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**DOCTORAL STUDIES**     Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)  
PhD, Economics, Expected completion June 2018  
DISSERTATION: “Essays on the Economic and Political Effects of Immigration”

### DISSERTATION COMMITTEE AND REFERENCES

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**PRIOR EDUCATION**     Bocconi University, Italy  
M.Sc. in Economics and Social Sciences, *Summa cum Laude*

2013

Bocconi University, Italy 2011  
 B.Sc. in Economics and Social Sciences, *Summa cum Laude*

<b>CITIZENSHIP</b>	United States and Italy	<b>GENDER:</b> Male
<b>LANGUAGES</b>	English (fluent), Italian (fluent), French (intermediate)	
<b>FIELDS</b>	Primary Field: Labor Economics  Secondary Fields: Political Economy, Economic History, and Trade	
<b>TEACHING EXPERIENCE</b>	14.662 Graduate Labor Economics II TA to Professors David Autor and Simon Jager	Spring 2018 (Assigned)
	14.02 Introductory Macroeconomics TA to Professor Jim Poterba	Spring 2018 (Assigned)
	14.02 Introductory Macroeconomics Head TA to Professor Ricardo Caballero	Fall 2016
	14.02 Introductory Macroeconomics TA to Professor Ricardo Caballero	Fall 2015
	Summer Course at Bocconi University: "Introduction to Economic Growth"	Summer 2014
<b>RELEVANT POSITIONS</b>	Research Assistant to Professors Daron Acemoglu (MIT) and Melissa Dell (Harvard University)	Summer 2014
<b>FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS</b>	Research Grant for "From Immigrants to Americans: Race, Status, and Assimilation During the Great Migration" (with Vasiliky Fouka and Shom Mazumder) RSF Presidential Award: Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration program George and Obie Shultz Fund George and Obie Shultz Fund MIT Department of Economics Fellowship Borsa di Studio A. Modigliani Bocconi Graduate Merit Award	2017    2017 2016 2014-2015 2013-2014 2011-2013
<b>PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES</b>	Referee: <i>Review of Economic Studies</i> , <i>Journal of European Economic Association</i> , <i>Journal of Public Economics</i> , <i>Journal of Urban Economics</i> , <i>The Economics of Transition</i>	

**RESEARCH  
PAPERS**

**“Gifts of the Immigrants, Woes of the Natives: Lessons from the Age of Mass Migration” (Job Market Paper)**

In this paper, I show that political opposition to immigration can arise even when immigrants bring significant economic prosperity to receiving areas. I exploit exogenous variation in European immigration to US cities between 1910 and 1930 induced by World War I and the Immigration Acts of the 1920s, and instrument immigrants' location decision relying on pre-existing settlement patterns. Immigration increased natives' employment and occupational standing, and fostered industrial production and capital utilization. However, it lowered tax rates, public spending, and the pro-immigration party's (i.e., Democrats) vote share. The inflow of immigrants was also associated with the election of more conservative representatives, and with rising support for anti-immigration legislation. I provide evidence that political backlash was increasing in the cultural distance between immigrants and natives, suggesting that diversity might be economically beneficial but politically hard to manage.

**“Racial Heterogeneity and Local Government Finances: Evidence from the Great Migration”**

Is racial heterogeneity responsible for the distressed financial conditions of US central cities and for their limited ability to provide even basic public goods? If so, why? I study these questions exploiting the movement of more than 1.5 million African Americans from the South to the North of the United States during the first wave of the Great Migration (1915-1930). Black immigration and the induced white outmigration ("white flight") are both instrumented for using, respectively, pre-migration settlements and their interaction with MSA geographic characteristics that affect the cost of moving to the suburbs. The inflow of African Americans imposed a strong, negative fiscal externality on receiving places by lowering property values and, mechanically, reducing tax revenues. Unable or unwilling to raise tax rates, cities cut public spending, especially in education, to meet a tighter budget constraint. While the fall in tax revenues was partly offset by higher debt, this strategy may, in the long run, have proven unsustainable, contributing to the financially distressed conditions of several US central cities today.

**“Happily Ever After: Immigration, Natives' Marriage and Fertility” (with Michela Carlana)**

In this paper, we study the effects of immigration on natives' marriage, fertility, and family formation across US cities between 1910 and 1930. Instrumenting immigrants' location decision by interacting pre-existing ethnic settlements with aggregate migration flows, we find that immigration raised marriage rates, fertility, and the propensity to leave the parental house for young native men and women. We show that these effects were driven by the large and positive impact of immigration on native men's employment and occupational standing, which increased the supply of "marriageable men". We also explore alternative mechanisms – changes in sex ratios, natives' cultural responses, and displacement effects of immigrants on female employment – and provide evidence that none of them can account for a quantitatively relevant fraction of our results.

**“Economic Integration and Democracy: An Empirical Investigation”**

(with Giacomo Magistretti). Submitted.

We study whether economic integration fosters the process of democratization, and the channels through which this might happen. Our analysis is based on a large panel dataset of countries between 1950 and 2014. We instrument actual trade with predicted trade constructed by estimating a time-varying gravity equation similar to Feyrer (2009). We find that economic integration has a positive effect on democracy, which is driven by trade with democratic partners, and is stronger for countries with lower initial levels of economic and institutional development. These results are consistent with a learning/cultural exchange process whereby economic integration promotes the spread of democracy from more to less democratic countries. We corroborate this interpretation by providing evidence against alternative mechanisms, such as income effects, human capital accumulation, and trade-induced changes in inequality.

**RESEARCH IN  
PROGRESS**

**“The Economic and Political Effects of Outmigration from the US South During the Great Migration”** (with Leah Boustan)

Between 1940 and 1970, the US South lost more than 4 million African Americans, or 40 percent of its 1940 black population. This paper examines how this large reduction in labor supply influenced the mechanization of southern agriculture and the realignment of the southern political landscape. Using a “reversed” version of the classic shift-share instrument common in the immigration literature, we find that black outmigration from southern counties: i) favored the mechanization of agriculture, in turn increasing the average value per acre of farmed land; ii) induced planters to change their crop-mix, switching away from labor intensive crops such as cotton; and iii) reduced the share of blacks working as farm tenants, likely because white planters shifted from sharecropping on small plots to hired labor on consolidated farms. We plan to extend our analysis to study the effect of black out-migration on southern politics, focusing in particular on vote shares and turnout in Presidential elections and on differences in spending on education between white and black schools.

**“From Immigrants to Americans: Race, Status, and Assimilation During the Great Migration”** (with Vasiliky Fouka and Shom Mazumder)

In this project, we study if the inflow of African Americans to the US North between 1915 and 1940 affected the assimilation of previously arrived European immigrants. We construct a shift-share instrument by interacting 1900 settlements of southern born blacks living in northern cities with outmigration from each southern state after 1910. Measuring cultural assimilation in several ways, including petitions and applications for citizenship, naming patterns, and intermarriage, we provide preliminary evidence that the arrival of African Americans favored the Americanization of European immigrants. We also explore the mechanisms through which the inflow of an out-group might have favored the economic and cultural integration of previous outsiders, and investigate the effects of black in-migration on labor market outcomes and residential patterns of European immigrants.

**“Measuring Attitudes Towards Immigration Using Newspapers’ Data and Congressional Speeches”** (with Leonardo D’Amico)

We exploit plausibly exogenous variation in European immigration to US cities between 1910 and 1930 induced by World War I and the US Immigration Acts of the 1920s to study if the inflow of immigrants increased the salience of immigration and, in particular, racism. Using local newspapers’ data, we find that immigration not only increased the frequency of generic terms related to immigration, but also, induced newspapers to adopt more racist terms when referring to the foreign born (e.g. “Inferior Races”; “Beaten Races”; etc.). Preliminary findings further suggest that immigration largely increased the salience of social issues, but only marginally affected the frequency of economic terms. We will complement our existing analysis by using data from Congressional speeches and ads posted by politicians in local newspapers around the time of elections to test if political parties adjusted their policy platform in response to immigration and the induced shift in sentiments of their constituency.