

MARCO LO FASO

6365 W 6th St, 90048 Los Angeles (CA) || +1 (213) 573-9633 || lofaso@usc.edu

EDUCATION

University of Southern California Los Angeles, CA Ph.D. in Economics	Aug 2021 - May 2027 (expected)
Harvard University Cambridge, MA Visiting Ph.D. Student, Department of Economics	Aug 2025 - July 2026
Bocconi University Milan, ITA M.Sc. in Public Policy and Political Economy	Sept 2016 - March 2019
Bocconi University Milan, ITA B.Sc. in Economics	Sept 2013 - Sept 2016

RESEARCH FIELDS

Applied Microeconomics, Spatial Economics, Political Economy

RESEARCH

“The Geography of Protests: Spatial Fragmentation, Mobilization and Backlash in the George Floyd Movement”

- *Abstract* This paper studies how urban geography shapes protest dynamics and voting behavior. I geocode 5,785 George Floyd protest events and document significant spatial fragmentation in major American cities: protests take place simultaneously at multiple venues within the same city. Combining these geocoded sites with mobile phone location data, I measure foot traffic flows between neighborhoods and protest venues at the census-tract level. I then estimate the downstream effects on political outcomes, exploiting differences in protest exposure and participation across neighborhoods within the same metropolitan area. The results show a localized backlash: neighborhoods within one kilometer of protest sites experience significant increases in Republican vote share, with effects that decay rapidly with distance and are amplified by violence. However, a countervailing mobilization channel operates through direct participation: neighborhoods whose residents visited protest areas saw increased Democratic vote share and higher turnout, even after controlling for local exposure. Taken together, the results show that protest fragmentation—shaped by urban structure—expands both participation and exposure, generating offsetting political effects whose balance depends on the spatial organization of protest within cities. On net, participation effects dominate backlash, but the coexistence of the two mechanisms helps explain why mass protests can both energize supporters and intensify polarization.

“The Labor Market Returns to Religious Networks: Evidence from Uganda” (with Aruj Shukla)

“Selfish Parents: Children Migration, Schooling Investment and Political Preferences”

EXPERIENCE

University of Southern California <i>Research Assistant for professor Augustin Bergeron</i>	May 2023 - Dec 2023
Pompeu Fabra University Barcelona, ESP <i>Research Assistant for professor Ruben Durante</i>	Sept 2020 - Aug 2021
Bocconi University Milan, ITA <i>Research Assistant for professor Vincenzo Galasso</i>	Sept 2019 - Aug 2020
European Central Bank Frankfurt, GER <i>Research Intern</i>	Jan 2019 - Aug 2019
European Commission Brussels, BEL <i>Economic Analyst</i>	Aug 2017 - Apr 2018

ACADEMIC WORK, EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

Teaching Assistant, University of Southern California <i>ECON 318 – Introduction to Econometrics – Italo Lopez Garcia (undergraduate)</i> <i>ECON 436 – Political Economy and Economic Development – Augustin Bergeron (undergraduate)</i> <i>ECON 305 – Intermediate Macroeconomics – Jaime Meza (undergraduate)</i> <i>ECON 501 – Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy – Jaime Meza (master)</i>	Sept 2022 - May 2024
Teaching Assistant, Pompeu Fabra University <i>Public Economics – Ruben Durante (undergraduate)</i>	Sept 2020 - Aug 2021
Teaching Assistant, INSEAD <i>Public Policy – Ruben Durante (MBA)</i>	Sept 2020 - Aug 2021
Teaching Assistant, Bocconi University <i>Welfare and Politics – Vincenzo Galasso (master)</i> <i>Economics of European Integration – Carlo Altomonte (master)</i> <i>Political Economics – Vincenzo Galasso (undergraduate)</i> <i>European Economic Policy – Carlo Altomonte (undergraduate)</i>	Sept 2019 - Aug 2020
ACES Summer School in Political Economy, UC Berkeley	Aug 2023
Summer School in Economics of Migration, Global Migration Center UC Davis	Sept 2024
Co-organizer – Southern California Graduate Conference in Applied Economics, USC	Oct 2023

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Lusk Research Center for Real Estate (for “The Geography of Protests”): \$15,000.00
 Dan James Fellowship (for “The Geography of Protests”): \$40,000.00
 Weiss Fund Research Grant (for “The Labor Market Returns to Religious Networks”): \$5,000.00
 USC Summer Research Award (x3): \$4,000.00

MISCELLANEOUS

Programming Skills: Python, R, Stata, Matlab
Languages: Italian, English
Other: Citizenship: Italian, Visa Holder: F1 (USA)

REFERENCES

Thomas Chaney (Chair)
 John Elliott Chair in Economics and Professor of Economics
 Department of Economics
 University of Southern California
 thomas.chaney@usc.edu

Augustin Bergeron
 Assistant Professor of Economics
 Department of Economics
 Harvard University
 abergeron@fas.harvard.edu

Jorge De La Roca
 Associate Professor of Economics
 Sol Price School of Public Policy
 University of Southern California
 jdelaroc@usc.edu

Jeff Weaver
 Assistant Professor of Economics
 Department of Economics
 University of Southern California
 jbweaver@usc.edu