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**Doctoral Studies:**

Ph.D. in Economics, Brown University, 2018

Thesis Title: “Essays in Comparative Development and Political Economy”

References:

Professor Oded Galor  
Department of Economics  
Brown University  
401-451-7346,  
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Professor Stylianos Michalopoulos  
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Professor David Weil  
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Department of Economics  
Southern Methodist University  
214-768-2755,  
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**Pre-doctoral Studies:**

M.A., Brown University, Economics, 2013

M.Sc., University of Naples Federico II, Economics and Finance, *With Honors*, 2010

M.A., University of Naples Federico II, Economics and Finance, *Magna Cum Laude*, 2009

B.A., University of Naples Federico II, Economics, 2007

**Appointments:**

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Naples Federico II, Department of Economics and Statistics, 2018-

**Teaching and Research Fields:**

Economic Growth and Development, Economic History, Macroeconomics, Political Economy

**Teaching Experience:**

Instructor

Summer, 2016 Introduction to Macroeconomics, Brown University

Summer, 2015 Introduction to Macroeconomics, Brown University

Teaching Assistant

Spring, 2018 Economic Development and Social Change, Brown U., TA for Prof. Paget Henry

Spring, 2017	Intermediate Microeconomics, Brown U., TA for Prof. D. Brenner
Fall, 2016	Intermediate Macroeconomics, Brown U., TA for Prof. G. Siourounis
Spring, 2016	Intermediate Macroeconomics, Brown U., TA for Prof. Assaf Sarid
Fall, 2015	Theory of Economic Growth, Brown U., TA for Prof. Oded Galor
Spring, 2015	Topics in Macroeconomics, Development and International Economics, Brown U., TA for Professor Joaquin Blaum
Spring, 2014	Intermediate Macroeconomics, Brown U., TA for Prof. Neil Mehrotra
Fall, 2013	Intermediate Macroeconomics, Brown U., TA for Prof. Stelios Michalopoulos

### **Research Experience and Other Employment:**

November 2018	Visiting Scholar, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Summer, 2014	Research Assistant for Professor Oded Galor, Brown University
2011 - 2012	Visiting Research Fellow, Brown University
2010 - 2011	Einaudi Institute Economics and Finance (EIEF), Rome, Italy, Visiting Fellow

### **Professional Activities**

Referee for *Journal of Economic Growth*, *Journal of International Trade & Economic Development*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*

Macro Lunch Seminar Coordinator, Brown University, 2015  
Conference discussant: NEUDC 2017; ASREC 2017 Boston.

### **Research Presentations** *(includes scheduled)*

2018:	Econometric Society European Winter Meeting; University of Copenhagen Workshop; Lund University; University of Southern Denmark Workshop; ASE Economic History Workshop (Milan); CEPR Conference Tel Aviv University; New Economic School Moscow; University of Groningen; University of Naples Federico II; Universidad de Los Andes (Colombia).
2017:	NEUDC 2017 Tufts; Brown University Macroeconomics Seminar; Parthenope University; UNISA; Deep-Rooted Factors in Comparative Development Conference Brown; Warwick University Ph.D. Conference; ASREC 2017 Boston.
2016:	Macro Lunch Seminar, Brown University
2015:	Macro Lunch Seminar, Brown University
2014:	Capri Summer School in Economic Growth, Italy; UNISA
2012:	Summer School in Economic Growth, Ascea, Italy; ACDD Conference Strasbourg; Macro Lunch Seminar, Brown University

### **Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:**

2017-2018	Interdisciplinary Opportunity Fellowship, Watson Institute, Brown University
2015	Best Third-Year Paper Prize, Economics Department, Brown University
2014	Honors in field examination, Economics Department, Brown University
2012-2017	Graduate School Fellowship, Economics Department, Brown University
2011	Visiting Fellowship, Einaudi Institute Economics and Finance (EIEF)
2010-2012	Graduate Studies Fellowship, University of Salerno
2010	Antoine Faure-Grimaud Prize, University of Naples Federico II

### **Research:**

#### **Agricultural Policy and Long-Run Development: Evidence from Mussolini's *Battle for Grain***

#### **Abstract:**

This paper explores the effect of agricultural policies on industrialization and economic development over

the long run. I analyze the differential effect of the *Battle for Grain*, implemented by the Italian Fascist regime to achieve self-sufficiency in wheat production, on the development path across areas of Italy. Employing time variation, along with cross-sectional variation in the suitability of land for implementing the advanced wheat production technologies, I find that the policy had unintended positive effects on industrialization and economic prosperity which have persisted until the present day. Furthermore, I find that the positive effect of the *Battle for Grain* on human capital accumulation was instrumental in this process, suggesting that the complementarity between human capital and agricultural technology may be a critical mechanism through which agricultural productivity may enhance the development of non-agricultural sectors.

### ***Fascistville: Mussolini's New Towns and the Persistence of Neo-Fascism***

#### **Abstract:**

This paper investigates whether public spending may have persistent positive effects on popular support. I explore the foundation of Mussolini's New Towns (*Città di Fondazione*) in Fascist Italy, a major infrastructure investment which played a central role in the fascist propaganda. Employing municipality-level data before and after the intervention and a novel "discontinuity-in-differences" design, I show that the Fascist New Towns enhanced the electoral support for the Fascist Party, favoring the emergence of the Regime. Furthermore, I document a positive link between the New Towns and the electoral support for the Neo-Fascist Party in the post-WWII period, which persisted until the present day. Using individual survey data, I show that respondents near the Fascist New Towns built 70 years ago currently display political attitudes in line with the fascist ideology. Results are robust to controlling for the geographic conditions that induced the location of the New Towns, migration patterns, and socioeconomic differences. Furthermore, I find no spurious effect of the New Towns that were planned but not built. The findings suggest that public spending may have long-lasting effects on political and cultural attitudes, which persist across major institutional changes.

### **Human Capital Distribution and the Transition from Stagnation to Growth**

#### **Abstract:**

This research argues that differences in the distribution of human capital across countries and their impact on the advancement and the adoption of technology contributed to the differential timing of the transition from the Malthusian stagnation to modern growth and the persistent differences in income per capita across the globe. Polarization in the distribution of human capital within an economy implied a trade-off between innovation and adoption of technologies that determined the transition from stagnation to growth. Despite the contribution of the upper tail of the human capital distribution to technological innovation, the absence of wide group of educated individuals among the working population delayed technology adoption and the transition from stagnation to growth.