

# Sergiu Burlacu

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*Last updated: October, 2022*

CONTACT INFORMATION Via Santa Croce 77 +39 0461 312292  
Fondazione Bruno Kessler  
Research Institute for the Evaluation of Public Policies (FBK-IRVAPP)  
Trento, 38122, Italy sburlacu@irvapp.it

RESEARCH STATEMENT My current main research interests are social inclusion, micro-firm behaviour and industrial policies, the role of AI in education and other domains, behavioural public policy, causal inference applied to education and labour market policies

INTERESTS Behavioral Public Policy, Human Capital Formation, Social Inclusion, Family Economics, Psychology of Poverty, Firm Behavior and Innovation, Causal Inference, Economic Behavior of Children

EDUCATION **PhD in Development Economics** *Nov 2016 - Apr 2020*  
Doctoral School of Social Sciences, Universities of Trento and Florence  
Thesis: *Poverty, Violence and human capital formation*  
Supervisor: Prof. Gabriella Berloffia

**MA in Economics** *Aug 2012 - Jun 2014*  
Department of Economics, Central European University, Budapest  
Thesis: *The impact of early childhood parental investment on human capital formation*  
Supervisor: Prof. Gabor Kezdi

**BA in Economics** *Sep 2009 - Jun 2012*  
Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest  
Thesis: *Regional disparities in the European Union*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE **Research Fellow** *Oct 2019 - present*  
Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Research Institute for the Evaluation of Public Policies (FBK-IRVAPP), Trento

**Researcher/Evaluator** *Jan 2019 - Dec 2021*  
Fondazione punto.sud, Milan  
*El Salvador: Social inclusion and violence prevention project*

**Researcher** *Sep 2015 - Jun 2016*  
Centre for Behavioural Studies, Bucharest

**Research Associate** *Apr - June 2013*  
World Bank  
*Early childhood parenting RCT in Slovakia*

**Research Assistant** *Apr 2013 - June 2014*  
Research Assistant to Professor Gabor Kezdi

**Intern** *May - Jun 2012*  
National Institute for Economic Research, Romanian Academy, Bucharest

RESEARCH **Academic Publications**  
Burlacu, S., Kažemekaitytė, A., Ronzani, P., Savadori, L. (2022). Blinded by worries: sin taxes and demand for temptation under financial worries. *Theory and Decision*, 92(1), 141-187.

**Policy Reports**  
European Commission, DG-EMPL, Bazoli, N., Burlacu, S., Fiorio, C., et al. (2022). Study on distributional impact assessment. Publications Office of the European Union.

European European Commission, DG-EMPL, Chiattelli, C., Abbasciano, C., Schizzerotto, A., et al. (2022). Study assessing the implementation of the pilot action on the EU Disability Card

and associated benefits. Publications Office of the European Union.

Schizzerotto, A., Bazoli, N., Burlacu, S. (2020). Continuous professional development, professional capabilities and innovative teaching practices among European teachers. A second level analysis of TALIS 2018 data set. European Schoolnet.

### Chapters in Books

Microeconomie si comportament [EN: Microeconomics and Behavior] in Catalina Rosca and Andrei Vladucu (Eds) "Teorii ale deciziei. Perspective psiho-economice" [EN: "Decision Theories. Psycho-economic Perspectives"], *Editura Universitara*, Bucharest: 208-242

### Working Papers

The Preoccupied Parent: How Financial Concerns affect Child Investment Choices (with Anandi Mani, Piero Ronzani and Lucia Savadori) - Under Review

The Effect of Temporary Employment on Labour Market Outcomes (with Daniela Piazzalunga and Enrico Rettore) - new draft in progress

Determinants of Prosocial Behaviors during Childhood: Evidence from El Salvador (with Jacopo Bonan, Arianna Galliera) - new draft available soon

Recalling Violence Exposure and Cognitive Function among Primary School Students in El Salvador (with Jacopo Bonan, Arianna Galliera) - new draft available soon

### Selected work in progress

Seeing through other senses: the impact of a perspective-taking intervention in upper secondary school on attitudes and behaviors towards persons with visual impairment (with Davide Azolini, Federico Podesta) - first draft in progress

Reducing the summer learning loss in primary school among pupils at risk (with Davide Azolini, Martina Bazzoli, Enrico Rettore and others)

Evaluation of a re-industrialization programme in the Lazio Region (with Nicola Bazoli, Andrea Bonaccorsi, Alessio Tomelleri and others)

The Determinants of the Take-up of Public Support Programmes during the COVID-19 pandemic among micro-enterprises (with Andrea Bonaccorsi, Alessio Tomelleri and others)

TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE

**Tutor** *2022*  
Econometric methods for the evaluation of public policies (for INPS employees): Synthetic Differences-in-Differences

**Tutor** *2021 - present*  
FBK-IRVAPP Advanced School: Synthetic Differences-in-Differences

**Tutor** *2020 - 2021*  
FBK-IRVAPP Basic School: Experimental Design, Differences-in-differences, Regression Discontinuity Design and Synthetic Control

**Tutor - Stata for PhD Students** *Sep - Dec 2018*  
Doctoral School of Social Sciences, University of Trento

**Agricultural Economics Teaching Assistant** *Mar - June 2017*  
Master of Science in Economics and Development, University of Florence  
Course of Professor Donato Romano

**Tutor - Economics and Econometrics** *Dec 2013 - Jun 2014*  
Roma Graduate Preparation Program, Central European University, Budapest

AWARDS

PhD Scholarship, Universities of Trento and Florence *2016 - 2019*

MA Fellowship, Central European University, Budapest *2012 - 2014*

Alumni Scholarship, Central European University, Budapest 2012 - 2013

Special Prize Winner at the Scientific Research Session with the paper "Regional Disparities in the European Union", Faculty of Economics, Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest 2013

BA Fellowship, Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies 2009 - 2012

Best Student Prize, Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies 2010

CONFERENCES  
PRESENTATIONS

2022: ERMAS 2022 - Annual Scientific Conference of Romanian Academic Economists from Abroad, Babe-Bolyai University, Cluj

2022: "Evaluation of ESIF interventions in Europe. Between tradition and innovation", Bucharest

2021: ERMAS 2021 - Annual Scientific Conference of Romanian Academic Economists from Abroad, University of Sibiu 2018: Online experiments Quick? Cheap? Valid?", University of Zurich

2018: Online experiments Quick? Cheap? Valid?, University of Zurich

2018: "11th JDMx Meeting for Early Career Researchers", University of Konstanz

2017: "Joint PhD Workshop", Universities of Trento and Bamberg

2016: "Joint PhD Workshop", Universities of Trento and Bamberg

ORGANIZED  
CONFERENCES

2019: "12th JDMx Meeting for Early Career Researchers", University of Trento

TRAINING

2018: IRVAPP Winter School 2018 Advanced Methods for Impact Evaluation, Trento.

2017: Sixteenth Summer School in International and Development Economics, Gargnano

2017: Summer School in Development Economics, Prato

2017: IRVAPP Winter School 2017 Fundamentals and Methods for Impact Evaluation of Public Policies, Venice

2017: World Bank Impact Evaluation Training, Balaton

OTHER  
QUALIFICATIONS

**Data Analysis:** R, Stata

**Survey and Experimental Design:** oTree, surveyCTO, Google Forms

**General Programming:** Python

**Web Design:** HTML, Javascript, R-shiny, Rmarkdown, Wordpress

**Network Analysis:** Payek, Gephi, Cytoscape

**Agent Based Modelling:** Netlogo

**Word Processing:** Rmarkdown, LaTeX, Microsoft Word

**Language:** English(Fluent, C2), Italian (Advanced, C1), Spanish (Intermediate, B1), German (Basic, A1), Romanian(Native)

REFERENCES

**Prof. Lucia Savadori**  
Department of Economics and Management  
University of Trento  
Via Inama 5  
38122, Trento, Italy  
lucia.savadori@unitn.it

**Prof. Enrico Rettore**  
Department of Economics and Management,  
University of Padua  
Via del Santo, 33  
35123, Padova, Italy  
enrico.rettore@unipd.it