Benjamin Lerch

April 20, 2021

Contact Information

Address	Istituto di Economia Politica Università della Svizzera italiana Via Giuseppe Buffi 6 CH−6900 Lugano
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Education

02/2018 − Present	Ph.D. in Economics, Università della Svizzera italiana, Switzerland Advisors: Giovanni Pica, Lorenz Kueng
08/2018 − 08/2019	Swiss Program for Beginning Doctoral Students in Economics, Study Center Gerzensee, Foundation of the Swiss National Bank, Switzerland
02/2016 − 12/2017	M.Sc. in Applied Economic Analysis, University of Bern, Switzerland
09/2012 − 02/2016	B.Sc. in Economics, University of Bern, Switzerland

Working papers

Robots and Nonparticipation in the US: Where Have All the Workers Gone?

From Blue to Steel-Collar Jobs: The Decline in Employment Gaps?

Work in Progress

Does Automation Increase Education? (with Giuseppe Di Giacomo)

Awards and Honors

2020	Selected for the 7th Lindau Meeting in Economic Sciences (postponed to 2022)
2019	Doctoral Student Award for the best performance in the Swiss Program for Beginning Doctoral Students in Economics

Conferences, Seminars and Events

2021	**3rd QMUL Economics and Finance Workshop**, Queen Mary University of London
	Young Swiss Economists Meeting, KOF, ETH Zurich
2020	**Online Science Days**, Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings
	Online Sciathon, Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings: *Contribution to the idealization of a mobile application to promote local cooperation and decrease the waste of resources. Accepted for UNLEASH+ 2020.*

PhD Courses

2021	Economics of Education and Migration, Summer School, Barcelona GSE
2020	Machine Learning, Università della Svizzera italiana
2018 – 2019	Econometrics, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Study Center Gerzensee
2018	Quantitative Methods for Policy Evaluation, Università della Svizzera italiana

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April 22, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my interest in participating in the "Doctoral Student Workshop on Economics of AI".

I am a PhD student in Economics at Università della Svizzera italiana with a particular interest in topics related to labor economics and automation. In my PhD thesis, I explore the adverse effects of industrial robots on US labor force participation, an issue with profound implications. According to my findings, most of the workers who are displaced by robots permanently leave the labor force to enroll in disability insurance or retire prematurely. Furthermore, I find that young individuals are often not participating in the labor force because of automation to invest in additional human capital to increase their competitiveness in the labor market. In two related research projects, I examine how the effects of automation are spreading among the population and how the exposure to robots is influencing the decision of individuals to enroll in a post-secondary education institution in more detail.

The rapid advancements in AI and its potential to revolutionize labor markets fascinate me. In my upcoming research, I would like to study the impacts of AI on the composition of employment which, at present, are still unclear and highly debated. This is because of (i) a lack of data and (ii) no clear definition of AI technologies, which make a clean identification of its effects challenging. I am improving my skills in machine learning techniques and web scraping to build customized datasets and overcome the first issue. Participating in the workshop would help me to address the second issue through the acquisition of specific knowledge on the topic from top scholars and by developing a network with like-minded researchers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Benjamin Lerch