

Vittorio Bassi

Contact

University of Southern California
Department of Economics
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Personal

Date of birth: February 13, 1987
Citizenship: Italian and US

Current Employment

Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Southern California (since August 2017)
Associate Director, Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) at USC (since August 2018)

Education

PhD Economics, University College London (2017)
Advisors: Imran Rasul, Richard Blundell and Costas Meghir
Examiners: Christian Dustmann and David McKenzie
MSc Economics (with *Distinction*), University College London (2010)
BSc International Economics and Management (*Cum Laude*), Bocconi University (2009)

Research Interests

Development Economics, Labor Economics, Personnel Economics

Publications

"Persuasion: A Case Study of Papal Influences on Fertility-Related Beliefs and Behavior", with Imran Rasul, **American Economic Journal: Applied Economics**, (2017) 9(4): 250-302
"A Note on Charitable Giving by Corporates and Aristocrats: Evidence from a Field Experiment", with Steffen Huck and Imran Rasul, **Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics**, (2017) 66: 104-111
"Explaining Attitudes Towards Demographic Behaviour", with Arnstein Aassve and Maria Sironi, **European Sociological Review**, (2013) 29 (2): 316-333

Working Papers

“Screening and Signaling Non-Cognitive Skills: Experimental Evidence from Uganda”, with Aisha Nansamba, September 2018

“Tackling Youth Unemployment: Evidence from a Labor Market Experiment in Uganda”, with Livia Alfonsi, Oriana Bandiera, Robin Burgess, Imran Rasul, Munshi Sulaiman and Anna Vitali, December 2017, *Revise and Resubmit at Econometrica*

Work in Progress

“Understanding Productivity Dispersion by Measuring the Production Process: Evidence from Three Sectors in Uganda”, with Tommaso Porzio, Ritwika Sen and Esau Tugume

“The Mechanics of Job Search Behavior: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Uganda”, with Oriana Bandiera, Robin Burgess, Imran Rasul, Munshi Sulaiman and Anna Vitali

“The Impact of Easing Firm Constraints on Small and Medium Enterprise Growth: Evidence from Uganda”, with Oriana Bandiera, Robin Burgess, Imran Rasul, Munshi Sulaiman and Anna Vitali

Teaching Experience

Empirical Analysis of Economic Development (2nd Year PhD)

Introduction to Econometrics (undergraduate)

Honors, Grants and Scholarships

2018: IGC Grant: The Long-term Impact of Vocational Training and Job Search Assistance for Unemployed Youth: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Uganda [£15,520; Co-Investigator, PI: Imran Rasul]

2018: PEDL Exploratory Research Grant: Understanding Productivity Dispersion [£25,069; PI, joint with Tommaso Porzio, Ritwika Sen and Esau Tugume]

2017: IGC Grant: Firm-level Technology Adoption and Investment in Training [£19,370; PI, joint with Tommaso Porzio]

2014: GLM-LIC Grant: Asymmetric Information on the Skills of Workers and Matching in the Labor Market: Evidence from Uganda [£157,000; Co-Investigator, PI: Imran Rasul]

2012: PEDL Major Research Grant: Easing Constraints for Small Firm Expansion in Uganda [£348,600; Co-Investigator, PI: Imran Rasul]

2012: BRAC, Mastercard Foundation and anonymous donors: Expansion of Small Firms and Job Creation for the Youth in Uganda [\$1mn, Co-Investigator, PI: Imran Rasul]

2011: PhD Scholarship, Institute for Fiscal Studies (4 years)

2009: Gorman MSc Scholarship, Economics Department, UCL (1 year)

Seminar and Conference Presentations

2018-2019: University of Washington; Carlos III University of Madrid; World Bank; NOVA University of Lisbon; BRAC-IGC-World Bank Workshop on Firm Growth, Productivity and Employment (Kampala)

2017-2018: IZA/DFID Conference on New Research on Labor Markets in Low-Income Countries (World Bank); University of California Riverside; NEUDC (Tufts); University of California San Diego (School of Global Policy and Strategy); Boston College; PacDev (UC Davis); IZA/World Bank/NJD Conference on Jobs and Development (Bogota); SOLE Annual Meeting (Toronto); Southern California Conference in Applied Micro (Claremont); EDEP Workshop (McGill); Natural Experiments and Controlled Field Studies Workshop (Ohlstadt); European University Institute; NBER Summer Institute (Productivity, Development and Entrepreneurship group)

2016-2017: ZEF Center for Development Research (University of Bonn); University of Lausanne; Natural Experiments and Controlled Field Studies Workshop (Ohlstadt); BRAC Workshop on Youth Employment and Small Firms Growth (Kampala); GLM research network conference (Oxford); IZA/IFAU Conference on Labor Market Policy Evaluation (Bonn); NEUDC (MIT); Simposio de la Asociacion Espanola de Economia (Bilbao); Econometric Society Winter Meeting (Edinburgh)

Job talks: New York Fed; University of Rochester; University of Southern California; Sciences Po; INSEAD; Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance (Rome); IMT School for Advanced Studies (Lucca)

2015-2016: Yale – Labor/Public Economics Workshop Prospectus & Development Lunch; CEPR European Workshop on Entrepreneurship Economics (Stockholm); Workshop of fRDB Fellows and Affiliates (Siracusa)

Pre-2015: GLM Program meeting (Lima); ZEW Family Economics Workshop (Mannheim); Stockholm School of Economics (ENTER seminar); Queen Mary University of London

Referee Service

Journals: Economic Development and Cultural Change; Economic Journal; *Economica*; *Economics Letters*; *Ethics and Behavior*; *European Economic Review*; *European Journal of Political Economy*; *Journal of African Economies*; *Journal of Development Economics*; *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*; *Journal of Human Capital*; *Journal of Labor Economics*; *Journal of Population Economics*; *Journal of the European Economic Association*; *Oxford Economic Papers*; *Review of Economics and Statistics*; *World Bank Economic Review*

Grants: GLM-LIC; National Science Foundation; PEDL Major Research Grants

Affiliations

Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), International Research Fellow

Fondazione Rodolfo Debenedetti (fRDB), Affiliate

Other Professional Activities

Organizer, USC Development Seminar (2017-2018)

Organizer, USC-INET Workshop: “Using Evidence to Inform Economic Policy” (2018)

Organizer, BRAC-IGC Workshop: “Youth Employment and Small Firms Growth” (2017)

Organizer, BRAC-IGC-World Bank Workshop: “Stimulating Firm Growth, Productivity and Remunerative Employment in Uganda” (2018)

Pre-PhD Research Experience

2010-2011: UCL, Research Assistant (full-time) for Imran Rasul

2009, summer: Bocconi, Research Assistant at Fondazione Rodolfo Debenedetti

2008, summer: Bocconi, Research Assistant at Dondena Centre for Research on Social Dynamics

References

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Department of Economics
Yale University
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