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

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

* * *

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

* * *

Panel 4: Elementary/Primary Education
Room: Classroom 3

Chair: Barbara Romano, ASVAPP

Financial Literacy and Saving Attitudes of Primacy 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

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)

* * *

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

6
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

* * *

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*