



Collegio Carlo Alberto

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO



## Rigorous Impact Evaluation in Europe

A Research Conference in Honor of Alberto Martini

May 20-22, 2018  
Collegio Carlo Alberto  
Torino, Italy

### Organizing Committee:

*Gian Paolo Barbetta, Douglas Besharov, Daniela Del Boca,  
Elsa Fornero, Neil Gilbert, and Jacob Klerman*

### *Agenda*

**Sunday, May 20**

**19:30**

#### **Business Dinner**

Ristorante Solferino  
Piazza Solferino 3, Torino  
Hosted by Collegio Carlo Alberto

#### ***Welcome and Introductions***

*Douglas Besharov, University of Maryland and Atlantic Council  
Pietro Terna, Collegio Carlo Alberto  
David Myers, American Institutes for Research*

#### ***What Qualifies as Evidence for Policy?***

*Douglas Besharov, University of Maryland and Atlantic Council*

#### ***Open discussion***

**Monday, May 21**  
Room: Auditorium  
Collegio Carlo Alberto  
Piazza Arbarello 8, Torino

**9:00-10:40 Plenary Session**

9:00-9:10 ***Opening Remarks***

*Douglas Besharov*, University of Maryland and Atlantic Council

9:10-9:55 ***Rigorous Impact Evaluation: The Impact Assessment Office of the Italian Senate***

*Sen. Laura Bottici*, Questore del Senato della Repubblica

9:55-10:40 **Impact Evaluation at Cross-National Organizations**

***Policy Evaluation at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)***

*Stefano Scarpetta*, OECD

***Reactors: Massimiliano Bratti***, Competence Centre on Microeconomic Evaluation, European Commission and Università di Milano; and *Neil Gilbert*, University of California, Berkeley

**10:40-11:00 Coffee Break**

Room: Common Room

**11:00-12:30 Plenary Session**

11:00-11:45 ***Rigorous Impact Evaluation in Europe? Motives for Optimism and Reasons for Pessimism***

*Alberto Martini*, Università del Piemonte Orientale and Associazione per lo Sviluppo della Valutazione e l'Analisi delle Politiche Pubbliche (ASVAPP)

11:45-12:30 ***The International Audience for Policy Research Methods and Results***

*Jacob Klerman*, Abt Associates and editor, *Evaluation Review*  
(video link)

**12:30-14:00 Lunch**

Room: Common Room

***Better, Quicker, Cheaper Impact Evaluations to Inform Public Policy and Improve Practice: Lessons (for Europe) from Half a Century of Experience in the United States***

Rebecca Maynard, University of Pennsylvania

**14:00-15:20 Plenary Session**

**Systematic Reviews of Research to Build Knowledge and Advance Policy**

*Chair: David Myers, American Institutes for Research*

***The Four Waves of the Evidence Revolution: Lessons and Challenges for Research for Policy***

*Howard White, Campbell Collaboration (video link)*

***Federal Efforts to Build an Evidence Base on Teen Pregnancy Prevention in the United States***

*Amy Feldman Farb, US Department of Health and Human Services*

***(Meta-Evaluation)<sup>2</sup> – Or, What Can We Learn from Meta-Evaluations and Systematic Reviews?***

*Stefan Silvestrini, Center for Evaluation*

**15:20-16:40 Parallel Panels I**

**Panel 1: Workforce Development**

Room: Classroom 2

*Chair: Stephen Bell, Westat*

***Does Federally-Funded Job Training Work? Non-Experimental Estimates of WIA Training Impacts Using Longitudinal Data on Workers and Firms***

*Jeffrey Smith, University of Wisconsin*

***Lower Caseload of Placement Officers and Unemployment Outcomes: New Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial***

*Helmut Mahringer, Austrian Institute of Economic Research*

***“Private Good, Public Bad?” Delivering UK Employment Programmes for Disabled People***

*Bruce Stafford, University of Nottingham*

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**Panel 2: Employment Protection and Contracts**

Room: Classroom 3

*Chair: Lia Pacelli, Università di Torino*

***Employment Protection, Temporary Contracts and Firm-Provided Training:  
Evidence from Italy***

*Massimiliano Bratti, Competence Centre on Microeconomic Evaluation,  
European Commission and Università di Milano*

***Young In, Old Out? Evidence from a Reform***

*Chiara Ardito, Università di Torino*

***Employment Protection Legislation and Mismatch: Evidence from a Reform***

*Fabio Berton, Università di Torino*

**16:40-17:00 Coffee Break**

Room: Common Room

**17:00-18:20 Parallel Panels II**

**Panel 3: Welfare Policies and Unemployment**

Room: Classroom 2

*Chair: Elsa Fornero, Università di Torino*

***The Impact of Welfare Reform on Single Parent Employment in the UK (2008-2014)***

*Anthony Rafferty, Work and Equalities Institute, Alliance Manchester Business School*

***Disability Status and Long-Term Employment Outcomes: The Case of Italian Injured Workers***

*Lia Pacelli, Università di Torino*

***Conditional Cash Transfers and Family Well-Being***

*Chiara Pronzato, Università di Torino and Collegio Carlo Alberto*

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**Panel 4: Elementary/Primary Education**

Room: Classroom 3

*Chair: Barbara Romano, ASVAPP*

***Financial Literacy and Saving Attitudes of Primacy School Children: The Joint Effect of Formal Training and Domestic Financial Education***

*Flavia Coda Moscarola, Compagnia di San Paolo and Collegio Carlo Alberto*

***Parental Love is Not Blind***

*Ainhoa Aparicio Fenoll, Collegio Carlo Alberto*

***High Dosage Math Tutoring in Rotterdam: A Randomization SAGA***

*Mario Maggioni, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*

*Domenico Rossignoli, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*

**19:45**

**Business Dinner**

Circolo dei Lettori

Via Bogino 9, Torino

Hosted by Collegio Carlo Alberto

**Tuesday, May 22**  
Room: Auditorium  
Collegio Carlo Alberto  
Piazza Arbarello 8, Torino

**9:30-11:05 Plenary Session**

9:30-9:35 ***Opening Remarks***

*Douglas Besharov*, University of Maryland and Atlantic Council

9:35-10:20 ***The Implications of Heterogeneity for Internal and External Validity***

*Jeffrey Smith*, University of Wisconsin

10:20-11:05 ***Regional Economic Development Policies: A Second Look at Discontinuity Designs***

*Daniele Bondonio*, Università del Piemonte Orientale

**11:05-11:20 Coffee Break**

Room: Common Room

**11:20-12:40 Parallel Panels III**

**Panel 5: Challenges and Strategies for Evaluating Policies Targeting Refugees and Migrants**

Room: Classroom 2

*Chair: David Seidenfeld*, American Institutes for Research

***The Impact of Multimedia Toolkits on Refugee and Vulnerable Host Populations: Evidence from Jordan***

*Thomas de Hoop*, American Institutes for Research

***Economic Transfers and Social Cohesion in a Refugee Hosting Setting***

*Elsa Valli*, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

***No Lost Generation: Supporting the School Participation of Displaced Syrian Children in Lebanon***

*Jacobus de Hoop*, UNICEF, *Mitchell Morey*, American Institutes for Research, and *David Seidenfeld*, American Institutes for Research (presenting)

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**Panel 6: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education**

Room: Classroom 3

*Chair: Daniela Del Boca, Università di Torino and Collegio Carlo Alberto*

*Testing a Social Innovation that Provides Financial Aid to Low-Income Students: Lessons from an EU-Funded Randomised Controlled Trial Conducted in Italy*

*Barbara Romano, ASVAPP*

*Repetita Iuvant? Lessons from Repeated RCTs on the Effectiveness of a Teacher Professional Development Program*

*Gianluca Argentin, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*

*Let's Tweet Again? Social Networks and Grades in Literature of High School Students. Results of a Randomized Controlled Trial*

*Gian Paolo Barbetta, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*

**12:40-14:00 Lunch**

Room: Common Room

**14:00-15:45 Plenary Session**

14:00-14:45 *Difficulties in Cross-National Generalizability of Education Evaluations*  
*Eric Hanushek, Stanford University*

14:45-15:45 **Addressing Cross-National Generalizability in Impact Evaluation**

*Chair: Eric Hanushek, Stanford University*

*External Validity Bias in Cross-National Generalization of Findings from Experimental Impact Evaluations: Causes, Consequences, and Cures*

*Stephen Bell, Westat*

*Regional Programme Evaluation: Challenges and Perspectives*

*Guido de Blasio, Banca d'Italia*

**15:45-16:00 Coffee Break**

Room: Common Room

**16:00-17:00 Parallel Panels IV**

**Panel 7: Economic Growth/Development**

Room: Classroom 2

*Chair: Douglas Call, University of Maryland*

***Does EU Enterprise Support Boost High Quality Jobs? Evidence from Linked Employer-Employee Microdata and Natural-Experiment Conditions***

*Daniele Bondonio, Università del Piemonte Orientale*

***Broadband Diffusion and Firm Performance in Rural Areas: Quasi-Experimental Evidence***

*Giulia Canzian, Competence Centre on Microeconomic Evaluation, European Commission*

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**Panel 8: Issues and Approaches to Conducting Rigorous Impact Evaluation in Europe**

Room: Classroom 3

*Chair: Jeffrey Smith, University of Wisconsin*

***Counterfactual Impact Evaluation and Policy: Challenges Revisited***

*Rahel Kahlert, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research*

***Achieving Rigorous Impact Evaluation Through Conceptual Clarity and Coherence***

*Alison Wells, University of Cambridge*

**17:00-17:15 Plenary Session**

***Concluding Remarks and Post-Conference Publication Plans***

*Douglas Besharov, University of Maryland and Atlantic Council*

*Alberto Martini, Università del Piemonte Orientale and ASVAPP*

*Note: Anyone wishing to attend the meetings must register in advance (and pay the 100 USD fee) at <https://www.usmf.org/events/rigorous-impact-evaluation-in-europe-torino-conference/>. When entering information in the “country” field, please enter the English translation (e.g., Italy instead of Italia). Registration for non-participants does not include dinner invitations.*

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