



Collegio Carlo Alberto

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO



Rigorous Impact Evaluation in Europe

A Research Conference in Honor of Alberto Martini

May 20-22, 2018
Collegio Carlo Alberto
Torino, Italy

Organizing Committee:

*Gian Paolo Barbetta, Douglas Besharov, Daniela Del Boca,
Elsa Fornero, Neil Gilbert, and Jacob Klerman*

Agenda

Sunday, May 20

19:30

Business Dinner

Ristorante Solferino
Piazza Solferino 3, Torino
Hosted by Collegio Carlo Alberto

Welcome and Introductions

*Douglas Besharov, University of Maryland and Atlantic Council
Pietro Terna, Collegio Carlo Alberto
David Myers, American Institutes for Research*

What Qualifies as Evidence for Policy?

Douglas Besharov, University of Maryland and Atlantic Council

Open discussion

Monday, May 21
Room: Auditorium
Collegio Carlo Alberto
Piazza Arbarello 8, Torino

9:00-10:40 Plenary Session

9:00-9:10 ***Opening Remarks***

Douglas Besharov, University of Maryland and Atlantic Council

9:10-9:55 ***Rigorous Impact Evaluation: The Impact Assessment Office of the Italian Senate***

Sen. Laura Bottici, Questore del Senato della Repubblica

9:55-10:40 **Impact Evaluation at Cross-National Organizations**

Policy Evaluation at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Stefano Scarpetta, OECD

Reactors: Massimiliano Bratti, Competence Centre on Microeconomic Evaluation, European Commission and Università di Milano; and *Neil Gilbert*, University of California, Berkeley

10:40-11:00 Coffee Break

Room: Common Room

11:00-12:30 Plenary Session

11:00-11:45 ***Rigorous Impact Evaluation in Europe? Motives for Optimism and Reasons for Pessimism***

Alberto Martini, Università del Piemonte Orientale and Associazione per lo Sviluppo della Valutazione e l'Analisi delle Politiche Pubbliche (ASVAPP)

11:45-12:30 ***Better, Quicker, Cheaper Impact Evaluations to Inform Public Policy and Improve Practice: Lessons (for Europe) from Half a Century of Experience in the United States***

Rebecca Maynard, University of Pennsylvania

12:30-14:00 Lunch

Room: Common Room

14:00-15:20 Plenary Session

Systematic Reviews of Research to Build Knowledge and Advance Policy

Chair: David Myers, American Institutes for Research

The Four Waves of the Evidence Revolution: Lessons and Challenges for Research for Policy

Howard White, Campbell Collaboration (video link)

Federal Efforts to Build an Evidence Base on Teen Pregnancy Prevention in the United States

Amy Feldman Farb, US Department of Health and Human Services (video link)

(Meta-Evaluation)² – Or, What Can We Learn from Meta-Evaluations and Systematic Reviews?

Stefan Silvestrini, Center for Evaluation

15:20-16:40 Parallel Panels I

Panel 1: Workforce Development

Room: Classroom 2

Chair: Stephen Bell, Westat

Does Federally-Funded Job Training Work? Non-Experimental Estimates of WIA Training Impacts Using Longitudinal Data on Workers and Firms

Jeffrey Smith, University of Wisconsin

Lower Caseload of Placement Officers and Unemployment Outcomes: New Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial

Helmut Mahringer, Austrian Institute of Economic Research

“Private Good, Public Bad?” Delivering UK Employment Programmes for Disabled People

Bruce Stafford, University of Nottingham

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Panel 2: Employment Protection and Contracts

Room: Classroom 3

Chair: Lia Pacelli, Università di Torino

***Employment Protection, Temporary Contracts and Firm-Provided Training:
Evidence from Italy***

Massimiliano Bratti, Competence Centre on Microeconomic Evaluation,
European Commission and Università di Milano

Young In, Old Out? Evidence from a Reform

Chiara Ardito, Università di Torino

Employment Protection Legislation and Mismatch: Evidence from a Reform

Fabio Berton, Università di Torino

16:40-17:00 Coffee Break

Room: Common Room

17:00-18:20 Parallel Panels II

Panel 3: Welfare Policies and Unemployment

Room: Classroom 2

Chair: Elsa Fornero, Università di Torino

***The Impact of Welfare Reform on Single Parent Employment in the UK (2008-
2014)***

Anthony Rafferty, University of Manchester

***Disability Status and Long-Term Employment Outcomes: The Case of Italian
Injured Workers***

Lia Pacelli, Università di Torino

Roberto Leombruni, Università di Torino

Conditional Cash Transfers and Family Well-Being

Chiara Pronzato, Università di Torino and Collegio Carlo Alberto

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Panel 4: Elementary/Primary Education

Room: Classroom 3

Chair: Barbara Romano, ASVAPP

***Financial Literacy and Saving Attitudes of Primary School Children: The Joint
Effect of Formal Training and Domestic Financial Education***

Flavia Coda Moscarola, Compagnia di San Paolo and Collegio Carlo Alberto

Parental Love is Not Blind

Ainhoa Aparicio Fenoll, Collegio Carlo Alberto

High Dosage Math Tutoring in Rotterdam: A Randomization SAGA

Mario Maggioni, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Domenico Rossignoli, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

19:45

Business Dinner

Circolo dei Lettori

Via Bogino 9, Torino

Hosted by Collegio Carlo Alberto

Tuesday, May 22

Room: Auditorium

Collegio Carlo Alberto

Piazza Arbarello 8, Torino

9:00-11:20 Plenary Session

9:00-9:05

Opening Remarks

Gian Paolo Barbetta, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

9:05-9:50

The International Audience for Policy Research Methods and Results

Jacob Klerman, Abt Associates and editor, Evaluation Review
(video link)

9:50-10:35

The Implications of Heterogeneity for Internal and External Validity

Jeffrey Smith, University of Wisconsin

10:35-11:20

Regional Economic Development Policies: A Second Look at Discontinuity Designs

Daniele Bondonio, Università del Piemonte Orientale

11:20-11:40 Coffee Break

Room: Common Room

11:40-13:00 Parallel Panels III

Panel 5: Challenges and Strategies for Evaluating Policies Targeting Refugees and Migrants

Room: Classroom 2

Chair: David Seidenfeld, American Institutes for Research

The Impact of Multimedia Toolkits on Refugee and Vulnerable Host Populations: Evidence from Jordan

Thomas de Hoop, American Institutes for Research

Economic Transfers and Social Cohesion in a Refugee Hosting Setting

Elsa Valli, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

No Lost Generation: Supporting the School Participation of Displaced Syrian Children in Lebanon

Jacobus de Hoop, UNICEF, Mitchell Morey, American Institutes for Research, and David Seidenfeld, American Institutes for Research (presenting)

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Panel 6: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education

Room: Classroom 3

Chair: Daniela Del Boca, Università di Torino and Collegio Carlo Alberto

Testing a Social Innovation that Provides Financial Aid to Low-Income Students: Lessons from an EU-Funded Randomised Controlled Trial Conducted in Italy

Barbara Romano, ASVAPP

Repetita Iuvant? Lessons from Repeated RCTs on the Effectiveness of a Teacher Professional Development Program

Gianluca Argentin, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Let's Tweet Again? Social Networks and Grades in Literature of High School Students. Results of a Randomized Controlled Trial

Gian Paolo Barbetta, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

13:00-14:00 Lunch

Room: Common Room

14:00-15:45 Plenary Session

14:00-14:45 ***Difficulties in Cross-National Generalizability of Education Evaluations***

Eric Hanushek, Stanford University

14:45-15:45 **Addressing Cross-National Generalizability in Impact Evaluation**

Chair: Eric Hanushek, Stanford University

External Validity Bias in Cross-National Generalization of Findings from Experimental Impact Evaluations: Causes, Consequences, and Cures
Stephen Bell, Westat

Regional Programme Evaluation: Challenges and Perspectives
Guido de Blasio, Banca d'Italia

15:45-16:00 **Coffee Break**

Room: Common Room

16:00-17:00 **Parallel Panels IV**

Panel 7: Economic Growth/Development

Room: Classroom 2

Chair: Rebecca Maynard, University of Pennsylvania

Does EU Enterprise Support Boost High Quality Jobs? Evidence from Linked Employer-Employee Microdata and Natural-Experiment Conditions
Daniele Bondonio, Università del Piemonte Orientale

Broadband Diffusion and Firm Performance in Rural Areas: Quasi-Experimental Evidence

Giulia Canzian, Competence Centre on Microeconomic Evaluation, European Commission

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Panel 8: Issues and Approaches to Conducting Rigorous Impact Evaluation in Europe

Room: Classroom 3

Chair: Jeffrey Smith, University of Wisconsin

Counterfactual Impact Evaluation and Policy: Challenges Revisited
Rahel Kahlert, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research

Achieving Rigorous Impact Evaluation Through Conceptual Clarity and Coherence

Alison Wells, University of Cambridge

17:00-17:15 Plenary Session

Room: Common Room

Concluding Remarks and Post-Conference Publication Plans

Douglas Besharov, University of Maryland and Atlantic Council

Alberto Martini, Università del Piemonte Orientale and ASVAPP

Closing Reception

Hosted by Collegio Carlo Alberto

An activity of the University System of Maryland Foundation



Updated: 5/17/2018