

Bibliographical newsletter

08/05/2018

Year 4, Number 1

In the following pages you'll find bibliographical news on recently published papers and on open source works in the field of policy evaluation.

Information has been organized by Author, following a first-in, first-served criterion. Nevertheless, here are some previews of the methods applied in the research works presented:

- ➔ Dif-in-dif
- ➔ Propensity score matching
- ➔ Synthetic control approach
- ➔ Comparison among different quasi-experimental designs
- ➔ Panel models
- ➔ Regression discontinuity design

... and much more

In this number you'll find works analysing:

- Small firms and innovation
- Social security for self-employed workers
- Airports and local development
- Placement effects of Training policies
- Evaluation and administrative data-bases
- Gender equilibrium in policy
- Regional policies and evaluation

By Elena Ragazzi and Lisa Sella



This newsletter circulates bibliographical information about recently issued research work concerning impact evaluation. It is fed by the contribution of the authors, who remain responsible for the correctness and completeness of information and for the quality of the work. The newsletter is managed on a volunteering basis by the editors. We hope that it will foster a reflection on the evaluation experiences so as to improve methodological tools and to ease their correct application, and that it will encourage a discussion on the latest advancements, by easing their diffusion.

The next bibliographical newsletter will occur in AUTUMN.

Please send to mlist@ircres.cnr.it

- ➔ new open source works (reports, working papers, papers and presentations discussed at conferences). In this case send
 - the full bibliographical reference
 - the link to download it,
 - a short abstract (no more than 250 words)
- ➔ bibliographical references of published works (articles or books). In this case send
 - the full bibliographical reference
 - a short abstract (no more than 250 words)

WITHIN October 15th

Please follow the format of the following pages, that can be download [here](#)

Full bibliographical reference:

Bellucci, A., Pennacchio, L. & Zazzaro, A. (2018). Public R&D subsidies: collaborative versus individual place-based programs for SMEs. *Small Business Economics*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11187-018-0017-5>

Abstract: This paper provides novel empirical evidence on the effectiveness of regional research and innovation policies for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It investigated two subsidy programs implemented at the regional level in central Italy. One program targeted SMEs' investments in individual research projects, and the other focused on collaborative research projects between SMEs and universities. Using a matched difference-in-differences approach, the empirical analysis showed that the two programs had different effects. The first was successful in stimulating additional private research and development (R&D) investment and improving firms' performance. The second had weaker effects, mostly restricted to R&D expenditure and employment. These effects were not always uniformly distributed among project participants.

Link: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11187-018-0017-5>

Type: Journal article

Contact: luca.pennacchio@umiparthenope.it

Language: English

Open source: Yes

Keywords: Public subsidies; R&D; Impact evaluation; SMEs; Cooperation; Regional policy

Notes:



Full bibliographical reference: Moral-Arce, I., Martín-Román, J. & Martín-Román, Á. L., 2018. "Cessation of activity benefit of Spanish self-employed workers: a heterogeneous impact evaluation," MPRA Paper 85111, University Library of Munich, Germany.	
Abstract: The goal of this paper is to evaluate the effects of a public policy implemented through the Spanish Social Security system: the Cessation of Activity Benefit (CAB) for self-employed workers. Making use of the Continuous Sample of Working Lives (MCVL) and by means of a Propensity Score Matching (PSM) methodology, our results show that, when we do not take into account heterogeneity in the treatment, self-employed workers receiving CAB experience non-employment spells between 22 and 33 logarithmic points longer than their not entitled counterparts. We also detect that this difference is not constant but depends on the likelihood of being treated. We believe that the two traditional problems that affect the insurance markets, consequence of the asymmetric information, adverse selection and moral hazard, are behind these results.	
Link: https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/85111/1/MPRA_paper_85111.pdf	
Type: Working Paper	Contact: angellm@eco.uva.es
Language: English	Open source: yes
Keywords: Self-employment, Impact Evaluation, Propensity Score Matching, Opportunistic Behavior	
Notes:	

Full bibliographical reference: David F. e Saporito G. (2017) “L’impatto di un nuovo aeroporto sul turismo internazionale: il caso di Ragusa”, Banca d’Italia, Questioni di economia e finanza n.412.	
Abstract: Airports play a crucial role in connecting places and boosting local economic development; notwithstanding this, empirical evidence on the subject is relatively limited. This paper estimates the impact of a new airport in Ragusa, in southeastern Sicily, on international tourism flows in the area, using a synthetic control approach. Connecting by air a relatively peripheral and isolated area of Sicily with a high tourism potential has made it possible to increase by about one fifth the number of nights spent by foreign tourists (for over 5,100 additional nights), generating €434 thousand more in tourist expenditure per month.	
Link: https://www.bancaditalia.it/pubblicazioni/gef/2017-0412/QEF_412_17.pdf	
Type: working paper	Contact: francesco.david@bancaditalia.it ; giuseppe.saporito@bancaditalia.it
Language: Italian	Open source: yes
Keywords: air transport, international tourism, synthetic control approach	
Notes:	

<p>Full bibliographical reference: Benati, I., L. Donato, Migliore M.C., Poy S., Ragazzi E., Sella L. (2018). <u>La formazione professionale aiuta a trovare lavoro? Gli effetti dei corsi erogati in Piemonte nel 2015</u>. IRES Piemonte e Regione Piemonte</p>	
<p>Abstract: Since 2010 the Piedmont Region has produced analysis aimed at assessing the employment impact of vocational training financed through European Union resources. The latest research report, published in February 2018, provides information on the effects of vocational training. The evaluation concerns courses aimed at the most intense unemployed persons by duration and by number of training hours. In total, 5,045 is the number of those who took part in courses concluded in the 2015 calendar year under the Labor Market (MdL-Regione Piemonte) directives. In a counterfactual type logic, two different quasi-experimental strategies are adopted to estimate the effect of the training. In the first, the control group is identified in the so-called no-shows (people enrolled in courses that have not completed the training). In a second one, micro-data of administrative source (COB - compulsory communications) are used to identify people enrolled in the Employment Centers having issued the Declaration of Immediate Availability to Work (DID) as similar to the people trained for work history and for socio-personal characteristics. The results show a positive employment effect of vocational training that is maintained even in the medium to long term.</p>	
<p>Link: http://www.sisform.piemonte.it/images/sito_sisform/pubblicazioni/altre_pubblicazioni/2018/RapportoEffettiFormazioneProfessionalePiemonte2018.pdf</p>	
<p>Type: research report</p>	<p>Contact: migliore@ires.piemonte.it</p>
<p>Language: Italian</p>	<p>Open source: yes</p>
<p>Keywords: evaluation, counterfactual, propensity score matching, vocational learning</p>	
<p>Notes:</p>	

<p>Full bibliographical reference: E. Ragazzi, Sella L., 2018, Données administratives et évaluation des politiques régionales: quels enjeux? Revue d'économie régionale et urbaine, N. 2, Numéro spécial sur « La performance des politiques régionales en Europe » pp. 509-532.</p>	
<p>Abstract: Impact assessment is usually based on direct surveys of treated individuals. The net impact should be estimated observing untreated individuals which are very similar to the treated group. However, the high cost of implementation does not allow to use large samples, and therefore it is difficult to carry out statistically significant comparison at the local level. The open access to databases which were created for different purposes (e.g., tax, administrative, monitoring) could overcome these limitations with many advantages, but the reliability of administrative sources is often overestimated. In this article we present a validation exercise based on data records provided by the Italian law whenever a change in an employment contract occurs, i.e. the so called compulsory communications (Cob). This was done by comparing two different data sources, that is the Cob database and a direct survey performed on students one year after the course.</p>	
<p>Link: http://www.revues.armand-colin.com/eco-sc-politique/revue-deconomie-regionale-urbaine/revue-deconomie-regionale-urbaine-ndeg-22018</p>	
<p>Type: journal article</p>	<p>Contact: elena.ragazzi@ircres.cnr.it lisa.sella@ircres.cnr.it</p>
<p>Language: French</p>	<p>Open source: no</p>
<p>Keywords: Impact evaluation, regional policies, quality of data-bases, administrative data</p>	
<p>Notes: The paper is included in a special issue on policy evaluation.</p>	

Full bibliographical reference: M. Accorinti, I. Benati, A. Castelli, P. Demurtas, G. Falavigna, U. Finardi, A. Manello, A. Menniti, E. Ragazzi, L. Sella, 2018, **Rapporto finale dell'attività di ricerca e valutazione dell'impatto delle misure di riequilibrio di genere previste dalla legislazione vigente in materia di cariche elettive e di governo**, Rapporto di ricerca per il Dipartimento delle Riforme Istituzionali della Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, Roma.

Abstract: The research report of the project "Evaluating the impact of gender rebalancing measures provided for by current legislation on elective and governmental positions", is the result of a collaboration between the Department for Institutional Reforms of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (DRI) and the National Research Council (Research Institute on Population and Social Policies CNR-IRPPS, with the collaboration of the Research Institute on Sustainable Economic Growth CNR-IRCRES).

The general objective of the project is to contribute to the evaluation of the effects produced by the regulatory measures and institutional practices introduced in recent years, for various levels of government, for the purposes of gender rebalancing in elective and government positions. The project has integrated different approaches and research tools across three operational lines, which have been developed with specific research objectives and methodologies: "gender balance among candidates", "weight of women among the elected", and "role of women in the political decision-making process and in government action".

For all institutions (Municipalities, Regions, Senate, Chamber of Deputies and the European Parliament), the report analyzes the historical series of indicators on the process towards gender equality in the period 2000-2015. In this period, many reforms have introduced rebalancing mechanisms into the electoral laws. The report also contains a study on the assessment of the net impact, carried out with different alternative models, on the case of municipalities for which it is possible to reconstruct an appropriate counterfactual approach.

Other insights are devoted to the analysis of the determinants of gender balance, to the identification of the most virtuous areas, to the differentiated effect of the various instruments, as emerges from the comparative analysis of the various regional electoral laws.

Link: <http://www.riformeistituzionali.gov.it/notizie/18042018-rapporto-finale-di-valutazione-dell-impatto-delle-misure-di-riequilibrio-di-genere>

Type: Institutional research report

Contact: elena.ragazzi@ircres.cnr.it

Language: Italian

Open source: yes

Keywords: impact evaluation, gender issues, equal opportunities in politics, evaluation of regulation.

Notes:

Full bibliographical reference: S. Bourdin, E. Ragazzi, 2018, La science régionale et la performance des politiques publiques: retour sur les méthodes d'évaluation. Revue d'économie régionale et urbaine, N. 2, Numéro spécial sur « La performance des politiques régionales en Europe » pp. 225-242.	
Abstract: In a context of severe budgetary constraints for local and regional authorities, the question of the effectiveness of policies is a hot topic. The evaluation of regional public policies is the subject of numerous academic studies in the field of humanities and social sciences. However, many methodological problems persist among which we find the validity and the role of the quantitative and qualitative methods, the nature of the causalities, the quality of the data exploited and their refinement, the multidimensionality of the phenomena addressed by the policies and of their objectives. In this framework, this article aims to introduce the special issue devoted to the problems and challenges of Regional Science in the evaluation of public policies, as these emerge from the experiences of researchers.	
Link: http://www.revues.armand-colin.com/eco-sc-politique/revue-deconomie-regionale-urbaine/revue-deconomie-regionale-urbaine-ndeg-22018	
Type: journal article	Contact: elena.ragazzi@ircres.cnr.it sbourdin@em-normandie.fr
Language: French	Open source: no
Keywords: Impact evaluation, regional policies, territorial development	
Notes: The paper is the introduction to a special issue on policy evaluation.	