



UNIVERSITÀ
degli STUDI
di CATANIA

DIPARTIMENTO
di ECONOMIA
e IMPRESA

10th Workshop on the Economics of Organized Crime

Preliminary PROGRAM

May 14-15, 2026, University of Catania, Catania, Italy



VENUE:

Department of Economics and
Business, University of Catania,
Catania, Italy

TIME:

14-15 May 2026

REGISTRATION FEE:

None

Scientific Committee:

Francesca Calamunci
University of Catania

Giuseppe De Feo
University of Liverpool

Giacomo De Luca
Free University of Bozen

Francesco Drago
European University Institute

Juan F. Vargas
University of Turin & Collegio Carlo Alberto

Organizing Committee:

Francesca Calamunci
University of Catania

Angelo Petralia
University of Catania

Livio Ferrante
University of Catania

9.00-9.10 Welcome address

9.10-11.10 Session 1 [Chair: Juan Vargas]

Piemontese Lavinia Law Enforcement and Organized Crime Dynamics: Evidence on Persistence and Displacement at the Clan Level
Discussant: [Lucia Rizzica](#)

Paolo Vanin Organized Crime, Violence, and Targeted Repression
Discussant: [Angelo Petralia](#)

Giovanni Mastrobuoni Strategic Marriages as Criminal Alliances: Evidence from the Italian-American Mafia
Discussant: [Massimo Pulejo](#)

11.10-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-13.00 Session 2 [Chair: Livio Ferrante]

Francesco Ambrosini When the Godfather Falls: Economic Effects of Removing Mafia-Connected Firms
Discussant: [Francesco Drago](#)

Marlene Thomas Mafia in Public Tenders: The Effects on Firms' Competition
Discussant: [Mounu Prem](#)

13.00-14.30 Lunch

14.30-16.00 Session 3 [Chair: Rocco Macchiavello]

Francesco Campo There Will Be Blood: The Impact of Drug trafficking on Violence and Economic Well-being
Discussant: [Juan Vargas](#)

Rocco Macchiavello (Managing) Violence Across UK Prisons
Discussant [Giovanna Marcolongo](#)

16.00-16.20 Coffee break

16.20-17.20 Keynote address: **Benjamin Lessing** Explaining Persistent Duopolies of Violence: How the State Gets Drug Gangs to Govern for It

20.00 Social Dinner



9.10-9.20 Welcome address

09:20- 10:20 Keynote address: Roberto DiBella Il progetto “Liberi di scegliere”: la tutela dei minorenni nei contesti di criminalità organizzata

10:20- 11:40 Session 4 [Chair: Giuseppe De Feo]

Adam Soliman: Cocaine goes bananas: global spillovers from an illicit supply shock

Discussant: [Giuseppe De Feo](#)

Kerstin Perlik Organized Crime and Pandemic Emergency Response: Evidence from Mexico

Discussant: [Domenica Romeo](#)

11.40–12.00 Coffee Break

12:00- 13:20 Session 5 [Chair: Francesco Drago]

Francesca Mameri Gangsta's Paradise: Prisons and Gang Recruitment in Brazil

Discussant: [Nicola Mastrorocco](#)

Magdalena Dominguez No Country for Hidden Men: Centrality in Brazilian Gangs

Discussant: [Gianmarco Daniele](#)

13.20-14.30 Lunch

14:30- 15:50 Session 5 [Chair: Francesca Calamunci]

Tabea Rudolf Corporal Punishment in Schools and Juvenile Delinquency: Evidence from U.S. State Bans

Discussant: [Zach Porreca](#)

Massimo Pulejo Distortions from Extortion: Theory and Evidence from Palermo

Discussant: [Francesca Calamunci](#)

15:50 Final Greetings