

Elisabetta Gentile

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Growth and Development, Economic Policy, Environmental Economics.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Clinical Assistant Professor, Bauer College of Business, University of Houston, Spring 2012
Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant, University of Houston, Fall 2006-Fall 2011
Research Intern, Greenpeace Solutions, New York, Summer 2010
Financial Analyst, TechTeam Global, Brussels, Belgium, Sept. 2004 to May 2006
Trainee, European Commission, Directorate-General for Budget, Brussels, Belgium, 2004
Adviser and Junior Reporting Officer, Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, New York, 2003
Research Assistant, Regional Institute for Economic Programming of Tuscany (IRPET), Florence, Italy, 2002-2003

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Economics, University of Houston, December 2011.

Dissertation title: Essays on Policy Evaluation with Endogenous Adoption

Advisor: Prof. Dietrich Vollrath

Master of Arts, Economics, University of Houston, December 2007.

Master of Science, Financial Management, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark NJ, August 2002.

Laurea (master's equivalent), Economia delle Amministrazioni Pubbliche e delle Istituzioni Internazionali, Università degli Studi di Siena, Italy, February 2001.

Thesis title: Le Regioni in Europa. Livello di Governo o Articolazioni Socio-Economiche?

Advisor: Prof. Laura Ammannati

PUBLICATIONS

"Dressed for success? The effect of school uniforms on student achievement and behavior", forthcoming, *Journal of Urban Economics*

Abstract

Uniform use in public schools is rising, but we know little about how they affect students. Using a unique dataset from a large urban school district in the southwest United States, we assess how uniforms affect behavior, achievement and other outcomes. Each school in the district determines adoption independently, providing variation over schools and time. By including student and school fixed-effects we find evidence that uniform adoption improves attendance in secondary grades, while in elementary schools they generate large increases in teacher retention.

“Infrastrutture Minori e Sviluppo Locale: Quali Metodi di Valutazione? L’Esperienza del DOCUP Ob.2 Toscana”, Edizioni Regione Toscana, July 2004

WORKING PAPERS

“Intellectual Property Rights and Technology Adoption in Developing Countries: An Empirical Investigation”, *job market paper*

Abstract

The adoption of foreign technology is an important driver of productivity growth in the developing world, but the role of intellectual property (IP) rights in fostering technology adoption is theoretically not clear: strong IP rights may encourage technology transfer, by increasing the rent share that goes to the inventor; or they may make it more difficult for firms in developing countries to acquire foreign technology, by consolidating the monopoly power of patent holders.

In this paper I use a pooled cross-section of firms operating in 58 developing countries to estimate the impact of stronger IP protection on foreign technology licensing, allowing me to eliminate unobserved firm-level characteristics. I find that the relationship of IP protection and firm-level adoption of foreign technology is contingent on a country’s development stage: when I measure IP protection based on the legal framework, enacting stronger IP legislation has a positive effect only on the group of newly industrialized countries and transition economies, whereby a 1% increase in legal protection of intellectual property increases the probability of licensing foreign technology by over 20%. When I measure the enforcement of existing IP rights, I find that a 1% increase in enforcement decreases the probability of adopting foreign technology by roughly 10% for the pooled sample. Finally, I find that firm characteristics such as size, foreign ownership, imports, and exports are strong predictors of technology licensing status.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

“Induced Carbon-Saving Technological Change in Emerging Markets”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Economics of Globalization (INTB 3353), Spring 2012
Head Teaching Assistant, Economics of Globalization (INTB 3353), Fall 2011
Head Teaching Assistant, Economics of Globalization (INTB 3353), Spring 2011
Instructor, Economics of European Integration (ECON 4389), Fall 2010
Instructor, Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 2305), Spring 2010
Instructor, Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 2304), Fall 2009
Instructor, Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 2305), Summer 2009
Teaching Assistant, Economics of Public Finance (ECON 3377), Spring 2009
Instructor, Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 2304), Fall 2008

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Provost Teaching Excellence Award, University of Houston, March 2010
Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Award, University of Houston, October 2009
Graduate Tuition Fellowship, University of Houston, April 2006
Fulbright Fellowship, June 2006
CRUI-MAE Fellowship, Università degli Studi di Siena, May 2003
Scientific Cooperation Fellowship, Università degli Studi di Siena, December 2000
Erasmus Programme, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, Fall 1999

PRESENTATIONS

“Intellectual Property Rights and Technology Adoption in Developing Countries: An Empirical Investigation”, presented at:

APPAM Fall Research Conference, Washington DC, November 2011
SEA 81st Annual Meetings, Washington DC, November 2011

“Dressed for success? The effect of school uniforms on student achievement and behavior”, presented at:

AEFP 35th Annual Conference, Richmond VA, March 2010
SEA 79th Annual Meetings, San Antonio TX, November 2009

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)
Southern Economic Association (SEA)
Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales (AIESEC)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Fulbright Association, SE Texas/Houston Chapter, Board Member, 2011-present
Houston Bridges International, Student Organization, President, 2008-2011
Founder of *Facoltà di Frequenza*, the first student radio station in Italy, Siena, 2000-2001
Member of *Portulaca*, Council of Foreign Students, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, 1999-2000

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Native in Italian
Proficient in English (TOEFL, TSE), French (DELF 2), and Spanish (EPFC 8)

COMPUTER SKILLS

Statistical Packages: Stata, Gauss, EViews, Matlab, some experience with SAS
Languages: HTML, Unix shell scripts
Operating Systems: Unix/Linux, Windows, and Mac