth: Historical Evidence, 1790-2010', *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 50(2): 321-349
6. (2020) 'Bribes, Rents and Industrial Firm Performance in Albania and Kosovo', *Comparative Economic Studies*, 62: 263-302
5. (2019) 'Does Aid Promote Electoral Integrity?', *Journal of Development Studies*, 56(6): 1067-1094 (with David Jackson)
4. (2019) 'Election Cycles and Mining-sector Governance in Post-conflict Kosovo', *Post-Communist Economies*, 31(5): 623-645 (with Geoffrey Pugh, Drini Imami, Endrit Lami)
3. (2018) 'Corruption in Transition Economies: Socialist, Ottoman or Structural?', *Economic Systems*, 42 (4): 533-55
2. (2018) 'Political Business Cycles and Construction Licensing: Evidence from Post-Socialist Tirana, Albania (1994-2015)', *Economics of Transition*, 26(3): 523-552 (with Drini Imami, Endrit Lami, Edvin Zhllima)
1. (2018) 'Election Cycles in Mining Licensing: Theory and Evidence from Albania', *Post-Communist Economies*, 30(1): 99-116 (with Drini Imami and Endrit Lami)

Short pieces

2. (2022) 'Interpreting Logit Models', *Stata Journal*, 22(1): 60-76
1. (2017) 'Marginal Effects in Log-Transformed Models: A Trade Application', *Stata Journal*, 17(3): 1-4

Book chapters

4. (2023) 'The Feminization U', in *Handbook of Labor, Human Resources and Population Economics* (ed. Klaus F. Zimmermann), Springer (with Elodie Douarin)
3. (2021) 'Institutions, Human Capital and Economic Growth', in *Handbook of Comparative Economics* (eds. Elodie Douarin, Oleh Havrylyshyn), Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 461-492 (with Carl H. Knutsen)
2. (2021) 'Albania: Economy' in *Central and South-Eastern Europe 2022*, 22nd edition (ed. Imogen Gladman), Routledge: Abingdon, pp. 46-50 (updated for the 23rd and 24th edition)
1. (2019) 'Kosovo: Economy' in *Central and South-Eastern Europe 2020*, 20th edition (ed. Imogen Gladman), Routledge: Abingdon, pp. 315-319 (updated for the 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th editions)

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

'Jobs for votes: Micro-evidence from Albania' (with Drini Imami & Mariapia Mendola)

'Dams and social conflict: Evidence from Brazil' (with Raphael Corbi, Chiara Falco)

‘Income and corruption (1790-2010)’ (with Randolph Bruno, Laura Magazzini)

‘Women directors and cost efficiency’ (with Skerdilajda Zanaj, Anastasia Litina)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Milan-Bicocca

Principles of economics, undergrad, spring 2025 (with Nejat Gökhan Okatan)

Population economics, postgrad, spring 2024 (with Mariapia Mendola)

University of Luxembourg

Econometrics II (Stata), postgrad, spring 2022

Maths II (Linear Algebra), undergrad, spring 2021

University College London

Quantitative Methods, postgrad, autumn 2018 (with Randolph Bruno)

Advanced Quantitative Methods, postgrad, spring 2019 & spring 2020 (teaching assistant for Prof. Svetlana Makarova)

Free-standing Dissertation, undergrad, spring 2020 (supervised five students)

European Law & Governance School (ELGS), Athens

Good Governance & the Fight Against Corruption, postgrad, spring 2019 (visiting lecturer replacing Prof. Daphne Athanasouli)

University of Otago

The Political Economy of Corruption, undergrad (with Philip Nel), summer 2016

INVITED TALKS

- Departmental seminar, Sao Paulo School of Economics (FGV-EESP), Sao Paulo, Brazil, 25 August 2023, "Opportunistic Privatization"
- Departmental seminar, Collegio Carlo Alberto, Torino, Italy, 12 April 2023, "Opportunistic Privatization"
- Departmental seminar, UCL Centre for New Economic Transitions, University College London, UK, 7 December 2022, "Opportunistic Privatization"
- Global Labor Organization Global Conference (online), 1 December 2022, "The Feminisation U, Cultural Norms, and the Plough"

- Departmental seminar, Department of Economics, University of Sussex, UK, 13 October 2021, “The Feminisation U, Cultural Norms, and the Plough”
- Anglo-Albanian Association (AAA), London, UK, 9 June 2021, “The Albanian Economy 30 Years after Transition: Achievements, Challenges and Ways Forward”
- Departmental seminar, Department of Economics, Johannes Kepler Universität Linz, Austria, 16 December 2020, “The Feminisation U, Cultural Norms, and the Plough”
- Workshop on “A Decade of Kosovo’s Independence: Developments and Lessons for Other Countries”, University of Winchester, UK, 19 February 2019, invited lecture on “Kosovo’s Economy”
- Departmental seminar, Centre for Russian, Central and East European Studies, University of Glasgow, UK, 23 January 2019, “Bribes, Rents and Industrial Firm Performance in Albania and Kosovo”
- 24th Dubrovnik Economic Conference (Young Economists’ Seminar, by invitation), Dubrovnik, Croatia, 3-5 June 2018, “Corruption in Transition Economies: Ottoman, Socialist or Structural”
- Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) Conference, Tirana, Albania, 20 December 2017, “Mining and Economic Development in Albania: Regulatory and Policy Issues”

REFEREE

Journals

European Journal of Political Economy, Economic Modelling, Journal of Population Economics, Economic Systems, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Institutional Economics, International Review of Applied Economics, International Journal of Finance and Economics, Stata Journal, Comparative Economic Studies, Eurasian Geography and Economics, South-East Europe and Black Sea Studies, International Journal of Urban and Regional Research

Books

Routledge Economics Series

Grants

EU Horizon 2020, Marie Skłodowska Curie Post-Doctoral Fellowship; National Science Foundation (US)

RESEARCH GRANTS

- Grand Challenges “Dynamics of Globalization” Research Grant, University College London (UCL), “*Globalisation and Inter-ethnic Trust in Post-Socialist Macedonia: A Preliminary Investigation*” – November 2018-June 2019 – GBP 2,199 (PI, with Elodie Douarin)
- Regional Research Promotion Programme, University of Fribourg, CH (funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), “*Mapping Clientelism and its Causes: Rents, Rent-Seeking and Democracy in Kosovo and Albania*”, KS 205 – June 2014-March 2016 – CHF 100,660 (Co-I, with Drini Imami and Endrit Lami)
- Regional Research Promotion Programme, University of Fribourg, CH, as per above, paid project extension – June 2016-November 2016 – CHF 44,960 (Co-I, with Drini Imami and Endrit Lami)

HONOURS & AWARDS

- **Giovani Talenti Prize** (Economics, Statistics & Law sector), University of Milano-Bicocca & Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, 2024
- **Italian Scientific Habilitation** (*Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale*) to Associate Professor (*Professore di II Fascia*) in Political Economy (13/A2), June 2023
- **Humanities Divisional List of Exceptional Doctoral Theses**, University of Otago, 2017
- **LSEE-CEFTA Best Paper Competition**, London School of Economics and Political Science, 2016

SCHOLARSHIPS

University of Otago Doctoral Scholarship, New Zealand – December 2013-December 2016

University of Otago, Publishing Bursary, March-May 2017

University of Otago, Division of Humanities Travel Grant, January 2016

Ross Fellowship, Purdue University (US), March 2013 (declined)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Board member & co-founder 2024 -
Italian-Brazilian Economic Association (AIBE)

POLICY & CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation 2021
EU-Balkan Youth Forum (Rome, 22-26 November)
- Moderator for working group on “One Market, Many Challenges”

Chr. Michelsen Institute – U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre 2019
Consultant
- Policy advice to Swiss Development Cooperation Agency and Swedish International Development Agency on anti-corruption interventions in Albania

Chr. Michelsen Institute – U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre 2017
Consultant
- Policy evaluation of donor-funded electoral integrity interventions in developing countries

USAID Kosovo, TLP Immersion and Public Service Courses (PPDL) 2017
Instructor
- Training of civil servants in the area of public policy and development planning (in Albanian)

USAID Kosovo, Tetra Tech Property Rights Programme in Kosovo 2016
Consultant
- Policy advice on land privatization and property rights in Kosovo

European Union, EU Trade Policy Project Kosovo

2015

Consultant

- Trade analysis and policy advice to Kosovo's Ministry of Trade and Industry

UNDP Albania, Youth Employment and Migration (YEM) Program

2009

Intern

POLICY REPORTS

Ministry of Trade and Industry, Republic of Kosovo (2015): *Annual Report 1 - 15 Years of Transition in Kosovo: Implications for Trade*, EU Trade Policy Project: Pristina (co-author)

Chr. Michelsen Institute, U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre (2018): *Promoting Electoral Integrity through Aid: Analysis and Advice for Donors*, U4 Issue Paper 2018: 5 (with David Jackson)

Chr. Michelsen Institute, U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre (2020): *Identifying Feasible, High-Impact Anti-Corruption Interventions: The Case of Albania*, U4 Issue Paper 2020: 9 (sole author)

LANGUAGES AND SOFTWARE

Italian (native), English (fluent), Albanian (proficient), Portuguese (proficient)

Stata, LaTeX, basic R

REFERENCES

Dr. Elodie Douarin, *Associate Professor of Economics*, UCL Centre for New Economic Transitions, School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London (UK) - e.douarin@ucl.ac.uk

Dr. Randolph Bruno, *Associate Professor of Economics*, Department of Political Economy, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano (Italy) - randolphluca.bruno@unicatt.it

Prof. Geoffrey Pugh, *Professor of Applied Economics*, Staffordshire University Business School (UK) – g.t.pugh@staffs.ac.uk

Updated: March 2025