# GIANMARIO PELLESCHI

Department of Economics and Finance ◇ Cattolica University of Milan
Largo Agostino Gemelli 1, 20123 Milano (Italy)
www.gianmariopelleschi.com ◇ gianmario.pelleschi@unicatt.it

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## REFERENCES

Prof. Massimiliano Gaetano Onorato
Department of Economics
University of Bologna
Piazza Scaravilli 2, 40126 Bologna (Italy)
✉ massimiliano.onorato@unibo.it

Prof. Davide Cipullo
Department of Economics and Finance
Cattolica University of Milan
Largo A. Gemelli 1, 20123 Milan (Italy)
✉ davide.cipullo@unicatt.it

## EDUCATION

**Cattolica University of Milan** — **Milan, Italy**
*Ph.D. Candidate in Economics and Finance* — *2022 - 2026 expected*

**CUNEF Universidad** — **Madrid, Spain**
*Visiting Fellow, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities. Sponsor: Augustín Casas* — *Fall 2026*

**Cattolica University of Milan** — **Milan, Italy**
*M.Sc. Economics (Summa cum laude)* — *2022*

**University of Pisa** — **Pisa, Italy**
*B.Sc. Business and Economics* — *2019*

## AFFILIATIONS

**CIFREL, Cattolica University of Milan** — **Milan, Italy**
*Interuniversity Research Centre on Local and Regional Finance* — *2026 -*

## RESEARCH FIELDS

Political economy, public economics, applied microeconomics

## WORKING PAPERS

**1. Toxic Winds: Mainstream Inertia, Voters' Discontent, and Challenger Success** *(with Davide Cipullo and Massimiliano Gaetano Onorato)*

**Abstract**: This paper investigates how voters react to persistent inaction by mainstream parties in government. We study the illegal burial, dumping, and burning of toxic industrial waste perpetrated by criminal organizations in Southern Italy since the late 1980s. We combine plausibly exogenous geographical variation in pollution exposure from historical wind trajectories with the sudden release of georeferenced information on contaminated sites. Difference-in-differences estimates reveal no change in parliamentary attention and declines in both the share of current transfers from central and regional governments in total municipal revenues and EU cohesion funding. Downwind municipalities also experience a persistent decline in national-election turnout of roughly 2 percentage points. Individual-level microdata show that pollution exposure reduces perceived local quality of life and trust in national institutions. Finally, exposure to toxic winds increases the vote share of the challenger Five Star Movement (FSM) in national elections, which campaigned against mainstream parties' inaction on the issue.

**2. Organized Crime, Hidden Pollution, and Long-Run Health Costs** *(with Davide Cipullo and Massimiliano Gaetano Onorato)* [CESifo Working Paper No. 12644] [CIFREL WP n. 06/2026]

**Abstract**: We study the long-run health effects of illegal toxic waste disposal conducted by organized crime in Italy. We exploit quasi-random variation in historical wind direction around contaminated sites combined with a difference-in-differences design. Using administrative data on cancer deaths spanning four decades, we find that wind exposure to pollutants increases the number of cancer deaths substantially. The effects emerge after long latencies and grow over time. In later years, wind exposure implies roughly two additional cancer deaths per municipality-year relative to unexposed municipalities equally proximate to contaminated sites. Our findings reveal a previously unmeasured health externality of organized crime.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Public Finance (Corporate Taxation and Taxation of Financial Assets)** **Cattolica University of Milan**
*Teaching Assistant (Master of Science)* *2024/2025 – 2025/2026 – 2026/2027*

## BOOK CHAPTERS

Pelleschi G., Apicella A., Farace, B. and Tarabella A. (2024). *"The Agri-food Product's Life Cycle: The Technological Dimension Role from an Open Innovation Perspective."* In Lagioia G., Paiano A., Amicarelli V. and Gallucci T. (Eds.), *"Innovation, Quality and Sustainability for a Resilient Circulary Economy. The Role of Commodity Science, Volume 1."* Springer Cham, pp. 23-32.

## SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

*2026* **Ph.D. Seminar** (Department of Economics and Finance, Cattolica University of Milan); **CLEAN seminar*** (Bocconi University); **Workshop IdEP in Sustainable Economics** (Università della Svizzera Italiana); **Faculty seminar*** (IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca); **Faculty seminar*** (Queen Mary University of London); **2nd Workshop on Health, Human Capital, and the Environment** (Cattolica University of Milan); **2nd AIBE Workshop** (Bocconi University); **8th International Conference on European Economics and Politics** (ETH Zurich); **82nd Annual Congress of the International Institute of Public Finance*** (ISEG Lisbon); **Faculty seminar** (CUNEF Universidad Madrid);

*2025* **Ph.D. Seminar** (Department of Economics and Finance, Cattolica University of Milan); **WIP Political Economy Seminar Series** (Cattolica University of Milan); **Sustainability Environmental Economics and Dynamics Studies (SEEDS) Annual Conference** (Milan); **"Inequalities and Opportunities (insights into wealth, income and education disparities" Conference** (University of Bari); **3rd Milan Ph.D. Economics Workshop** (Cattolica University of Milan); $37^{th}$ **Annual Congress of the Italian Society of Public Economics (SIEP)** (Naples);

*2024* **Ph.D. Seminar** (Department of Economics and Finance, Cattolica University of Milan); **2nd Milan Ph.D. Economics Workshop** (University of Milano-Bicocca); $4^{th}$ **Winter Symposium in Economics and Finance** (Cattolica University of Milan);

*2022* **AISME: National Congress of Commodity Science** (Bari, Italy).

** Presented by co-author.*

## POPULAR WRITING

Cipullo D., Onorato M. G., Pelleschi G. (2026). Rifiuti nella Terra dei fuochi: il costo nascosto per la salute. *lavoce.info*, September 17, 2026.

Cipullo D., Onorato M. G., Pelleschi G. (2026). The health costs of organised crime *VoxEU*, November 19, 2026.

## ACADEMIC CERTIFICATIONS

$23^{rd}$ **Summer School in Political Economy and Development** **Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano, CEPR, IGC**
Hosted by Professors Claudio Ferraz (UBC) and Sandra Sequeira (LSE) *09/2024*

## SOFTWARE & PROGRAMMING

Microsoft Office, Stata, LateX, Python, QGis

## LANGUAGES

Italian (Native), English (Fluent: C1 CAE), Spanish (Basic)