

Andrea Xamo

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Academic Positions

February 2025-Today Research Fellow in Political Economy - University of Verona

Education

2020-2025 Ph.D. in Economics and Management - University of Verona

May - July 2024 Visiting Research Student in Government - London School of Economics and Political Science
Local supervisor: Prof. Valentino Larcinese

Ph.D. Dissertation: *Essays in Historical Political Economy*
Supervisor Prof. Roberto Ricciut

2018-2020 Master in Economics - University of Trento

Thesis: *Factor endowments, Institutions and Trade in Liberal Italy, 1880-1911*.
Supervisors Prof. Maria Luigia Segnana and Prof. Andrea Bonoldi.
Final grade 110/110 cum Laude.

2014-2017 B.A. in Economics and Management - University of Trento

Thesis: *Finanziare la Guerra: il sistema economico italiano e la Prima Guerra Mondiale*.
Supervisor Prof. Andrea Bonoldi.

Research Interests

Historical Political Economy, Economic History and Economic Geography.

Research

Working Papers:

“Taxing bread or taxing land? Municipal fiscal policy in Liberal Italy, 1871-1912” [under revision]

Abstract: Between 1864 and 1930, Italian municipalities were responsible for the provision of basic public services such as primary education, healthcare, and infrastructure maintenance. To cover these expenses, they drew most of their revenues from taxes on consumption — the *dazio consumo* — and surcharges. This work employs a novel dataset of Italian municipalities’ budgets to study the relevance of local consumption taxes and their determinants. Its contributions are threefold. First, it proves that the collection methods for local excises depended, for a significant portion of municipalities, on local decisions. Second, it highlights how local excises played an extremely relevant role in revenue formation for large, walled municipalities, in line with contemporary regulation. Third, it documents that old fiscal traditions dating to the Napoleonic period still had a role in forming fiscal revenues up to the turn of the century.

“Italian municipalities, local fiscal policy, and the 1902 reform of the Dazio Consumo”

Abstract: Between 1864 and 1930, Italian municipalities relied heavily on consumption duties to generate income. The largest municipalities collected these duties as tariffs at local customs borders, and this paper argues that high reliance on such duties, similar to high reliance on trade tariffs, indicates low fiscal capacity.

Reducing reliance on consumption taxes by removing local customs borders can therefore be taken as a sign of future fiscal capacity building. This study uses the 1902 reform of the "Dazio consumo" to investigate the long-term effects of building fiscal capacity.

"Electricity and the Geography of Industrial Development in a latecomer country: Italy, 1901-1911", with Roberto Ricciuti

Abstract: Italy, a latecomer to industrialisation, faced the hurdles of lacking coal in the age of steam. When the technology for long-distance electricity transmission became available, it invested heavily in hydropower. Drawing from New Economic Geography (NEG) and factor endowment theories, we analyse the location of industrial activity across Italian provinces during the census years 1901 and 1911. We evaluate the influence of electric power as a distinct factor alongside traditional determinants such as market potential, human capital, and energy intensity. Our approach incorporates new data on GDP, literacy, and energy stocks, enabling a fine-grained analysis at the NUTS-3 level. Our findings highlight the role of electricity in the location of industries, with its influence growing markedly between 1901 and 1911. These results align with broader interpretations of the role of electrification in enabling industrial diversification and regional economic development during the Second Industrial Revolution.

"Feather-handed Fascists: Surveillance as a Signal of Bureaucratic Loyalty", with Pau Grau-Vilalta and Lorenzo Vicari

Abstract: This paper examines how authoritarian rulers secure compliance from bureaucrats inherited from previous regimes. Focusing on Fascist Italy (1922–40), it argues that bureaucratic behaviour is driven less by ideology or expertise and more by the need to signal loyalty to the regime. Using a newly digitised province-year dataset covering all 415 prefects and around 100,000 surveillance dossiers, we exploit prefect mobility in a staggered Difference-in-Differences design. Prefects who voluntarily joined the Fascist Party before its rise to power—those with credible loyalty markers—opened about 20% fewer dossiers than career-appointed counterparts. Robustness tests rule out competence and preferential deployment as alternative explanations. Loyal bureaucrats faced less surveillance and targeted fewer "usual suspects," consistent with loyalty-signalling incentives. These findings provide systematic evidence that career concerns, rather than ideology or ability, can shape coercive behaviour under authoritarianism and explain variation in the intensity of state repression.

Works in progress:

"Wage Rigidity and Money Illusion: An Experimental Analysis", with Federico Innocenti

"When Outcomes Mislead: Recovery Spending, Pandemic Severity and Electoral Accountability in Italian Municipalities", with Emanuele Bracco and Federico Innocenti

"From Napoleon to Mussolini: Traditions and Persistence in the Taxation of Italian municipalities, 1815-1925"

Teaching

Spring 2025 Lecturer in Environmental Economics (M.Sc.) - University of Verona

Fall 2023 Teaching Assistant in Microeconomics (B.Sc.) - University of Verona
Prof. Maria Vittoria Levati.

Fall 2022 T.A. in Microeconomics (B.Sc.) - University of Verona
Prof. Simone Quercia.

Presentations in Workshops, Seminars and Conferences

2025 RES Annual Conference (Birmingham, UK);
10th Annual Meeting and Workshop ASE (Venice, Italy)

2024 1st ARiSE Annual Conference (Brescia, Italy);
9th Annual Meeting and Workshop ASE (Turin, Italy);
RSE/IREH Fast Track Review Meeting (Verona, Italy);

	2nd Workshop on the Political Economy of Municipal Fiscal Policy (CRIEP, Bergamo, Italy)
2023	Research Seminar - Free University of Bozen (Bozen-Bolzano, Italy); 1st Adige Ph.D. Day - Joint with Free University of Bozen (Bozen-Bolzano, Italy); Brown Bag Seminar - University of Verona
2022	7th Annual Meeting and Workshop ASE - Associazione per la Storia Economica (Sant'Anna, Pisa, Italy)

Workshop and Course attendance

2023	16th Winter School "Inequalities, Social Norms and Migration" (University of Verona, Canazei, Italy); "Advanced Methods for Impact Evaluation of Public Policies" (IRVAPP Advanced School, Online); 8th Annual Meeting and Workshop ASE (Federico II University, Naples, Italy)
2022	Workshop on the Political Economy of Municipal Fiscal Policy (CRIEP, Bozen-Bolzano, Italy)

Other Activities

- Ph.D. Student representative for Economics and Law at the University of Verona Ph.D. School Council (since March 2023)
- Ph.D. Student representative on the Board of the Ph.D. in Economics and Finance, University of Verona, Dept. of Economics (October 2023 - 2024)
- Ph.D. Student representative on the Quality Assurance Board of the Ph.D. in Economics and Finance, University of Verona, Dept. of Economics (October 2023 - 2024)
- Organiser of the Joint Verona, Bolzano and Trento Ph.D. Seminars in Economics and Finance (academic years 2023-24 and 2024-25)
- Organiser of the Verona Early Career Workshop in Economics (2024 and 2025 editions)
- Local organiser of the 2024 IREH/RSE Fast Track Meeting (Verona, Italy, May 23-24, 2024)

Languages

Italian	Native
English	Level C1

Computer Skills

Statistics	R, Python
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