Simone Paci, PhD

simone.paci@columbia.edu • https://simonepaci.github.io/ • (+1) 203-503-4100 • 200 West 119th Street, Apt #6, New York, NY 10026

EDUCATION:

Columbia University, New York, NY (2017-2023)
Ph.D., in Political Science, concentration in Comparative Political Economy and Quantitative Methodology

Yale University, New Haven, CT (2013-2017)
B.A. in Economics and Political Science, Summa cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Departmental Honors

EXPERIENCE:

Postdoctoral Research Affiliate, Princeton University (2023 – ongoing)
- Performed independent social science research, expanding on the research agenda from my doctoral work.

Doctoral University Researcher, Columbia University (2017 – 2023)
- Developed five end-to-end quantitative studies, formulating novel hypotheses and empirical designs.
- Designed and fielded 4 surveys in Italy, Slovakia, and the US with over 5000 combined respondents.
- Managed 15 research assistants across four data collection projects.
- Solved complex causal inference problems with advanced statistical methods.
- Joined over 15 international academic conferences and seminars, presenting original work, leading panels as chairman or discussant, and organizing workgroups with fellow top researchers in the field.
- Submitted successful grant applications and obtained over $50,000 in competitive research funding.
- Analyzed large datasets (+1M), cleaning and merging data from diverse sources (historical and contemporary census data, existing surveys, government budget and electoral data).

Data Science Consultant, Encore Group Consulting (2023 – ongoing)
- Analyzed over 60,000 project schedules, employing advanced econometric techniques such as lasso regularization, to assess which factors contribute to project success, and created narrative reports for clients.
- Developed a predictive model for construction delays, integrating machine-learning analysis with qualitative insights from industry experts, and produced a novel schedule control tool for clients.

MA Program Tutor, Columbia University (2021)
- Mentored 40 MA students on their thesis projects, advising on their research questions and data designs.
- Assisted MA students sharpen their writing skills, argument coherence, and essay structure.

Instructor, Columbia University (2017 – 2023)
- Taught two coding-based undergraduate courses in quantitative research methods.
- Designed and taught two undergraduate seminars on the politics of the European Union.
- Led undergraduate discussion sections in political science and history courses.
- Trained in research-based teaching, centered around learning objectives and active student engagement.

SELECTED RESEARCH:

Solo-Authored Projects
- *"Tax Thy Neighbor: How Italian Mayors Increase Taxes in their Hometowns"* (under peer review) Assembled large time-series (160k data-point) of over 700 local public finance, political, and socioeconomic indicators; conducted a survey with 2000 respondents; led a team of 10 assistants to build an original database of over 3000 electoral manifestos; performed advanced statistical analyses, including regression discontinuity design, difference-in-difference, and text analysis.

- *"(A)Voiding the Fiscal Contract: How Evasion by the Rich Constrains Redistribution*" (under peer review)
Conducted a novel survey experiment with 2000 respondents, combining an informational treatment with a conjoint design; developed novel survey questionnaire to measure individuals' policy beliefs and preferences.
- *"Filling the Tax Gap: How Private Donations Compensate a Faltering Fiscal Contract"* (Working paper)
Assembled large time-series (+36k data-points) of over 200 public finance, political, and local business indicators; conducted a survey experiment with 2000 respondents; performed advanced statistical analyses.
- *"Does ChatGPT Make for A Good Research Assistant?"* (work in progress, won seed grant)
Developed an automated web-scraping, event-extraction algorithm based on ChatGPT API; supervised a team of research assistants to build a human-coded training dataset.

Multi-Authored Projects
- *"To Privatize or To Centralize: How Economic and Political Incentives Affect Local Tax Collection Strategies"* (with Silvia Vannutelli, Northwestern University)
- *"Justice and Taxes After War: How Wartime Experiences of Informal Taxation and Violence Interact with Transitional Justice in Shaping Post-Conflict State-Building"* (With Monika Nalepa, University of Chicago)
- *"The Mayor's Daughter: Reverse Socialization in a Patriarchal Society"* (With Beatrice Montano and Chiara Superti, Columbia University)
- *"Status-Seeking and Nation-Building: The Piedmont Principle Revised."* (with Nicholas Sambanis, Yale University, and William Wohlforth, Darthmouth College) (Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 2020)

SELECTED AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS:
- Research Fellowship, Digital Data for the Social Sciences Institute, Princeton University (2023)
- Philip E Mosely Fellowship in Political Science, Columbia University (2019, 2022, 2023)
- C. Lowell Harriss Dissertation Fellowship, Lincoln Institute for Land Policy (2022)
- HSF Research Fellowship, Institute of Humane Studies (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021)

SELECTED CONFERENCES & INVITED TALKS:
- CLEAN Research Seminar, Bocconi University (Invited Talk, 2023)
- American Political Science Association Conference (2021-23)
- European Political Science Association Conference (2021-2023)
- Northeast Workshop on Empirical Political Science (2022)

SKILLS:
Analytical
Causal Inference | Statistical Analysis | Mixed-Methods | Survey Design | Presentation | Scientific Writing
Coding
R | Python | Stata | SQL | QGIS | Qualtrics | GitHub | Excel
Languages
Italian (native) | English (native) | French (proficient) | German (intermediate)

OTHER:
Volunteering
Read Ahead, mentoring of public elementary school students in Harlem
Statistics Without Borders, providing pro-bono statistical work to global non-profits
Passions
Hiking | Running | Chess | Political Podcasts | Cooking Mushroom Risotto