

Sergio Galletta

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Research interests

• Political Economy • Public Finance • Applied Microeconomics • Machine Learning

Experiences

(Feb 2026)- Associate Professor, Sapienza University of Rome
2022- present Senior Researcher, ETH Zurich
2019-2022 Assistant Professor (Senior, RTD-B), University of Bergamo
2019 Post-doctoral Fellow, ETH Zurich
2015-2018 Post-doctoral Fellow SNF, Institut d'Economia de Barcelona (UB), Institut d'Anàlisi Econòmica (CSIC), ETH Zurich

Education

2010-2014 PhD in Economics, Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano
2014 Visiting research student, McMaster University, Hamilton
2013 Visiting research student, University of Toronto, Toronto
2011-2012 Swiss Program for Beginning Doctoral Students in Economics, Study Center Gerzensee
2007-2009 MSc in Economics, Catholic University of Milan
2004-2007 BSc in Economics, Catholic University of Milan

Research

SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- [20] “Media Slant is Contagious” with P. Widmer, C. Abed Meraim and E. Ash, *Conditionally Accepted, Economic Journal*
- [19] E. Ash, S. Galletta and T. Giommoni “A Machine Learning Approach to Analyze and Support Anti-Corruption Policy”, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* (2025)
- [18] E. Ash, S. Galletta, M. Pinna and C. Warsaw “From Viewers to Voters: Tracing Fox News’ Impact on American Democracy” *Journal of Public Economics* (2024)
- [17] A. Bochenkova, P. Buonanno and S. Galletta “Fighting Violence Against Women: The Role of Female Political Representation”, *Journal of Development Economics* (2023)
- [16] E. Ash and S. Galletta “How Cable News Reshaped Local Government”, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* (2023)
- [15] S. Galletta and T. Giommoni, “The effect of the 1918 Influenza Pandemic on Income Inequality: Evidence from Italy”, *Review of Economics and Statistics* (2022)
- [14] S. Galletta, “Decision-making Institutions and Voters’ Preferences for Public Policies”, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* (2021)
- [13] G. Daniele, S. Galletta and B. Geys “Abandon Ship? Party Brands and Politicians’ Responses to a Political Scandal”, *Journal of Public Economics* (2020)
- [12] F. Cavalcanti, G. Daniele and S. Galletta “Popularity shocks and political selection”, *Journal of Public Economics* (2018)

- [11] S. Galletta, “Law enforcement, municipal budgets and spillover effects: Evidence from a quasi-experiment in Italy”, *Journal of Urban Economics* (2017)

OTHER PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- [10] “A large language model-based approach to quantifying the effects of social determinants in liver transplant decisions.” Robitschek, E., Bastani, A., Horwath, K., Sordean, S., Pletcher, M.J., Lai, J.C., Ash, E., Ge, J. and Chen, I.Y., *npj Digital Medicine* (2025)
- [9] E. Ash, S. Galletta, D. Hangartner, Y. Margalit, and M. Pinna “The Effect of Fox News on Health Behavior During Covid-19”, *Political Analysis* (2023)
- [8] P. Buonanno, S. Galletta and M. Puca “The Role of Civic Capital on Vaccination”, *Health Economics* (2023)
- [7] E. Ash, S. Galletta and D. Chen “Measuring Judicial Sentiment: Methods and Application to U.S. Circuit Courts”, *Economica* (2022)
- [6] S. Galletta, “Direct Democracy, Partial Decentralization and Voter Information: Evidence from Swiss Municipalities”, *International Tax and Public Finance* (2020)
- [5] P. Buonanno, S. Galletta and M. Puca “Estimating the Severity of COVID-19: Evidence From the Italian Epicenter”, *PLOS One* (2020)
- [4] S. Galletta and A. Redonda, “Corporate Flat Tax Reforms and Businesses’ Investment Decisions. Evidence from Switzerland”, *International Tax and Public Finance* (2017)
- [3] S. Galletta, “On the determinants of happiness: a Classification And Regression Tree (CART) approach”, *Applied Economics Letters* (2016)
- [2] S. Galletta and M. Jametti, “How to Tame Two Leviathans? Revisiting the effect of direct democracy on local public expenditure in a federation”, *European Journal of Political Economy* (2015)
- [1] S. Galletta, M. Jametti and A. Redonda, “Highway to Economic growth? Competition in public works tenders in the Democratic Republic of Congo”, *South African Journal of Economics* (2015)

CURRENT WORKING PAPERS

- [8] “Sleeping with the enemy? How constituents constrain politicians’ behavior towards interest groups” with M. Espinosa, A. Ilango and G. Zananone, *Revise & Resubmit Journal of Law, Economics and Organization*
- [7] “Media Bias and Climate Change Skepticism” with E. Ash, A. Boltachka and M. Pinna, *Revise & Resubmit Journal of Economics Behavior and Organization*
- [6] “War Violence Exposure and Tax Compliance” with T. Giommoni
- [5] “The Partisan Divergence in U.S. Local Policy” with E. Ash
- [4] “The Unintended Consequences of Pandemic Lockdowns: Evidence on Domestic Violence in Italy” with A. Bochenkova, P. Buonanno and C. Deiana
- [3] “Unexpected Fiscal Policies” with P. Bello and C. Marconi
- [2] “One Person, One Vote: The Effect of Direct Elections on Political Discourse” with A. Amati
- [1] “BallotBot: Can Chatbots Strengthen Direct Democracy?” with E. Ash and G. Opocher

WORKING IN PROGRESS

“Political Influence During Childhood” with G. Daniele and M. Le Moglie and F. Masera

“Beneath the Surface: Investigating Anti-Competitive Signals in Brazilian Public Procurement” with D. Gianicolo-Martins and T. Giommoni

“Taxing Cross-border Commuters” with E. Di Carlo and E. Rubolino

PROJECTS - GRANTS

Principal investigator

- 2024-2028 “Predictive Algorithms for Public Policy and Economic Research” - PI (SNSF)
- 2023-2025 “FACTS (Factual Transparent Statement)” - Co-PI (with A. Mattozzi, F. Sobbrío, E. Ash) (EMIF)
 - 2021 “Machine Learning Approach for Social Sciences” - PI (GO FOR IT - Fondazione CRUI)
- 2019-2020 “The effect of media on voting behavior” - PI (Spark grant - SNSF)
- 2018-2019 “Citizens’ preferences and direct democracy” - PI (Returning grant - SNSF)
- 2016-2017 “Political scandals and spillover effects” - PI (Advanced Mobility - SNSF)
- 2015-2016 “The Incentive Effects of Formula-based Equalization Schemes” - PI (Early Mobility - SNSF)

Collaborator

- 2022-2026 “Institutional Foundations of Industrialization, Financialization, and Globalization of the Swiss Economy. Evidence from 140 Years of the Commercial Registry” - (Sinergia - SNSF)
- 2020-2024 “Deep Causal Models for Legal and Political Texts” - (Project - SNSF)
- 2010-2016 “The Swiss Confederation: A Natural Laboratory for Research on Fiscal and Political Decentralization” - (Sinergia - SNSF)
- 2010-2013 “Partial Fiscal Decentralization” (ProDoc - SNSF)

Others

- 2024 “Crime Research and Workshop” (Arnold Venture)
- 2024 “Government Ideology and Youth Political Attitudes” (Scientific Exchange - SNSF)
- 2023 “AI + Economics Workshop” (Scientific Exchange - SNSF)

Teaching

- (2025-2026) Microeconomics (UG- USI), Public Economics (UG- UniRome), Health Economics (PG-UniRome), Machine learning for Economics (PhD- UniBG)
- 2024-2025 Microeconomics (UG- USI), Data Science for Public Policy: From Econometrics to AI (PG/PhD- ETHZ), Supervised Research (PG-ETHZ), Machine learning for Economics (PhD- UniBG), Data Science for Public Policy (CAS- ETHZ)
- 2023-2024 Microeconomics (UG- USI), Data Science for Public Policy: From Econometrics to AI (PG/PhD- ETHZ), Supervised Research (PG-ETHZ), Data Science for Public Policy (CAS- ETHZ)
- 2022-2023 Microeconomics (UG- USI), Big Data for Public Policy (PG/PhD- ETHZ)
- 2021-2022 Labour Economics (UG- UniBG), Behavioral Economics (UG- UniBG), Empirical Methods (PhD- UniBG)
- 2020-2021 Labour Economics (UG- UniBG), Behavioral Economics (UG- UniBG), Political Economy (PhD- UniBG)
- 2019-2020 Microeconomics (UG - UniBG), Principles of Economics (UG- UniBG)

Conferences, workshops and seminars

ORGANIZATION

- 2025 4th AI + Economics Workshop (ETHZ/UZH)
- 2024 15th Transatlantic Workshop on the Economics of Crime (ETHZ), 3rd AI + Economics Workshop (ETHZ/UZH)
- 2023 2nd AI + Economics Workshop (ETHZ/UZH)
- 2022 1st AI + Economics Workshop (ETHZ), Winter Symposium (Uni. Bergamo)
- 2019-2022 Department of Economics Seminar Series (Uni. Bergamo)

PARTICIPATION

Conferences and Workshop

Petralia Workshop, BSE Summer Forum - ML in Economics (Barcelona), BSE Summer Forum - Public Economics (Barcelona), BSE Summer Forum - Economics of Institutions (Barcelona), Workshop on Political Economy IEB (Barcelona), AI + Economics Workshop (Zurich), AI Lab for Human and Social Sciences (Paris), 9th Conference on Public Finance in Developing Countries (Zurich), Workshop in Narrative Economics (Zurich), Workshop on the Impact of Infectious Diseases on Health and Economic Development (Cagliari), Politics in Proximity Workshop (Zurich), Siep Verona, AI + Economics Mini Workshop (Zurich), 8th Conference on Public Finance in Developing Countries (Zurich), TWEC Bocconi-Milano, Workshop on Gender Discrimination (Bergamo), Siep L'Aquila, Advances in Economics Winter Symposium (Bergamo), Political Economy Workshop (Brunico), Swiss Workshop on Local Public Finance and Regional Economics (USI-Lugano), SIEP Bari, Workshop on Elections, Institutional Reforms, and Public Policy (Ruhr University Bochum), Workshop on Political Economy (IEB-Barcelona), ASSA San Diego, Political Economy Workshop (Bologna), Media and Digitization Meeting (UZH Zürich), Workshop on the Causes and Consequences of Populism (Bocconi-Milan), Swiss Workshop on Local Public Finance and Regional Economics (USI-Lugano), Workshop on Political Economy (IEB-Barcelona), Workshop on Political Economy (ETH-Zürich), Workshop on the Economics of Organized Crime (Bocconi-Milano), Petralia Workshop (Siracusa), SIEP Padova, ASSA Chicago, SSES Lausanne, Workshop on Political Economy & Fiscal Federalism (Barcelona), SEA Lugano, ZEW PFC Mannheim, Economics of Organized Crime (Bergamo), SSES Lugano, IIPF Lake Tahoe, SIEP Lecce, YSEM Zürich, EPCS Groningen, SIEP Ferrara, CESifo Dresden, IIPF Lugano, CPEG Ottawa, CIRANO Fiscal Rules (Montreal), CAE Montreal, PCS New Orleans, SIEP Piava

Seminars

University of Oslo, University of Fribourg, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Milan Politecnico, Queen Mary University of London, University of Cagliari, Bocconi University, University of Pavia, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research, University of Bergamo, Norwegian School of Economics, Università Cattolica Milano, Collegio Carlo Alberto, IAE-CSIC Barcelona, Università di Ferrara, JRC Ispra, IAE/UAB Barcelona, KOF-ETH Zürich, IEB Barcelona, McMaster University.

Refereeing services

American Economic Review, Reviews of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Development Economics, European Economic Review, Journal of Law and Economics, Journal of Law Economics and Organization, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, European Journal of Political Economy, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Journal of Economic Geography, Health Economics, Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics, PLOS one, European Political Science Review, Journal of Happiness Studies, Economics of Governance, Swiss Journal of Economics and Statistics, Italian Economic Journal

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