

Seminari di Economia Politica: II semestre 2023/24

Unlocking Circularity: the Interplay between Institutional Pressures and Supply Chain Integration

Martedì 11 giugno 2024, ore 14.15, aula seminari

Speaker: Tommaso Calzolari (The University of Sheffield)

Abstract:

This paper investigates the role of Institutional Pressures (IPs) and Supply Chain Integration (SCI) in driving the adoption of Circular Economy (CE) practices. It is hypothesised that, responding to IPs, firms might adopt higher levels of SCI in the attempt to implement CE practices. A research model is developed and tested on a cross-sectional sample of 150 Multi-National Enterprises (MNEs). Textual content from Corporate Sustainability reports is used to measure the constructs of interest through an advanced coding approach. Findings show that IPs are driving the adoption of CE practices primarily through the mediation of SCI; the prominent roles of coercive regulatory pressures (CRPs) and normative pressures (NPs) are also highlighted. CRPs influence on CE practices is partially mediated by SCI, with NPs being fully mediated by it. The study shows that SCI is a key mechanism that lies in between IPs and CE practices; as such, organisations interested in implementing CE practices need to be aware of requirements for achieving higher levels of SCI. This empirical study is the first large scale analysis that conceptualises how MNE-driven supply chains adopt CE practices. The study empirically validates the model and identifies research avenues in Supply Chain Management (SCM) research to support the adoption of CE practices.

For discontinuation's sake. A theory of autonomous discontinuation

Martedì 4 giugno 2024, ore 14.15, aula seminari

Speaker: Stefania Sardo (Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis)

Abstract:

Growing calls for sustainability transformations have attracted the attention of scholars and policy-makers towards processes aimed at deliberately terminating existing socio-technical systems. Drawing on existing empirical and conceptual research on the subject, we contribute to the foundation of a theory of discontinuation as follows. First, we promote a novel typology of discontinuation phenomena based on the key instigating agents, their relationship to the targeted systems, and the gradient of potential conflict involved, thereby identifying a clear empirical set of phenomena in need of theorization. Second, we use Schumpeterian theory and methodology to highlight the crucial analytical differences between innovation and discontinuation phenomena, motivating the need for a theory of discontinuation as an autonomous process. Third, we outline the main functional phases characterizing a discontinuation process, focusing on its less analyzed inception and bridging phases, thus providing a comprehensive understanding of the archetypical phenomenon. We use these contributions to argue that conceptualizing discontinuation as a phenomenon distinct and autonomous from innovation is crucial for analytical purposes and for developing appropriate tools to effectively govern its associated conflicts.

Prospettive di dialogo sociale nel settore agricolo: un'analisi trasversale e multilivello

Martedì 28 maggio 2024, ore 14.15, aula seminari

Speaker: Ilaria Purificato (UniMoRe)

Abstract:

Partendo dall'analisi delle peculiarità del settore agricolo e mettendo in luce le molteplici sfide che tale settore sta affrontando e affronterà per via delle transizioni verdi e digitali, nonché dell'incremento dei fenomeni migratori, che possono trovare origine anche nei cambiamenti climatici e nei conflitti, il contributo si propone di raccogliere e analizzare le più recenti forme di espressione del dialogo sociale a livello europeo e italiano nel suddetto settore. A tal fine l'articolo si focalizza, dapprima, sulle più recenti iniziative promosse dalle istituzioni europee, poi, sulla contrattazione collettiva nazionale. Le prime

mostrano un sempre maggiore coinvolgimento dei rappresentanti della società civile e delle ONG nel dialogo con le istituzioni e le parti sociali, mentre lo studio della contrattazione collettiva nazionale rivela che solo i più recenti CCNL del settore iniziano ad affrontare le questioni relative alla partecipazione e al coinvolgimento dei lavoratori. Al contempo, sempre sul piano nazionale, si assiste all'affermarsi di forme di auto-organizzazione dei lavoratori, che agiscono a tutela degli interessi dei lavoratori migranti marginalizzati, denotando una difficoltà degli attori tradizionali a intercettare questi lavoratori e i loro interessi. Lo studio delle pratiche e delle iniziative poste in essere ai livelli considerati lascia emergere la debolezza delle parti sociali, nonché del dialogo sociale per il settore agricolo.

The Antecedents to Habitual Entrepreneurship: Exploring the Role of Entrepreneurs' Narcissism and Educational Level

Martedì 21 maggio 2024, ore 14.15, aula seminari

Speaker: Simona Leonelli (UniMoRe)

Abstract:

This paper aims to analyze the antecedents leading to habitual entrepreneurship by investigating the role of entrepreneurs' narcissism and their level of education. While the literature provides a general understanding of what motivates individuals to pursue their entrepreneurial ideas, the possible antecedents to the individual's decision to become a habitual entrepreneur remain unexplored and untested. Relying on a sample of 343 start-up entrepreneurs, hypotheses are tested through the partial least squares analysis. Results show that entrepreneurs' educational levels fully mediate the relationship between narcissism and the choice to become habitual entrepreneurs. The study contributes to the literature on entrepreneurs' personality, decision-making, and human capital, also underlining a few practical implications.

Following in the family footsteps: incidence and returns of occupational persistence

Martedì 14 maggio 2024, ore 14.15, aula seminari

Speaker: Maria Ventura (London School of Economics)

Abstract:

Children often follow their parents into the same occupations. Evidence on the economic returns of occupational persistence is scarce, yet understanding these outcomes and their unequal prevalence across social strata may be key to deciphering patterns of social mobility. In this paper, I leverage administrative data from the Netherlands and a unique policy experiment to document the incidence of occupational transmission and estimate individuals' additional gains when choosing the same profession as their parents. I find that children are twice as likely to enter a given occupation when it is their parents', with this rate substantially increasing for those above the top quartile of the parental income distribution. In addition, OLS estimated returns from occupational persistence are 2.8%. Using the random assignment to medical school provided by a lottery admission, I focus on the medical profession to decompose these "naive" returns into a treatment and a selection effect of occupational transmission. Instrumental variable estimates show that "dynastic" doctors experience a 23% income boost relative to individuals who did not follow their parents. Furthermore, I identify a substantial negative selection bias in the OLS coefficients, suggesting that individuals selecting into following their parents perform worse than their peers when pushed into different occupations. The large treatment effect, together with the unequal incidence along the income distribution, highlights the critical role of occupational transmission in exacerbating inequalities.

L'intelligenza artificiale in movimento. L'impatto sui diritti costituzionali della smart mobility

Martedì 7 maggio 2024, ore 14.15, aula seminari

Speaker: Noemi Miniscalco (UniMoRe)

Abstract:

L'intero comparto della mobilità sta vivendo una rivoluzione: il cambiamento, che ha già visto, in una prima fase, l'introduzione della guida assistita, porterà, in tempi non troppo lunghi, alla vera e propria sostituzione dell'intelligenza artificiale all'uomo nella guida, di modo che tutti i mezzi di trasporto saranno totalmente autonomi, ossia capaci di condursi da soli. Muovendo dalle trasformazioni in essere e dalla loro attuale regolazione a livello normativo, il volume indaga i rapporti tra diritti e tecnologia, ricostruendo specificamente l'impatto del fenomeno della smart mobility sui diritti e sulle libertà costituzionali, in termini di maggiori o minori opportunità di godimento di essi.

Expectation-Driven Boom-Bust Cycles

Martedì 30 aprile 2024, ore 14.15, aula seminari

Speaker: Marco Brianti (University of Alberta)

Abstract:

Using data from the Survey of Professional Forecasters, we observe that a large fraction of analysts' expectations about future economic growth is not due to technology or other shocks to fundamentals measured by the business cycle literature. We find that these unexplained changes in forecast revisions predict significant boom-bust dynamics in the key macroeconomic aggregates. We offer a novel theory where boom-bust dynamics stem from expectation shocks orthogonal to fundamentals.

Fiscal impoverishment in Italy: A historical perspective

Martedì 23 aprile 2024, ore 14.15, aula seminari

Speaker: Emanuela Struffolino (University of Milan)

Abstract:

Previous research acknowledged the importance of taxes together with benefits in reducing poverty and inequality. So far, little attention has been paid to the fact that even a progressive tax and transfer system can hurt the poor. Building on prior work looking at the effect of taxation on household poverty in developing countries and subnational contexts, this article considers how the income taxes most rich countries rely on to finance the public sector in many instances also serves to exacerbate and create household poverty. Fiscal impoverishment's level is measured as the share of the population with higher market than disposable income but disposable income below the poverty line (Lustig and Higgins 2016), i.e., the percentage of individuals who are made poor or poorer as a result of income taxation. We describe trends in fiscal impoverishment over time and across geographical macro-areas in Italy. We use the European tax-benefit model EUROMOD and the Italian module of the EU-SILC data from 2005 to 2019 and rely on the ISTAT absolute poverty threshold for 38 household constellations based on the number and the age of the components depending on their geographical area of residence.

Investment in Digital Technologies and Firms' Labour Demand

Martedì 16 aprile 2024, ore 14.15, aula seminari

Speaker: Andrea Fracasso (Università di Trento)

Abstract:

The presentation focuses on the effects of investment in new digital technologies (specifically robotics, big data, Internet of Things, virtual reality, and cybersecurity) on firm employment, firms' training and firms' hiring strategies using a comprehensive and representative survey conducted in Italy in 2015 and 2018. The empirical strategy allows us to identify the causal effects of the investments in the new technologies by combining the predetermined composition of employment at the firm level with the exogenous technological progress in digital technologies occurring at the global level. The main results from the empirical analysis tell different stories about the impact of investment in robotics and in information digital technologies. Robotics investment does not significantly affect employment levels, but influences the composition of contracts. Investment in information digital technologies, on the other hand, has a positive effect on firms' overall employment and on their propensity to hire skilled workers in the future. These

results show the coexistence of displacement and reinstatement effects at the firm level. Investment in information digital technologies is also conducive to specific training programmes, in line with the characteristics of this type of investment.

Do endowment inequality and different rates of return affect farmers

Martedì 9 aprile 2024, ore 14.15, aula seminari

Speaker: Simone Piras (The James Hutton Institute)

Abstract:

Innovation adoption by small producers is key to promoting sustainable food systems in developing countries. However, some innovations require collective management and thus cooperation. Public Good Games (PGGs) are well-established settings to experimentally assess individuals' willingness to cooperate. Within the H2020 project FoodLAND, we ran PGGs among smallholders in Tanzania, Kenya, and Tunisia. In all countries, the decision how much to contribute to the public good was repeated twice, and in two, the design was changed between rounds. In Tanzania, we alternated different multiplication factors, corresponding to Marginal Per Capita Returns to the public good of 0.20 and 0.15, respectively. In Kenya, we played one round with unequal (two levels) and one with equal endowments, keeping the same total endowment at group level. We find that individual contributions do not vary significantly depending on the rate of return unless smallholders face a lower rate in the second round, in which case the efficiency of cooperation declines. Opposite to our hypothesis, group-level contributions were higher with unequal endowment; however, less endowed players contributed less in both relative and absolute terms. We further control for group size, which does not seem to affect cooperation, and for round-order effects, finding that smallholders reduce their contribution if they have cooperated relatively more than their group members in the previous round. Our results can help derive recommendations for the successful dissemination of collaborative innovations among smallholders farmers.

Trade exposure, immigrants and workers' health

Martedì 26 marzo 2024, ore 14.15, aula seminari

Speaker: Mattia Filomena (Masaryk University)

Abstract:

We investigate the impact of globalization on workplace accidents in the Italian manufacturing sector over the period 2008-2019. Our identification strategy exploits a local measure of trade exposure to China using lagged industrial composition of Italian provinces to map sector-specific changes in trade levels, and spatial and temporal variation in foreign-born residents' province shares to test the impact of immigration. To identify the causal effect of globalization, we instrument the Italian trade measure with the trade exposure in other high-income countries. A further instrumental variable strategy based on historical co-national local settlements is then used for immigration. Our results inform the policy debate on the welfare effects of globalization adding new insights from different perspectives.

CO2 emissions and Inequality: The Income-Wealth-Emissions Triangle Evidence from Italy

Martedì 12 marzo 2024, ore 14.15, aula seminari

Speaker: Salvatore Morelli (University of Rome III)

Abstract:

We use the 2006 and 2021 Canadian Census Data as well as the 2011 National Household Survey to explore the probability that Canadian-born young adults with Italian heritage reside with their parents. In doing so, we investigate the role of culture in explaining the living arrangements of young adults. We achieve identification by exploiting the difference in coresidence choices of young adults with Italian origins and majority origin (British French or Canadian) young adults. These two groups share the same institutional

environment, while they differ in terms of cultural background. Our results show that culture has positive and robust explanatory power. Our findings are robust across time, to changes in the sample criteria, and to alternative variables used as proxies for cultural heritage. The empirical analysis also shows that Italo-Canadians have preferences for remaining with parents that span generations. In addition, that preference transfers to non-Italians in neighbourhoods with high numbers of Italian households.

Cultural transmission and the Italian diaspora: The Living Arrangements of Italo-Canadian Young Adult

Martedì 5 marzo 2024, ore 14.15, aula seminari

Speaker: Ravi Pendakur (University of Ottawa)

Abstract:

We use the 2006 and 2021 Canadian Census Data as well as the 2011 National Household Survey to explore the probability that Canadian-born young adults with Italian heritage reside with their parents. In doing so, we investigate the role of culture in explaining the living arrangements of young adults. We achieve identification by exploiting the difference in coresidence choices of young adults with Italian origins and majority origin (British French or Canadian) young adults. These two groups share the same institutional environment, while they differ in terms of cultural background. Our results show that culture has positive and robust explanatory power. Our findings are robust across time, to changes in the sample criteria, and to alternative variables used as proxies for cultural heritage. The empirical analysis also shows that Italo-Canadians have preferences for remaining with parents that span generations. In addition, that preference transfers to non-Italians in neighbourhoods with high numbers of Italian households.

The Coevolution of Patience and Collaboration

Martedì 27 febbraio 2024, ore 14.15, aula seminari

Speaker: Omer Moav (University of Warwick)

Abstract:

We study the determinants of economic collaboration in an evolutionary model of inherited time preferences. The population consists of patient and impatient agents, with evolutionary fitness depending on income. Individuals choose between home production and going to the market, where they are randomly matched in pairs for collaboration in production. Collaboration has the potential for ongoing higher productivity but is vulnerable to defection. In equilibrium, at least some of the impatient agents go to the collaboration market but they always defect. Patient agents always go to the market and cooperate, even if their fraction of the population is arbitrarily small. In the nontrivial evolutionary steady state, a higher return to collaboration could increase or decrease collaboration in the economy. The provision of law and order, by punishing defectors, unambiguously increases collaboration. Thus, the model generates empirical predictions linking state history to current trust, collaboration, and wealth.