

GIANLUCA RUSSO

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, 2020 (expected)

Dissertation Title: *Political Economy of Mass Society*

Dissertation Committee: Robert A. Margo, James J. Feigenbaum and Daniele Paserman

MSC Economics, University of Tor Vergata, 110/110 *First Class Honors*, 2014

Main Advisor: Stefano Gagliarducci

B.S. Political Science, University of Roma Tre, 110/110 *First Class Honors*, 2012

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Political Economy, Economic History, Applied Microeconomics

WORKING PAPERS

“Mass Media and Cultural Homogenization: Broadcasting the American Dream on the Radio,” (Job Market Paper), October 2019.

“WWI and the Rise of Fascism in Italy: Evidence from *La Vittoria Mutilata*,” September 2019.

“The Effect of Child Labor Laws on Child Labor,” (joint with James J. Feigenbaum), September 2019.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Emigration and Long-Run Economic Development: The Effects of the Italian Mass Outmigration” (joint with Nicola Fontana, Marco Manacorda and Marco Tabellini).

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Social Science History Association Annual Meetings, Chicago, IL	November 2019
Harvard Economic History Workshop, Cambridge, MA	November 2019
Stanford Economic History Workshop, Stanford, CA	October 2019
Economic History Association Annual Meetings, Atlanta, GA	October 2019
European Historical Economics Society Conference, Paris, France	August 2019
Economic History Association at UdeSA, Buenos Aires, Argentina	May 2019
Harvard Economic History Workshop, Cambridge, MA	April 2019
ASE, Italian Economic History Association Meetings, Milan, Italy	September 2018
World Economic History Congress, Boston	August 2018
Harvard Economic History Workshop, Cambridge, MA	March 2018
Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality, Chicago	August 2017

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Manuel Abdala Gift Grant, Boston University	Spring 2020
Institute for Economic Development Research Grant, Boston University	Fall 2018
Economics Department Summer Research Grant, Boston University	Summer 2017

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Economic History Association Exploratory Travel Grant

Spring 2017

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for Bob A. Margo, Boston University,	Fall 2019
Research Assistant for James J. Feigenbaum, Boston University	Fall 2017 to Spring 2018
Research Assistant for Ivan Fernandez-Val, Boston University	Fall 2016
Research Assistant for Martin Fiszbein, Boston University	Summer 2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, EC 204 Empirical Economics, Boston University,	Summer 2019
Instructor, EC 204 Empirical Economics, Boston University,	Summer 2018
Teaching Fellow, EC 102 Introduction to Macroeconomics, Boston University,	Spring 2016
Teaching Fellow, EC 371 Environmental Economics, Boston University,	Fall 2015
Teaching Fellow, EC 201 Introduction to Microeconomics, Boston University,	Fall 2015

LANGUAGES: Italian (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate), Spanish (intermediate)

COMPUTER SKILLS: R, Stata, Latex

CITIZENSHIP: Italian/F1

REFERENCES

Professor Robert A. Margo
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Mass Media and Cultural Homogenization: Broadcasting the American Dream on Radio (Job Market Paper)

Does media build nations? I leverage the expansion of radio networks in the United States to estimate the impact of access to mass media on cultural homogenization and nation building. To do so, I link data on radio coverage during the interwar period to the US full count census. I construct radio network access by developing a novel signal propagation model suitable to AM radio, the only radio technology at the time. I feed this model with newly digitized data on the universe of transmitting stations during the interwar period to compute what radio channels were available to American households. I combine radio network coverage with several measures of cultural trends based on naming patterns for children. Exploiting exogenous variation in radio signal reception induced by soil characteristics and stations' tower growth over time, I find that network access homogenized American culture. Homogenization happened through the assimilation of white, black and immigrant households towards white native names representative of birth cohorts prior to radio expansion.

WWI and the Rise of Fascism in Italy: Evidence from *La Vittoria Mutilata*

Winning the 1924 national election was one of the key steps that allowed Benito Mussolini to become the Italian *Duce*. I study the impact of WWI on Mussolini's electoral success. To measure the effect of the war, I construct a measure of military casualties from the universe of Italian municipalities, which is matched to municipal level voting in the 1924 election. OLS results indicate that a 10 percentage point increase in the casualty rate increased the vote share for Fascism by 3 percentage points, while an IV analysis points to a somewhat larger, but more imprecise impact. Although clearly important, a back of the envelope calculation suggests that the effect of wartime casualties was not decisive – Mussolini would likely to have won anyway, even if far fewer Italians soldiers had died.

The Effect of Child Labor Laws on Child Labor

(joint with James J. Feigenbaum)

From 1880 to 1920, child labor in the United States fell dramatically. At the same time, most states passed laws regulating minimum working ages. Past quantitative work based on census samples have yielded mixed results on the efficacy of these laws and historians have questioned whether the politically powerful employers of children would allow such regulation if child labor was in high demand. Turning to the newly-digitized complete count census data from 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930, we find large effects of child labor laws on child labor. While the laws reduced labor from boys and girls in equal measure, the laws did had differential effects, binding in urban areas not rural and especially in the largest cities and more for the children of foreign-born parents. Children with parents working in manufacturing and textiles were especially affected by the labor restrictions. In contrast to the reduction of labor supply among white children, child labor laws had limited effects on the odds of African American boys or girls working.