

LUIGI MINALE

Department of Economics,
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
Calle Madrid 126
28903 Getafe (Spain)

[www.sites.google.com/site/luigiminale/
liminale\[at\]eco.uc3m.es](http://www.sites.google.com/site/luigiminale/liminale[at]eco.uc3m.es)

CURRENT POSITION:

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (from Sept. 2015)

AFFILIATIONS:

Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration (CReAM), London.

RESEARCH FIELDS:

Primary: Applied Micro, Labour Economics
Secondary: Development Economics, Political Economy

EDUCATION:

PhD in Economics, University College London, 2015
Thesis: "Essays in Applied Microeconomics and Development"
Principal Advisors: Christian Dustmann and Uta Schoenberg
Thesis Committee: Orazio Attanasio (UCL) and Kaivan Munshi (University of Cambridge)

MPhil in Economics, University College London, 2009
MSc in Economics of International Markets, Bocconi University, Italy, 2007 (with distinction)

REFERENCES:

Prof. Christian Dustmann (Advisor) Department of Economics University College London Email: c.dustmann@ucl.ac.uk	Prof. Uta Schoenberg (Advisor) Department of Economics, University College London Email: u.schoenberg@ucl.ac.uk	Prof. Pedro Carneiro (Referee) Department of Economics, University College London Email: p.carneiro@ucl.ac.uk
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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT:

2009 - 2015	Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration (CReAM), UCL Research Officer
2007 - 2008	Institute for Latin American and Transition Economies Studies, Bocconi University Research Officer (Supervisor Prof. Carlo Altomonte)
2007	European Commission, DG Enterprises and Industries, Brussels Blue Book Intern – Junior Economist
2005	International Organisation for Migration, Santiago of Chile Intern

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

2015/16	Econometrics, Carlos III Madrid, lecturer.
2012/13 & 2013/14	Economics of Labour, UCL, teaching fellow.
2010/11 & 2011/13	Quantitative Economics and Econometrics, UCL, teaching fellow.
2012/13 & 2013/14	Approaches to Global Migration, MSc, UCL (Department of Geography), lecturer for the module on "The Economics of Migration".
Since 2010	Courses on Microeconometrics, Panel Data, Survival Analysis, Policy Evaluation, Statistical Graphics, Cemmap (UCL), teaching assistant.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS:

- 2013-2014 Excellence in Teaching Award, UCL.
2010-2013 UCL Impact Scholarship, UCL.
2009-2010 Gorman Scholarship, Department of Economics, UCL.
2008-2009 Research Scholarship for the Project “Immigration and Labour Market in Milan”,
Department for Research, Innovation and Human Capital, Municipality of Milan.
2003 Erasmus/Socrates Scholarship.

CONFERENCES AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS:

- 2015 8th International Conference on Migration and Development (Washington D.C.);
Centre for the Evaluation of Development Policies (EDePo) – IFS (London);
Bocconi University; Erasmus School of Economics (Rotterdam);
Instituto Autónomo Tecnológico de México - ITAM (México City);
Navarra Center for International Development (Pamplona);
University of Nottingham; Universidad Carlos III de Madrid;
Universidad Diego Portales (Santiago of Chile); Universidad de Los Andes (Bogotá);
Universidad del Rosario (Bogotá).
2014 European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society (Madrid);
Annual Symposium of the Spanish Economic Association (Mallorca);
University of Nottingham – GEP Seminar;
National Institute for Economic and Social Research (London) – NIESR Seminar;
ESPE Annual Conference (Braga).
2013 5th NORFACE Migration Conference (Berlin);
CRIER/IZA Annual Workshop on Research in Labor Economics (Beijing);
IZA/World Bank Conference on Employment and Development (Bonn);
4th NORFACE Migration Conference “Migration: Global development, New
Frontiers” (London).
2012 IZA/World Bank Conference on Employment and Development (New Delhi);
3rd NORFACE Migration Conference (Mannheim)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Refereeing: Journal of Development Economics; Journal of Labor Economics; Environment and
Development Economics; IZA Journal of Labor and Development; European Journal of Political Economy;
Journal of Human Capital.

Seminar Organisation: Organizer of the CReAM Seminar Series, 2012-2015.

Conference Organisation: Member of Organising Committee for “Migration: Global
Development, New Frontiers” Conference (London, April 2013) and for “Migration: Economic Change,
Social Challenge” Conference (London, April 2011)

Co-Editor of the economic think-tank: www.quattrogatti.info

LANGUAGES:

Italian (native), English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), French (basic), Portuguese (basic)

RESEARCH PAPERS

Risk Attitudes and Household Migration Decisions (submitted)

with Christian Dustmann (UCL), Francesco Fasani (QMU) and Xin Meng (ANU)

This paper analyses the relationship between attitudes toward risk and migration in a rural-developing country setting. We build a model that studies migration decisions when risk preferences among family members are heterogeneous. Our model implies that (i) conditioning on migration gains, less risk averse individuals are more likely to migrate; (ii) within households, it is the least risk averse individuals who are more likely to emigrate; and (iii) across households, it is the more risk averse households that are more likely to send migrants as long as they have at least one family member that is sufficiently risk loving. Using unique data for China on risk attitudes of internal (rural-urban) migrants and their families that are left behind we find evidence for these predictions. Our results not only provide strong evidence that migration decisions are taken on the level of the household, but also that risk attitudes of household members other than the migrant affect not only individual migrations but also whether a household sends a migrant at all.

Information and Crime Perceptions: Evidence from a Natural Experiment

with Nicola Mastrorocco (LSE)

This paper investigates the influence of media on the beliefs and perceptions individuals hold, with a focus on crime perceptions. We study the case of Italy, where the majority of TV channels have been under the influence of the Prime Minister Berlusconi for more than a decade. First, we document the existence of a bias in the number of crime news reported by Berlusconi-influenced channels. We then test if individuals revise their perceptions about crime once exposure to these TV channels is reduced. In order to identify the causal effect we exploit a natural experiment in the Italian television market where the staggered introduction of the digital TV signal led to a drastic drop in the viewing shares of partisan channels. Combining unique data on each channel's crime news coverage and prime-time viewing shares, we find that reduced exposure to crime-related news broadcast by partisan channels decreased concerns about crime, an effect that is mainly driven by older individuals who, on average, watch more television and use alternative sources of information (such as Internet, radio and newspapers) less frequently. Finally, we show that this change in perceptions is likely to have important implications for voting outcomes.

Weather Shocks and Labour Supply Reallocation in Rural China

This paper analyses the way households in rural China use migration and off-farm work as an ex-post response to negative productivity shocks in agriculture. I employ various waves of a longitudinal survey of rural households (RUMiC) to construct a panel of individual migration and labour supply histories, and match them to detailed weather information, which I use to instrument agricultural productivity. For identification I exploit the year-by-county variation in rainfalls generated by the Chinese peculiar size and climatic heterogeneity to explain within-individual changes in days of work in each of the sectors. Results suggest that farming is reduced by 4% and migration increased by 6% in response to a 1-standard deviation negative rainfall shock. Within households, I find that individuals aged less than 50 respond by working more in the cities while elderly members shift from agricultural to the off-farm sector without changing location, providing some evidence for intra-household tasks reallocation. Finally, land tenure insecurity seems to partially prevent households from freely reallocating labour away from farming potentially limiting their ability to diversify income.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Internal Migration and Urban Labour Markets in Brazil

with Rudi Rocha (Federal University of Rio of Janeiro)

The Effect of Digital Television on Voting Behaviour in Italy

with Nicola Mastrorocco (LSE)

Parental Migration and Child Development: Evaluating an Intervention on Left-Behind Children in China

with Pedro Carneiro (UCL) and Therese Hesketh (UCL)