

Ugo Bolletta

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Contacts & Personal Information

Aix-Marseille School of Economics
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Citizenship: Italian
Year of Birth: 1986

Current Position

Post-Doc at Aix-Marseille School of Economics

Undergraduate Studies

M. Sc., Economics, Università di Roma Tor Vergata (Italy), *with honors*, 2012
B.A., Economics, Università di Roma Tor Vergata (Italy), 2010

Graduate Studies

Università di Bologna, Oct. 2012 to June 2016
Ph.D. in Economics, Supervisor Giulio Zanella
Thesis Title: "Social Influence in Networks"
Committee: Yann Bramoullé, Sergio Currarini and Paolo Pin

References:

Prof. Paolo Pin
Bocconi University
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Prof. Giulio Zanella
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Prof. Yann Bramoullé
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Prof. Berno Buechel
University of Fribourg
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Research and Teaching Fields

Social Economic Networks, Microeconomic Theory, Applied Theory

Teaching Experience

Macroeconomics, MBA, Università di Bologna	Oct. 2014–Jan. 2015
Introduction to \LaTeX , Graduate, Aix-Marseille School of Economics (<i>Evaluations</i>)	Sep. 2016–Oct. 2016
Introduction to \LaTeX , Graduate, Aix-Marseille School of Economics (<i>Evaluations</i>)	Oct. 2017
Introduction to \LaTeX , Graduate, Aix-Marseille School of Economics	Oct. 2018

Awards

ANR Grant MaRiNe coordinated by F. Deroian and M. Belhaj (15,000 Eur)	Jan. 2019–Dec.2022
International Scholarship for Research Stay, University of Fribourg	Sep. 2018
Post-Doc, Aix-Marseille School of Economics	Sep. 2016–Current
One-Year research grant for Ph.D. students, Aix-Marseille School of Economics	Sep. 2015–Ago. 2016
Marco Polo scholarship for visiting period, Università di Bologna	Feb.–Jun. 2015
Scholarship for graduate studies, Università di Bologna	Oct. 2012–Sep. 2015

Visiting and Further Education

Research Stay for Post-Doc Researcher, University of Fribourg, Switzerland	Sep. 2018
CIGNE - Summer school on network theory, Roscoff, France	19-23 Jun. 2017
4 th Year Ph.D Student at Aix-Marseille School of Economics	Sep. 2015 - Aug. 2016
Visiting Student Researcher, Stanford University	Feb. 2015–Jun. 2015
Summer School of Mathematics for Economics, Research Centre <i>Ennio De Giorgi</i>	15-19 Sep. 2014
Ph.D. Course on Social and Economic Networks, University of Copenhagen	2–6 Jun. 2014

Seminars and Conferences

35èmes Journées de Microéconomie Appliquée, Bordeaux, France	7-8 Jun. 2018
Network Science and Economics, Vanderbilt University, Nashville (TN)	13-15 Apr. 2018
CTN Workshop, Maastricht, Netherlands	5-6 Apr. 2018
CTN Workshop, Glasgow, Scotland	11-12 May. 2017
ASSET Conference, Thessaloniki, Greece	10-12 Nov. 2016
CTN Workshop, Moscow, Russia	20-22 May 2016
Ph.D. Seminar, Aix-Marseille School of Economics	6 Oct. 2015
Information Transmission in Networks (<i>poster session</i>), Harvard University	1-3 May 2015
Behavioral & Experimental Lunch Seminar, Stanford University	7 Apr. 2015
Winter Workshop on Networks in Economics, Université Catholique de Louvain	5 th Dec. 2014
Ph.D. Course on Social and Economic Networks, University of Copenhagen	2-6 Jun. 2014
NEXT Workshop on Networks and Externalities, Hungarian Academy of Sciences	26-27 May 2014
Internal seminar series, Università di Bologna	Jan., Jun., Nov. 2014

Refereeing Activity

Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization (2016), Economic Inquiry (2015)

Other Activities

Co-Organizer of GTI Seminar series, Aix-Marseille School of Economics

Sep. 2016-Aug- 2018

Research Papers

A Model of Peer Effects in School (first 2015– latest 2018), Download latest version

Job Market Paper

Abstract: When designing interventions aiming to foster peer effects in schools, knowledge on endogenous sorting of individuals into groups is key. We propose a theoretical model where agents form their network endogenously, and their outcomes are affected accordingly. Using a popular payoff structure, we show that equilibrium outcomes have a direct correspondence with the linear-in-means model, used to study empirically peer effects and we characterize the set of stable networks. The model can be fit with real data, providing the tools to i) infer the network in case we do not have this information, ii) match theoretical outcomes with real ones, to infer the motives behind network formation and iii) simulate effects of interventions that manipulate the composition of classrooms. Simulating data we show that the model can consistently reproduce the results of Carrell et al. (2013).

Polarization When People Choose Their Peers (first 2016– latest 2018), joint with *Paolo Pin (Bocconi)*, submitted, <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3245800>

Abstract: Processes of polarization have been documented in several applications. Yet most existing theories focus on how herding behavior and convergence of opinions tend to occur in different contexts. In this paper, we develop a model where agents correct their heterogeneous initial opinion by averaging the opinions of their neighbors. Our key contribution is to let the network arise endogenously. To do so, we micro-found how individuals optimally choose reference groups and we characterize a dynamic process where the network evolves along with individual opinions. Results show that there are always conditions on the strength of social influence preventing the network from being connected. This causes polarization in the long run. However, polarization can also arise during the transition to a consensus. We show how each of these cases is tied to a key network statistic, the initial diameter.

Research in Progress

Cointegrated Experiences in Networks (2018), joint with *Isabel Melguizo (CIDE)*

Contest in Networks (2017), joint with *Igor Letina (Bern)* and *Tarik Roukny (KU Leuven)*

Consumer Theory with Network Effects (2017), joint with *Yann Bramoullè (AMSE)*

Justification of Whistleblowing: a game-theoretic approach (2017), joint with *Manohar Kumar (IIIT Delhi)*