



## **Rigorous Impact Evaluation in Europe**

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*

*DRAFT Agenda*

**Sunday, May 20**

19:30

### **Business Dinner**

Ristorante Solferino  
Hosted by Collegio Carlo Alberto

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

*Douglas J. Besharov, University of Maryland and Atlantic Council*  
*Pietro Terna, Collegio Carlo Alberto (TBC)*  
*David Myers, American Institutes for Research (to be invited)*

### **Rigorous Impact Evaluation: The Impact Assessment Office of the Italian Senate**

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

### ***Open discussion***

**Monday, May 21**

- 9:00-9:10 **Opening Remarks**  
*Douglas J. Besharov*, University of Maryland and Atlantic Council
- 9:10-9:55 **Impact Evaluation at Cross-National Organizations**  
  
***Policy Evaluation at the OECD***  
*Stefano Scarpetta*, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development  
  
***Reactors: Massamiliano Bratti***, Competence Centre on Microeconomic Evaluation, European Commission and Università di Milano; and *Neil Gilbert*, University of California, Berkeley (invited)
- 9:55-10:40 **The International Audience for Policy Research Methods and Results**  
*Jacob Klerman*, Abt Associates and Editor, *Evaluation Review* (video link)
- 10:40-11:00 **Coffee Break**
- 11:00-11:45 **Rigorous Impact Evaluation in Europe? Motives for Optimism and Reasons for Pessimism**  
*Alberto Martini*, Università del Piemonte Orientale
- 11:45-12:30 **Impact Evaluation without a(n) (Expressed) Counterfactual**  
*Douglas J. Besharov*, University of Maryland and Atlantic Council
- 12:30-14:00 **Lunch**
- 14:00-15:20 **Systematic Reviews**  
  
***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**

*Chair: Stephen H. 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*

\* \* \*

**Panel 2: Elementary/Primary Education**

*Chair: Daniela del Boca, Università di Torino and Collegio Carlo Alberto (invited)*

*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*

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

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

**Panel 3: Welfare Policies and Unemployment**

*Chair: Elsa Fornero, Università di Torino (invited)*

***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

\* \* \*

**Panel 4: Employment Protection and Contracts**

***Chair:*** *Lia Pacelli*, Università di Torino (invited)

***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

19:45

**Business Dinner**

Circolo dei Lettori

Hosted by Collegio Carlo Alberto

***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

Tuesday, May 22

- 9:30-9:35 **Opening**  
*Douglas J. 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**
- 11:20-12:40 **Parallel Panels III**

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

*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)

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

*Chair: Douglas Call*, University of Maryland

***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*, Associazione per lo Sviluppo della Valutazione e l'Analisi delle Politiche Pubbliche (ASVAPP)

***Repetita Luvant? 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**

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 (invited)*

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

*Stephen H. Bell, Westat*

***Regional Programme Evaluation: Challenges and Perspectives***

*Guido de Blasio, Banca d'Italia*

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

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

**Panel 7: Economic Growth/Development**

*Chair: Helmut Mahringer, Austrian Institute of Economic Research (tentative)*

***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*

\* \* \*

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

*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 **///??Abbreviated panel to conclude**

An activity of the University System of Maryland Foundation

