

TIZIANO ROTESI

University of Turin, Department of Economics

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

University of Turin, Italy Assistant Professor (RTT)	2025 - present
Brown University, US Postdoctoral Research Associate	2023 - 2025
University of Lausanne, Switzerland Postdoctoral Researcher	2019 – 2023

EDUCATION

Bocconi University, Italy PhD in Economics and Finance. Main advisor: Eliana La Ferrara	2013 – 2019
Barcelona Graduate School of Economics, Spain MSc in Economics and Finance	2012 – 2013
University of Florence, Italy MSc in Economics	2010 – 2012
University of Florence, Italy BA in Economics	2006 – 2010

RESEARCH FIELDS

Topics: Applied Microeconomics, Political Economy

Methods: Text Analysis, Experiments, Reduced-Form

PUBLICATIONS

“Reconciliation Narratives: The Birth of a Nation after the US Civil War.” *American Economic Review* 113 (6): 1461-1504, 2023 (with Esposito, Saia and Thoenig)

“The Power of App-Based Experiments.” *Journal of Economic Psychology*, 2023, 99: 102666 (with Pin)

“Information Transmission in a Social Network: A Field Experiment.” *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, Published online 2023:1-12 (with Patacchini and Pin)

“Personal Risk or Societal Benefit? Investigating Adults’ Support for COVID-19 Childhood Vaccination.” *Vaccine*, 41(25), 3683-3687, 2023 (with Chiavenna, Leone, Melegaro, Bokemper, Paintsil, Malik, Huber, Omer, Cucciniello, and Pin)

“National Interest may Require Distributing COVID-19 Vaccines to Other Countries.” *Scientific Reports*, 11(1), 2021 (with Pin, Cucciniello, Malik, Paintsil, Bokemper, Willebrand, Huber, Melegaro, and Omer)

“Experimental Evidence that Changing Beliefs about Mask Efficacy and Social Norms increase Mask Wearing for COVID-19 Risk Reduction: Results from the United States and Italy.” *PLoS ONE*, 16(10), 2021 (with Bokemper, Cucciniello, Pin, Malik, Willebrand, Paintsil, Omer, Huber, and Melegaro)

“Worker Shortages and Local Immigration Support”

(with Auer, Gennaro)

Swiss agricultural production relies heavily on foreign labor. However, the pandemic lockdown induced a shortage of foreign seasonal workers in the spring of 2020. How do peoples' perceptions towards immigration change when exposed to dramatic declines in the availability of immigrant labor? We combine fine-grained voting results from referendums on immigration-related policy decisions with variation in seasonal worker needs. We establish that municipalities growing spring crops, and therefore relying on seasonal workers in this season, voted significantly more in favor of immigration in September 2020 compared to otherwise similar rural regions. Using text from open-ended questions from survey data, we document how this shock popularized a narrative highlighting the role of foreign workers as complements to the local population rather than substitutes. We conclude that economic shocks have the potential to confirm and enhance economic narratives and, ultimately, change attitudes toward immigration.

“The Impact of Twitter on Political Participation”

What is the effect of Twitter on political participation? I study how the spread of this social network affected voting behavior and donations to politicians during the 2008, 2012, and 2016 US presidential elections. I construct a novel measure of Twitter penetration using a dataset containing approximately 6.8 million Twitter accounts matched with locations in the United States. To address endogeneity in the diffusion of Twitter, I exploit variation in the popularity of sports teams that have signed new players with Twitter accounts, thus making the social network more interesting for their fans. My instrumental variables estimates show significant effects of Twitter on political outcomes, which are differential across parties: the Democratic Party is penalized in terms of votes, while Republicans tend to receive more donations. I analyze and categorize approximately 150 million tweets written by users, complemented with survey data, to explore the underlying mechanisms. First, I show that Twitter reduces voters' information about politics and increases political polarization. Second, I show that the majority of users write about sports or entertainment and ignore politics for most of the year. Peaks in interest occur only during presidential debates, when both the quantity of partisan tweets and the average sentiment favor the Republican Party.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Complexity and the Demand and Supply of Narratives.”

(with Hakimov and Schmacker)

“Sermons.”

(with Ash and Michalopoulos)

TEACHING

Lecturer:

Text as Data for Social Science Research , graduate (Brown University)	2023-2025
Economic Growth , graduate (University of Lausanne)	2020 – 2023
Development Economics , graduate (University of Lausanne)	2020 – 2022

Teaching Assistant:

Microeconomics , bachelor (Bocconi University)	2014 – 2018
Social and Economic Networks , graduate (Bocconi University)	2016 – 2018

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, principal investigator: Eliana La Ferrara, Bocconi University	2017
Research Assistant, principal investigator: Fernando Vega-Redondo, Bocconi University	2017

HONORS AND AWARDS

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship, project NARRATIVEss (\$172,000 - returned)	2023
Member of Swiss National Science Foundation Project n185167	2019
Scholarship for Promising Job Market Candidates, Bocconi University	2018
Ph.D. Scholarship, Bocconi University	2013
Scholarship for Ph.D. track, Universitat Pompeu Fabra	2012

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS (* MEANS COAUTHORS)

Brown University, Zurich (SPSA)*	2024
Zurich ZPESS, University of Lausanne (Workshop Political Economics of Conflict and Nation-Building)*, EIEF - TorVergata (CEPR Workshop Media, Technology, Politics)*, University of Florence	2022
NBER Summer Institute*	2021
London Business School, Bocconi University, Telecom ParisTech, Vanderbilt University, Geneva (CEPR)*, University of Leicester, IMT Lucca, Cologne University, University of Pescara	pre-2020

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Referee for: <i>Journal of Public Economics</i> ; <i>The Journal of Law, Economics and Organization</i> ; <i>PLoS ONE</i> ; <i>Network Science</i>
Co-organizer: Food for Thought seminar series at Bocconi University
Mentor and Letter Writer for: master students at the University of Lausanne

OTHERS

Languages: English (Fluent), Italian (Native)

Citizenship: Italian

Last update: November 2024