

# Francesca M. Calamunci

Department of Economics and Law

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## Positions

03/2025-Present	Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track) (RtdB SECS-P01: Economia Politica) at University of Catania
05/2024- 02/2025	Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track) (RTT SECS-P01: Economia Politica) at Sapienza University
12/2022- 05/2024	Junior Assistant Professor (RTD-A SECS-P/01: Economia Politica) at Sapienza University
04/2022- 11/2022	Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at Sapienza University.
26/04/2022- 30/06/2022	Short-term consultant, World Bank, Office of the Chief Economist, Task Team Lead (TTL): Nelly Elmallakh
07/ 2020-03/2022	Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at University of Catania. (SECS-P/01)

## Other Affiliation

08/2020 – Present	Global Labor Organization (GLO) Research Affiliate
05/2024- Present	IZA Research Affiliate
-	<i>Holder of Abilitazione scientifica nazionale for associate professor per il settore concorsuale 13/A1 - Economia Politica and 13/A2- Politica Economica (2025-2037).</i>

## Education

10/ 2016-11/2019	Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Economics, Management and Statistics, University of Messina, Italy. Dissertation: Essays on the Economics of Organized Crime: Evidence from Italy. Supervisor: Prof. Francesco Drago.
09/2014-10/2016	Master's Degree (MSc) in Economic and Financial Science LM-56, University of Messina, Italy. Final degree mark: 110/110 cum laude
09/2011-07/2014	Bachelor's Degree (BSc) in Economics and Management L-18 Specific field of the degree course: Banca e Intermediari finanziari, University of Messina, Italy. Final degree mark: 110/110

## Visiting

10/2021-02/2022	Visiting Scholar at <i>BAFFI CAREFIN – CLEAN Unit</i> – Bocconi University; Milan, Italy. Supervisors: Paolo Pinotti and Gianmarco Daniele.
10/2017-04/2018	Fulbright-Falcone-NIAF Scholars 2017-2018 John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York (CUNY), New York, USA. Courses: Applied Micro & Labour Workshops at Columbia University during Fall and Spring 2018. Applied Micro-econometrics (U823) with prof Theodore Joyce at The Graduate Center (CUNY). Spring 2018 Econometrics II (ECO 82200) with prof. Vim Vijverberg at The Graduate Center (CUNY). Spring 2018

## Research Interest and Participation Research Project

**Research Interests** Economics of Crime, Political Economy, Applied Micro-economics, Policy Evaluation

- 2025-Present PRIN 2022 “Organized Crime, political connections and firms’ performance”, Unit participant, Italian Ministry of University and Research, P.I. Local Unit: Prof. Drago.

- 2021-Present DARKSIDE - The Dark Side of the Money: Causes and Consequences of Organized Crime and Corruption, Unit participant, Italian Ministry of University and Research, P.I. Local Unit: Prof. Drago P.I. Prof. Pinotti.
- 2020-2022 Departmental Project: “Exceptionally Bad Times” Memory, Policy and Regulation of Transnational Crisis. University of Catania.

## Publications

- Calamunci, F. M., Lonsky, J. (2025). The road to crime: An unintended consequence of the interstate highway system. *The Economic Journal*, 135(667), 748-772. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ej/ueae068>
- Calamunci, F. M., Frattini, F. F. (2025). The civic side of tax compliance: Evidence from Italy. *Economics Letters*, 112346. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econlet.2025.112346>
- Calamunci, F. M., Ferrante, L., Scebba, R., & Torrìsi, G. (2023). Mafia doesn't live here anymore: Antimafia policies and housing prices. *Journal of Regional Science*, 63, 1001–1025. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jors.12647>
- Calamunci, F. M., Ferrante, L., and Scebba, R. (2022). Closed for mafia: Evidence from the removal of mafia firms on commercial property values. *Journal of Regional Science*, 62, 1487–1511. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jors.12612>
- Calamunci, F. M., De Benedetto, M. A. and Silipo, D. B. “Anti-Mafia Law Enforcement and Lending in Mafia Lands. Evidence from Judicial Administration in Italy” *The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy*, vol. 21, no. 3, 2021, pp. 1067-1106 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1515/bejeap-2020-0353>
- Calamunci, F.M. What happens in criminal firms after godfather management removal? Judicial administration and firms’ performance. *Small Business Economics* (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11187-020-00439-4>
- Calamunci, F., Drago, F. The Economic Impact of Organized Crime Infiltration in the Legal Economy: Evidence from the Judicial Administration of Organized Crime Firms. *Italian Economic Journal* 6, 275–297 (2020). Special Issue on the Economics of Crime. Guest Editor: Paolo Pinotti. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40797-020-00128-x>
- Calamunci, Francesca. Essays on the Economics of Organized Crime: Evidence from Italy. [PhD Dissertation ]

## Working Papers and Working in Progress

- Calamunci, F. When Crime Tears Communities apart: Social Capital and Organised Crime with Frattini F (conditionally accepted). [Working Paper](#)
- Women Behind Bars: Do Female-Only Prisons Reduce Recidivism?, with Gianmarco Daniele, Giovanni Mastrobuoni and Daniele Terlizzese
- Municipalities under siege: organized crime infiltration and the misuse of public resources in the Center-North of Italy, with Ciccio Diego, Drago Francesco and Galbiati Roberto
- Populism, Federalism and Tax Evasion with F. Barilari, F. Frattini, D. Zambiasi.

## Book Chapter

- “A Review of Methods in Research on Organized Crime Infiltration of Legitimate Businesses” in *The Private Sector and Organized Crime: Criminal Entrepreneurship, Illicit Profits, and Private Sector Security Governance* edited by Zabyelina, Y., and Thachuk, K., Routledge DOI: [10.4324/9781003198635-3](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003198635-3).
- Calamunci, Francesca. Contribution: Camorra. In P. Reichel (ed. 2019). *Global Crime; An Encyclopedia of Cyber Theft, Drug Smuggling, Human Trafficking, Weapon Sales, and Other Illicit International Activities*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

## Conferences & guest lectures

- 1) Organized crime, firms and politics, 9th Workshop on the Economics of Organized Crime (19-20 June, 2025)
- 2) Women Behind Bars: Do Female-Only Prisons Reduce Recidivism?, EAYE 2025 (London, 29-31 May, 2025)
- 3) Populism, Federalism and Tax Evasion, Political Colloquium Behavior (Fiesole, 21 January 2025)
- 4) Populism, Federalism and Tax Evasion, Crime Before Christmas, Bocconi University (18-19, December, 2024)
- 5) When Crime Tears Communities apart: Social Capital and Organised Crime: 39<sup>th</sup> AIEL Conference (Naples, 3-5 October, 2024).
- 6) Populism, Federalism and Tax Evasion, 15th Workshop in Applied Economics, Petralia Sottana July 21-26, 2024
- 7) Municipalities under siege: organized crime infiltration and the misuse of public resources in the Center-North of Italy, 8th Workshop on the Economics of Organized Crime (Collegio Carlo Alberto, 13-14 June, 2024)
- 8) Municipalities under siege: organized crime infiltration and the misuse of public resources in the Center-North of Italy, MPSA Conferences (Chicago, 4-7 April, 2024)
- 9) Women Behind Bars: Do Female-Only Prisons Reduce Recidivism? Invited Seminar: Siena University,

- 10) Women Behind Bars: Do Female-Only Prisons Reduce Recidivism? 14th Workshop in Applied Economics, Petralia Sottana, July 21-26, 2023.
- 11) Women Behind Bars: Do Female-Only Prisons Reduce Recidivism? Summer Crime, CLEAN, Bocconi University June 23, 2023.
- 12) Highway to Hell? Interstate Highway System and Crime 10th Italian Congress of Econometrics and Empirical Economics (ICEEE 2023) 26-28 May 2023 at University of Cagliari
- 13) Social capital and the power of the mafia at DipEcoDir Internal Seminars- Sapienza University December 7, 2022.
- 14) Social capital and the power of the mafia at 4th Workshop on Corruption- Catania November 24-25, 2022
- 15) Highway to Hell? Interstate Highway System and Crime at 13th Workshop in Applied Economics, Petralia Sottana July 21-26, 2022.
- 16) Social capital and the power of the mafia at 6th Workshop on the Economics of Organized Crime- Parthenope University of Naples, July 18-19, 2022.
- 17) Social capital and the power of the mafia, “AL CAPONE” conference University of Reggio Calabria 19-20 May, 2022.
- 18) Social capital and the power of the mafia, La Strada Seminar, Bocconi University. 16 February 2022.
- 19) Anti-Mafia Law Enforcement and Lending in Mafia’s Lands. Evidence from the Judicial Administration in Italy, 9th Italian Congress of Econometrics and Empirical Economics (ICEEE 2021) [[Final Program](#)] 21-23 January, 2021 at CRENoS (online).
- 20) Anti-Mafia Law Enforcement and Lending in Mafia’s Lands. Evidence from the Judicial Administration in Italy. Economics and Finance Research Talk Series (online). March 3, 2021 at Brunel University.
- 21) Highway to Hell? Interstate Highway System & Crime, CLEAN Seminar Series (Bocconi University) April 26, 2021.
- 22) What Happens in Criminal Firms after Godfather Management Removal? Judicial Administration and Firms Performance.” [Applied Young Economist Webinar](#) (Europe/US East Coast time zones), November 4, 2020. [[Economics Virtual Seminar Calendar](#)]
- 23) What Happens in Criminal Firms after Godfather Management Removal? Judicial Administration and Firms Performance.” Economics of Crime online Seminars organized by J. Doleac. June 25, 2020. [[Summer schedule](#)]
- 24) Organized Firm Behavior and Market Dynamics”. Graduate Center Virtual Micro Brown Bag. June 12, 2020. [[Summer Schedule](#)]
- 25) What Happens in Criminal Firms after Godfather Management Removal? Judicial Administration and Firms Performance.” Graduate Center Virtual Micro Brown Bag. May 8, 2020. [[Spring Schedule](#)]
- 26) Organized Crime Infiltration in Legal Businesses.” Guest Speaker at CJ 3403 (Prof Rege): Organized Crime (Spring 2018) and talk to Temple’s CJ faculty and graduate students, Temple University. April 2, 2018.
- 27) Analysis of Organized Crime: Evidence from Firm-level data.” Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) 55nd Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, USA. February 13-17, 2018. [[conference program](#)]

## Grant activity, fellowships & awards

- ✓ Modigliani Research Grant, “Decentralization and Organized Crime: The 1971 Cassa del Mezzogiorno Reform and Clientelism in Southern Italy” (Principal Investigator: 15.000 €, renewables)
- ✓ Sapienza Big Project. “Drivers of firms’ performance: Information barriers, political connections, and organized crime”. (Collaborator, Brancati E. (PI), Team: Belloc M., Di Maio M., Sabatini F., Sciabolazza V., 32.650 euros (Sapienza University of Rome) [Link](#)
- ✓ 2022 EIEF Grant “Infrastructure and Crime: Evidence from the Interstate Highway System” [Link](#) (Principal Investigator: 10.000 €)
- ✓ 2022 Starting Research Grant. “Organized crime infiltration, economic and social outcomes: theoretical and empirical evidence from Italy” (PI: 2.400 €), Sapienza University of Rome.( [Link](#) )
- ✓ 2022 Reward researchers from Lazio Region (Programma FSE+ 2021- 2027). (2000 €)
- ✓ 2021 Anassilaos Giovani per la Ricerca Price 2021 (Cerimony Date November 13, 2021).
- ✓ 2020 Eligible for the XX SIE PhD Dissertation in Economics Award [[Eligible Dissertation](#) ]
- ✓ 2018 Michael Vinciguerra Estate Grant, Institute of International Education (IIE), financing Research at John Jay College (CUNY), New York, October 2017-April 2018, Academic Year 2017-2018. (\$8000)
- ✓ 2017-2018 Fulbright-Falcone-NIAF Fellowship, US-Italy Fulbright Commission, financing Research at John Jay College (CUNY), New York, October 2017-April 2018, Academic Year 2017-2018. (\$10000 + €1.100 for travel)

✓ 2016-2019 Ph.D. Scholarship from the University Of Messina, Italy.

## **Professional training & development**

- 14 January-18 February 2022. “Online school on estimating causal effects using observational data and counterfactual methods” organized by the University of Sassari.
- April 12-23, 2021. “Online Summer School in Modern Difference in Differences Design” organized by the University of Milan (DEMM) and the Center of Excellence In Economics And Data Science (CEEDS). Lectures: John Poe and Silvia Vannutelli.
- February 25 to 1 March 2019. ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques. Course: Python Programming for Social Sciences. The University of Bamberg.
- January 13-24, 2019. Winter School on Transnational Organized Crime organized by the European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR) in cooperation with the Education for Justice initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- June 15-24, 2018. Erasmus+ Kact1. Youth Exchanges in Sinagra (Italy). The specific objective of the project was to understand how young people perceive the refugee issues through the use of survey and research, creative workshops, information sessions, meeting association. (One language English), seven delegations (Croatia, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, and Spain) consisting of 35 participants.
- July 9-14, 2018. Summer School Advanced Panel Econometrics: Theory and Applications organized by the Italian Econometric Association (SIde). Lecturers: Maria Elena Bontempi, Roberto Golinelli, and Irene Mammi.
- July 2015 Erasmus+ Kact1. Mobility for Youth workers in Carcassonne (France). A course of training with, non-formal and artistic animation techniques to face and resist against intolerance and weaknesses of our democratic country. (Two languages: French and English), seven delegations (Belgium, Estonia, France, Italy, Lithuania, Romania, Spain) consisting of 42 participants. House of Youth and Culture of Carcassonne, Carcassonne, France.

## **Teaching and Teaching Assistant**

AA 2024-2025 Course “Istituzioni di Economia” (9 CFU) at the undergraduate of “Economia Aziendale” (L-18), University of Catania. (63 hours)

AA 2024-2025 Course of “Economia dell’Energia” (6 CFU) at the undergraduate of “Economia e Finanza” (L-33)”, Sapienza University of Rome. (48 hours)

AA 2022-2023, AA 2023-2024, AA 2024-2025 Course of “Economia e Finanza Internazionale” (9 CFU) at the master degree of “Economia, management e diritto d’impresa (LM-77)” in Latina, Sapienza University of Rome. (72 hours)

AA 2023-2024, Course of “Economics of Crime” at the European PhD Socio-Economic and Statistical Studies, Sapienza University, (16 hours).

AA 2020-2021 Tutor Activity: 20 hours in tutoring in “Fundamentals of Economics” at the Department of Economics, University of Catania, Italy.

AA 2018-2019 Tutor Activity: 60 hours in tutoring (mainly microeconomics) at the Department of Economics, University of Messina, Italy

AA 2017-2018 Tutor Activity: 74 hours in tutoring (mainly microeconomics and statistics) at the Department of Economics, University of Messina, Italy.

AA 2016-2017 Tutor Activity: 40 hours in tutoring at the Department of Economics, University of Messina, Italy.

AA 2015-2016 Tutor Activity: 150 hours in tutoring and teaching within the Project P2P Project DidatticAid, Profile cod. 0035 at the Department of Economics, University of Messina, Italy.

## **Refereeing Activities**

Small Business Economics (2), The BE Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy (2), The European Journal of Law and Economics (1) Socio-Economic Planning Sciences (1), Papers in Regional Science (1), The Journal of Economic Inequality (1), Italian Economic Journal (2), Journal of Accounting, Auditing and Finance (1), Economics & Politics (1), Global Crime (1)

## **Languages**

	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Oral</b>
<b>Italian</b>	mother tongue	mother tongue	mother tongue
<b>English</b>	fluent	fluent	fluent
<b>French</b>	good	good	good
<b>Spanish</b>	fair	fair	fair

Certification: IELTS (British Council) = C1 (International House, 16 Nov 2019).

## **Computer Skills**

**Excellent knowledge:** Stata, Gretl, Latex, Microsoft Office, Open-Office

**Good Knowledge:** Python (data and text mining), MatLab, R

**Certification:** It Security (Level Specialized), ECDL (European Computer License Driving) Full Standard, ECDL Standard.

## References

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**Francesco Drago** (PhD Supervisor)

Professor of Economics

University of Catania

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**Paolo Pinotti**

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CLEAN Unit for the Economic Analysis of  
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