Brais Álvarez Pereira

Ph.D. Candidate – European University Institute, Economics Department

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Research fields: Development, Experimental and Organizational Economics, Networks

Placement Officer: David K. Levine, david.levine@eui.eu, +39 0554685913

Interview availability: EEA meeting in Naples – December 6-7, 2018
SAEe meeting in Madrid – December 13-15, 2018
ASSA meeting in Atlanta – January 4-6, 2019

Education

Ph.D. in Economics – European University Institute 2017
Committee: Andrea Mattozzi, Andrea Ichino, Marco Casari, Stefano Gagliarducci
Thesis: Essays in Social Economics
M.Res. in Economics – European University Institute 2012

M.Sc. in Economics – London School of Economics (with Merit) 2011
B.Sc. in Maths, Statistics and Economics – University of Strathclyde (1st Hon.) 2010

References

- **Professor Andrea Mattozzi**, European University Institute, andrea.mattozzi@eui.eu
- **Professor Andrea Ichino**, European University Institute, andrea.ichino@eui.eu
- **Professor Marco Casari**, University of Bologna, marco.casari@unibo.it
- **Robin Sherbourne**, Head of the ODI Fellowship Scheme r.sherbourne@odi.org.uk

Publications

- Waving goodbye? The determinants of autonomism and secessionism in Western Europe, *with M. Portos and J. Vourdas*, Regional Studies 52.2 (2018), 197-211.
- Impact of Economic Structure and Policy on Poverty Incidence and Distribution, with T.J. Correia, F. Y. Kumah and B. Na Salú, IMF, Guinea-Bissau Selected Issues (2017), chapter 4.
- The Best of Both Worlds: Developing Equation-Based Models into Agent-Based Models, *with Gräbner, C., Bale, C. S., Furtado, B. A, Gentile, J. E., Henderson, H., Lipari, F.* Computational Economics (2017): 1-20.
- Errata in "The Political Economy of the Kuznets Curve", *with B. Alves Furtado, C. Bale, J.E. Gentile, C. Gräbner, H. Henderson and F. Lipary*, Review of Development Economics 20.4 (2016): 817:819.
- Social Institutions and Economic Inequality: Modeling the onset of the Kuznets curve, *with C. Bale, B. Alves Furtado, J.E. Gentile, C. Gräbner, H. Henderson and F. Lipari*. Institute of Applied Economic Research (2015), Discussion Paper 204.

Research papers and work in progress

- Heterogeneous Expectations during Housing Bubbles, submitted.
- Protesting risk, private lies and the coordination of mass revolts, *with M. Portos*.
- The Cashew Economy, *with O. Melhado and S. Schaeber*.

Referee for academic journals

Complexity

Grants and Awards

- Thesis Completion Grant, EUI 2014/2015.
- Salvador de Madariaga full scholarship for the PhD in Economics, EUI, 2011/2014.
- Pedro Barrie de la Maza full Scholarship for the MSc. Economics at LSE, 2010.
- Top 10% of all undergraduates in the Economics department, university of Strathclyde 2010.

Work, Research and Teaching Experience

Bissau Economics Lab Guinea-Bissau
Founder, Director and Experiment Manager 5/2018 –

- Designed and directed the implementation of the first lab experiment developed in the country.
- Hired, trained and managed a team of 24 professionals, at the Universidad Lusófona da Guiné-Bissau.
- Founded the Bissau Economics Lab, with the ULG: http://bissaueconomicslab.weebly.com/

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction 12/2012-
Economist – Consultant

- Evaluate the adequacy of investment planning in the budget of Guinea-Bissau to the relevant Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies.

Overseas Development Institute / Ministry of Economy and Finance Guinea-Bissau
ODI Fellow / Economic Adviser 12/2016 –11/2018

- Led the design, implementation and analysis of three quantitative surveys on cashew nuts production in GB and a field study on the price of agricultural products in regional markets.
- Coordinated action between the Ministry of Finance and other institutions, frequently meeting the IMF, ADB, WB, EU, BCEAO, top government policy-makers and the private sector.
- Developed macroeconomic and fiscal forecasting models and started the Technical Report Series of the General Direction for Forecasting and Economic Studies, leading seven studies.

World Bank Guinea-Bissau
Short-term Consultant 11/2017- 12/2017

- Theoretical and empirical exploration of a targeting mechanism for the cash transfers of the 15 million US$ World Bank's Rural Community-Driven Development Project in Guinea-Bissau.

Lorenzo de Medici Institute Florence, Italy
University Lecturer 01/2016 – 05/2016

- Designed, taught and assessed a full undergraduate course on the Principles of Finance, combining lectures, problem sets, essays and presentations with an online trading simulator.

International Labour Organization Geneva, Switzerland
Economist (intern), Enterprises Unit 04/2014 – 10/2014

- Wrote the first draft of the Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises report on Nicaragua, identifying the strengths and weaknesses for the development of the private sector in the country.

University of Strathclyde Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom
Research Assistant for Professor Ernesto Estrada 05/2009 – 06/2009

Seminars and conferences

2018	*43rd SAEe conference (Madrid, Spain), ASSET 2018 (Florence, Italy); EUI Micro Working Group (Florence, Italy); Universidade Lusófona da Guiné-Bissau, Economics Department (Bissau);* EUI Job Market Seminar (Florence, Italy).
2017	University of Vigo, Economics department (Vigo, Spain).
2016	EUI Microeconometrics Working Group (Florence, Italy), Topics in Experimental Economics (Florence, Italy).
2015	University of Santiago de Compostela, Economics department (Santiago, Spain); 8th CIS-Harvard Summer Seminar on Political and Social Science Research (Boston, USA); Mastering Metrics: An Empirical Strategies Workshop (Ravello, Italy); EUI Political Behaviour Colloquium (Florence, Italy); INET YSI Paris, Workshop and Annual Conference (Paris, France); Graduate Network Conference 2015 (Florence, Italy).
2014	Santa Fe Institute, Complex Systems Summer School (Santa Fe, USA); EUI 3rd year forum (Florence, EUI); Graduate Network Conference 2014, Sciences Po (Paris, France).
2013	ASSET 2013 (Bilbao, Spain); 7th Competition Law and Economics European Network workshop (Bergen, Norway); Graduate Network Conference 2013, LSE (London, UK); 14th Mediterranean Research Meeting (Mersin, Turkey); EUI 2nd year forum (Florence, Italy); EUI Teaching Skills Week (Florence, Italy).
2012	EUI Micro Working Group (Florence, Italy); King's College, Third Annual Postgraduate Conference (London, UK).

Conference organization

Graduate Network Conference 2015*, EUI-SNS*, with L. Lundstend and E. Drapalova.

Computer skills

MATLAB, Stata, LaTeX (advanced), Mathematica, R, Python, GAMS (basic).

Languages

Galician, Spanish (Native), English, Portuguese, Italian (Fluent), French, Guinea-Bissau Creole (Basic).

Job Market Paper

Group size and the use of skills diversity in production *with Shan Aman-Rana*

In this paper we analyse the relationship between group size and the effect of skills diversity on workers' performance. We explore this link theoretically in a model with knowledge spillovers in production, which predicts that the effect of diversity on performance increases with group size. We test this hypothesis in a lab experiment in Guinea-Bissau. Nursing and Economics students solve an individual test twice, first in isolation and then communicating with other participants, in homogeneous and diverse groups of size two and four. The average gain in the number of correct answers between both tests is the same for a Nursing student in a homogeneous or a diverse small group. For Nursing students placed with an Economics student in a large group, this gain is twice the average gain for Nursing students in large homogeneous groups. We also provide evidence in support of this mechanism from a novel administrative dataset of tax collectors in the Pakistan Administrative Services. Using a policy requirement whereby 10% of the civil servants must come directly from the army to observe diversity, we find that having an ex-military colleague is associated with a larger performance for civilian tax collectors the larger the group in which the ex-military member is placed. Our findings indicate that group size plays a central role in determining both the dimension and the sign of the effect of skills diversity on performance.