

# SARA LAZZARONI

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## BIO

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Sex: Female

Citizenship: Italian

Date of birth: 10 May 1985

## CURRENT POSITION

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**Post-Doc**, University of Bologna

Oct 2014-present

PRIN Reserch Project 2012

PRIN Reserch Project 2015

## VISITING POSITIONS

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**Research Fellow**, Brown University

Jan-May 2016

## OTHER POSITIONS

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**World Bank short-term consultant**: Niger WASH-Pov diagnostic

Jan-Aug 2016

P.I.: Aude-Sophie Rodella (World Bank), The World Bank, Washington DC

**Researcher/Consultant**: Pathways for Resilience in Semi-arid Economies

Aug 2014-Feb 2015

Principal Investigator, Overseas Development Institute, London

**Research Assistant** for Prof. Peter van Bergeijk (ISS-EUR)

Jun 2012-Aug 2012

ISS-Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Hague, NL

## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D Economic Policy**, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan

Oct 2010-May2014

Result: Excellent, awarded the label of *Doctor Europaeus*. Thesis:

*Economics of natural disasters. From macro to micro evidence with a focus on developing countries*

**MA Development Studies (Economics)**, ISS-Erasmus University Rotterdam

Sep 2011-Dec 2012

Research paper *with distinction*

**MA International Economic Integration**, University of Pavia

Oct 2007-Jul 2010

*Summa cum laude*

**Erasmus Program**, Université de Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne

Oct 2008-Feb 2009

**BA Economics**, University of Pavia

Sep 2004-Nov 2007

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Economic Growth and Development, Political Economy, Applied Economic History, Meta-Analysis

## PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING PAPERS

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### Published papers

- Lazzaroni, S. and N. Wagner (2016) 'Misfortunes never come singly: structural change multiple shocks and child malnutrition in rural Senegal', *Economics and Human Biology* 23: 246-262.  
DOI:10.1016/j.ehb.2016.10.006.
- Van Bergeijk, P.A.G. and S. Lazzaroni (2015) 'Macroeconomics of Natural Disasters: Strengths and Weaknesses of Meta- Analysis versus Review of the Literature', *Risk Analysis* 35(6): 1050-1072.  
DOI: 10.1111/risa.12372.
- Lazzaroni, S. and P.A.G. van Bergeijk (2014) 'Natural Disasters Impact, Factors of Resilience and Development: A Meta-Analysis of the Macroeconomic Literature', *Ecological Economics* 107(11): 333-346.  
DOI: 10.1016/j.ecolecon.2014.08.015.

### Working papers

- Lazzaroni, S. and A.S. Bedi (2014) 'Weather variability and food consumption: Evidence from Rural Uganda', *ISS Working Paper* 585. The Hague, Netherlands: International Institute of Social Studies.

### Policy reports

- Lazzaroni, S. and N. Wagner (2016) 'Misfortunes never come singly: structural change multiple shocks and child malnutrition in rural Senegal', *PRISE Policy Briefs*. London, UK: Overseas Development Institute. Available at <http://prise.odi.org/research/small-grants-programme-misfortunes-never-come-singly-structural-change-multiple-shocks-and-child-malnutrition-in-rural-senegal/>

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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**Historical Roots of Preferences over Political Regimes: Monarchy vs. Republic in 1946 Italy**, with P. Buonanno, M. Cervellati and G. Prarolo

**The Legacy of Political History 1000-1800 for Attitudes Towards the State: Disaggregated Analysis for Italy**, with P. Buonanno, M. Cervellati and G. Prarolo

**Sovereign polities, territorial control and city growth in pre-industrial Europe, 1000-1800**, with M. Cervellati, G. Prarolo and P. Vanin

**Pattern of Population Development in Pre-Industrial Europe**, with M. Cervellati and G. Prarolo

**Cultural Transmission of Preferences for Fascism in Argentinian Politicians** with G. Gulino

## GOOGLE SCHOLAR CITATION INDICES

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*Retrieved 15th November 2017* — Citations: 46 — h-index: 3 — i10-index: 2

## ORGANIZATION/PARTICIPATION TO RESEARCH GROUPS

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**PRIN 2015:** The legacy of institutions for comparative development  
P.I.: Matteo Cervellati, University of Bologna 2016-present

**PRIN 2012:** A study on the determinants of crime and civil conflict  
P.I.: Matteo Cervellati, University of Bologna 2014-2016

**Data Scraping Tools and Methods (PhD Economics course)**  
Co-organizer with Giovanni Prarolo, University of Bologna Jan 2016

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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EIEF grant 2015: Geography, demographic shock and political institutions P.I.: Giovanni Prarolo, University of Bologna (€10K)	Jun 2015-Jun 2016
Brown-Bologna Programme Grant, Brown University Awarded research scholarship (\$ 6.9K)	Jan-May 2016
PRISE Small Grants Programme, ODI London Principal Investigator (£5K)	Aug-Feb 2015
INESAD travel grant for conference participation, INESAD, Bolivia	Aug 2015
EAERE travel grant for conference invitation, Harvard School of Public Health	Oct 2013
Belpasso International Summer School grant, University of Catania	Aug 2013
PhD Fellowship, Catholic University of Milan	Oct 2010-Dec 2013
Erasmus scholarship, University of Pavia and University of Paris I	Sept 2008-Feb 2009

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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BCDE 2014 Best Development Economics Paper, Universidad Privada Boliviana	Aug 2015
PhD thesis award of <i>Doctor Europaeus</i> , Catholic University of Milan	May 2014
Professor Hans Opschoor Prize for best research paper, ISS-Erasmus University	Dec 2012

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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<b>Instructor:</b> Geographic disaggregated data with ArcGIS and Python (Ph.D. Economics) 2015-2017 University of Bologna	a.y.
<b>Introductory class on “Development Economics”</b> for high school students University of Bologna	a.y. 2014-2016
<b>Teaching Assistant:</b> Macroeconomics (undergraduate) University of Bologna - Forli Campus	spring 2015

## INSTITUTIONAL AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES

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### Organization of Conferences/Workshops/Reading Groups

- ASREC Conference 2017 (Program Chair: Giovanni Prarolo), University of Bologna 9-11 Sep 2017
- Political Economy and Development Reading Group, University of Bologna Oct 2015-present

### University Service

- Representative of Research Fellows, Department of Economics, University of Bologna a.y. 2015/2016
- Teaching and Learning Committee Student Representative, ISS-Erasmus University 2011/2012

### Activity as Referee

- *China Economic Review; Ecological Economics; Economic Modelling; Economics Research International; Environment, Development and Sustainability; Journal of Economic Growth; Journal of Economic Surveys; Journal of Peace Research; Papers in Regional Science.*

## PRESENTATIONS TO CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

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- Workshop on Political Economy 2017, Free-University of Bozen-Bolzano, Brunek-Brunico, 2017;
- ICEG 2017, University of Naples Parthenope, Naples, 2017;
- SIOE 2017, Columbia University, New York, 2017;
- Culture Diversity and Economic Development Workshop, Groeningen, 2017;
- Barcelona GSE Summer Forum, Barcelona GSE, 2017;
- Macroeconomics Lunch Seminar, UCLouvain, 2017;
- EEA-ESEM, Geneva, 2016;
- Petralia Applied Economic Workshop, 2016;
- (*Discussant*) Workshop on Social Economy for Young Economists, University of Bologna, 2016;
- Macro Lunch Seminar, Brown University, 2016;
- PRISE Workshop, London School of Economics, 2015;
- Internal seminar, University of Bologna, 2015, 2017;
- ENRMDTE2014, CERDI and University of Auvergne, 2014;
- BCDE 2014, Universidad Privada Boliviana, 2014;
- EDEM Seminar Series, ISS-Erasmus University Rotterdam, 2013;
- (*Invited*) Harvard School of Public Health, 2013;
- Belpasso International Summer School, 2013;
- MAER-Net, University of Greenwich, 2013;
- Second AIEAA Conference, University of Parma, 2013;
- 5th EAAE Phd Workshop, KU Leuven, 2013;
- CSAE, Oxford University, 2013.

## SUMMER/WINTER SCHOOLS AND FURTHER COURSES

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<b>Digital Humanities Oxford Summer School</b> University of Oxford, Oxford, Italy	3-7 Jul 2017
<b>14th Summer School in International and Development Economics</b> Centro Studi Luca D'Agliano, Gargnano, Italy	8-11 Sep 2015
<b>JPAL101x: Evaluating Social Programs</b> MIT, online learning	Nov 2014
<b>Belpasso International Summer School on Environmental Economics</b> University of Catania and FEEM, Belpasso, Italy	1-7 Sep 2013
<b>Structural Change Real Financial Interactions and Development</b> University of Pavia, Pavia	13-21 Jun 2011
<b>Development and International Cooperation,</b> ISPI - Istituto per gli Studi Politici Internazionali, Milan	Oct 2009-Jan 2011
<b>Understanding and Managing Globalization and Transition</b> CARIPLO and University of Pavia, Pavia	Mar-May 2009

## SKILLS

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### Softwares

- Operating Systems: Microsoft, Mac OS
- Programming languages: Python, SPARQL
- Statistical softwares: Stata, R
- GIS softwares: ArcGIS
- Data scraping: Scrapy and Tesseract (Python-based)
- Text softwares: Standard MS Office packages, LaTeX

### Languages

- Italian (native)
- English (fluent)
- French (intermediate)

## ABSTRACT OF WORK IN PROGRESS

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### **Sovereign polities, territorial control and city growth in pre-industrial Europe, 1000-1800,** with M. Cervellati, G. Prarolo and P. Vanin

This paper investigates the role of the evolution of sovereign political entities and their control of territory for city growth in pre-industrial Europe. We use a novel database with information on the emergence, evolution and consolidation/disappearance of all sovereign political entities in Europe in pre-industrial times at yearly frequencies over the period 1000-1800. Using 10 by 10 Km grid-cell as stable units of observation we record information on the political history of each location. The data allow exploring the change in the number and size of ruling polities as well as their control of the territory. The baseline empirical analysis exploits within location variation overtime, accounting for (omitted) location specific characteristics, and for non-linear changes in population growth over-time. The results show that cities ruled by bigger political entities grow significantly faster only after 1600. In terms of territorial stability, cities facing more changes in political rulers grew more during the disaggregation of the Holy Roman Empire with the positive effect peaking in 1400 but grew significantly less during the process of state formation after 1600. The political fractionalization of the territory is found to be the main determinant of rulers' instability.

### **The Legacy of Political History 1000-1800 for Attitudes Towards the State: Disaggregated Analysis for Italy,** with P. Buonanno, M. Cervellati and G. Prarolo

The need to build fiscal capacity in the territories that gained independence from the Holy Roman Empire after 1000 lead to the emergence of political entities with more inclusive economic institutions. The long term exposure to higher individual freedom (of economic and political initiative) and more productive public policies affected the economic and political attitudes of the affected population and their descendants that persist still today. To test this hypothesis we reconstruct the political history of each location in Italy. To this end, we build a yearly panel with the emergence and changing borders of each political domination in Italy for the period 1000-1800. The results document that in the municipalities that belonged to these independent states tax evasion is significantly lower, that the effect increases with the duration of independence, is stronger in those places that first achieved independence with respect to places annexed later, and it differs depending on the type of republican institution implemented (communal or maritime). These findings are corroborated by differential pre-industrial development (measured by population density in a Malthusian perspective) in the locations of municipalities depending on the social contract experienced throughout the centuries.

### **Historical Roots of Preferences over Political Regimes: Monarchy vs. Republic in 1946 Italy,** with P. Buonanno, M. Cervellati and G. Prarolo

In spite of a large theoretical literature on the emergence and working of democratic institutions, very little is empirically known on the role of history of political experiences for individual preferences over political regimes. We digitise and use data on the votes in the referendum over the choice of a Monarchy or a Republic in Italy in 1946 at the municipal level for around 8,000 cities. The referendum represents a unique quasi-natural experiment on individual preferences over forms of government. It involved (for

the first time in the country) a fully universal franchise, it was held at the end of WWII and it did not witness any directed involvement by part of the (former) ruling elites. We construct proxies of exposure to Extractive and Inclusive institutions in pre-industrial times in each location. This is done by coding the exposure to each polity ruling over each location at yearly frequencies over the period 1000-1800 and building disaggregate geo-referenced data on different measures of distance from each location to the centres of exercise of political power. The data allows the very first measurement of past exposure to different political institutions and exploration of its role for individual preferences over forms of government. We find that one standard deviation in the experience of past republican institutions is associated with 27% standard deviation increase in the difference between the share of votes to the Republic and the share of votes to the Monarchy.

**Pattern of Population Development in Pre-Industrial Europe**, with M. Cervellati and G. Prarolo

The project studies population growth, that in a Malthusian perspective is taken as a proxy for economic development for the pre-industrial era. Population disaggregate data at the 5 minutes longitude/latitude resolution allows studying the implications for the pre-industrial patterns of agglomeration and population movement across European locations. Information on exogenous health shocks (e.g. the Black Death of 1350), natural disasters (earthquakes), and climate shocks can also be used to study the interactions between political institutions and exogenous shocks for historical development in the different locations. For instance the historical literature has argued that the drop in population following the Black Death, and the need to attract labor force, induced a change in policies and differential migration across different locations. We particularly investigate the cases of Italy and UK.

**Cultural Transmission of Preferences for Fascism in Argentinian Politicians**, with G. Gulino

This project investigates the relationship between support to the Fascist regime in Italy during the 1924 elections and affiliation of Argentinian politicians with Italian origins to the Peronist parties. Italian origins of Argentinian politicians will be reconstructed through surnames matching with the municipality-level surname distribution in the 1993 national telephone directory (SEAT - Società Elenchi Abbonati al Telefono). This database contains more than 18,000,000 individual subscribers amounting to about 33% of the whole population of 1993, so that all Italian households were virtually covered. This will allow exploring the historical and cultural transmission of political preferences for authoritarian ideology from Italian migrants in Argentina to their descendants.

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