ANNA AIROLDI

New York University, Stern School of Business
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EDUCATION

PhD Candidate in Economics, NYU Stern School of Business 2017-present

I am currently in my 4th year. My coursework has focused on applied microeconomics and industrial organization, both in terms of theoretical approaches and empirical methods.

MSc in Economic and Social Sciences, summa cum laude, Bocconi University 2013-2016

BA in Economic and Social Sciences, summa cum laude, Bocconi University 2010-2013

FIELDS

Digital Economics, Industrial Organization, Applied Microeconomics

CURRENT PROJECTS

Platform Most-Favored-Nation clauses and multilateral bargaining (with A. Farina)

Social Mobility in US Science (with P. Moser)

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Teaching Fellow, Microeconomics with Algebra (NYU Stern Undergraduate) Fall 2020

NYU Stern, Research Assistant for Professor Petra Moser 2019-present

- Implemented a matching algorithm to match US scientists in 1921 and 1956 to their census records and those of their families, using full historical US census microdata;
- Currently collecting data on US patents to measure the scientists' productivity;
- Supervise a team of four undergraduate Research Assistants that are helping with the project.

Bocconi University, Research Assistant for Professor Michele Polo 2016-2017

Econometrics Intern at Competition and Markets Authority, London. 2014

INVITED SCHOOLS

NBER Economics of Digitization Tutorial March 2020

Link: http://conference.nber.org/sched/DTs20

NBER Young Scholars Workshop on the Economics of Artificial Intelligence Sept. 2019

Link: http://conference.nber.org/sched/YSAIf19

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS

NYU Stern School of Business Ph.D. Fellowship	2017-2022
Junior Fellow at IEFE (Center for Research on Energy and Environmental Economics and Policy), Bocconi University	2016-2017
Innocenzo Gasparini Institute for Economic Research (IGIER) visiting student	2013-2015
Scholarship Mario Negri for university students	2013-2014

OLDER RESEARCH WORK

A. Airoldi, M. Polo (2017). "Opening the Retail Electricity Markets: Puzzles, Drawbacks and Policy Options", IEFE Working Paper n. 97

SKILLS Stata, Python, Matlab, SQL (beginner), R (beginner)

LANGUAGES Italian (native), English (proficient), Spanish (beginner)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Broadly speaking, I am interested in three main themes related to digital economics.

The first set of questions concerns vertical contracts between digital platforms and affiliated suppliers. In particular, I am interested in how vertical restrictions (such as Most-Favored-Nation clauses) may affect competitive outcomes both in upstream and downstream markets. MFNs are prevalent in many digital markets, from online travel agencies to food delivery platforms, and have been widely scrutinized by competition authorities around the world. In fact, while they may serve some efficiency purpose (for instance, preventing "showrooming" or "free-riding"), they may also result in higher prices and platform fees. Currently, I am working on a project with fellow graduate student Agata Farina which studies how the introduction of price restrictions affects digital markets in a setting where platforms and firms bargain over the fees the latter pay.

More specifically, we are analyzing how the introduction of a MFN may change the bargaining positions of either party in the negotiation, and may thus affect final prices, affiliation choices and platform entry decisions. In fact, one angle we are particularly interested in is the relationship between the potentially anticompetitive effects of a MFN and a platform's bargaining power. Some empirical work has anecdotally found that the abolition of price parity clauses generates higher price drops for "high-power" sellers (such as hotel chains in the context of online travel agents). Our goal is to theoretically characterize this relationship. In other words, can price restrictions be used by platforms to "kill" an affiliated supplier's bargaining power?

My second theme of interest concerns the economics of data and the relationship between privacy policies and market outcomes such as competition and innovation. More specifically, I am interested in understanding how firms' choices concerning the collection, use and sharing of data - and their subsequent privacy implications - are affected by the competitive environment and the regulatory framework, as well as by asymmetric information and incomplete contracting issues. One topic which particularly interest me is the role of information (or lack thereof) in shaping consumer choices. In particular, how can platform design (such as the type of information about data collection disclosed to users) affect usage choices and thus privacy and monetization practices by firms?

Finally, I am interested in the role of competition between digital platforms in creative industries such as television and music streaming platforms. One broad aspect that I find worth investigating here is the interaction between market structure (for instance, competition intensity or vertical integration between producers and distributors of content) and content choice. For instance, how does competition affect content variety and quality offered by firms? And how would the conclusion differ for a digital market, compared with more traditional markets such as radio or cable television? Which user groups are more likely to benefit from changes in market structure, such as the entry of a new streaming platform?