

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Niccolò Casnici

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WORK EXPERIENCE

October, 2018 –currently

Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics and Management, University of Brescia (BS) – Italy. Course of “Sociologia dell’innovazione”.

January, 2018 – September, 2018

Postdoc at the Department of Law, University of Brescia (BS) – Italy. Working on the project “Le tendenze della contrattazione collettiva di II livello nel territorio bresciano”, in partnership with Os.Me.R. - Osservatorio Mercato del Lavoro e Relazioni Collettive, University of Brescia.

May, 2018

Teacher of the “Network Analysis” course at the NASP (Network for the Advancement of Social and Political Studies) PhD program, Department of Social and Political Sciences (University of Milan).

March, 2018

Invited lecturer at DIT (Dublin Institute of Technology), Dublin (Ireland). Topic: “Introduction to social network analysis”.

May, 2017 – December, 2017

Research assistant (borsista) at the Department of Economics and Management, University of Brescia (BS) - Italy. Working on the project “I.S.E.C. Indagine sul grado di Soddisfazione dell'Ecosistema Castelli”, in partnership with “scuola superiore ITIS B. Castelli” (Brescia). The project focused on the organizational factors that are associated with the students’ satisfaction, participation and integration in the school environment. The scientific supervisors were Prof. Marco Castellani and Prof. Flaminio Squazzoni.

May, 2017

Teacher of the “Network Analysis” course at the NASP (Network for the Advancement of Social and Political Studies) PhD program, Department of Social and Political Sciences (University of Milan).

May 2015 – September, 2018

Cultore della materia, department of Economics and Management, University of Brescia (BS) - Italy.

December 2015 – February 2016

Research assistant (borsista) at the Department of Economics and Management, University of Brescia (BS) - Italy. Working on the project “Analisi dell’impatto del social mood sulle imprese italiane”

February, 2014 – February 2015 and March 2016 - March, 2017

Postdoc at the Department of Economics and Management, University of Brescia (BS) - Italy. Working on the project “Anziani in-rete”. The project aimed to investigate the influence of social networks on health in a large sample of elderly residents in Brescia. The group included social scientists, computer scientists and geriatricians.

March, 2015 - May 2015

Visiting researcher at DIT - Dublin Institute of Technology, Dublin (Ireland), STSM - PEERE Cost Action on “New frontiers of peer review”. The purpose of this STSM was to develop a quality indicator of peer review by using data mining techniques to analyze the referee reports’ text and network modelling to reconstruct possible implications of authors’ and reviewers’ position in the academic community.

April, 2013-May, 2013

Teacher at the high school Don Milani, Montichiari (BS) -Italy- course of "Methodology of social research and game theory".

EDUCATION AND TRAINING**September 2017**

Summer School in "Agent-based modelling for social scientists", Brescia, Italy

This training school provided an introduction to NetLogo, the most popular platform to build agent-based models. The main focus of the classes was modelling in the field of sociology and social science research.

April, 2016- April, 2017

Italian Start Up Master (ISUP) - University of Brescia and AIB Confindustria Brescia

The ISUP (Italian Start Up) project was founded by the Industrial Association of Brescia in order to facilitate the concrete development of business ideas. The first part of the Master provided knowledge on corporate business, economics, economic sociology, strategic marketing, market and risk evaluation and intellectual property rights. The second part provided knowledge on corporate organization, accounting, financial and budgetary analysis. The final part was about business planning and fundraising.

April 27-28, 2015

Short course "Large Network Analysis", University of Salerno (Italy), Anacapri (NA), Italia

The course explored social mechanisms that drive network change over the time and the main research methodologies related to this field. The course instructors were: Prof. Patrick Doreian (University of Pittsburgh), Prof. Vladimir Batagelj (University of Ljubljana), Prof. Anuska Ferligoj (University of Ljubljana), Dr. Natasa Kejzar (University of Ljubljana).

September 1st, 2014 - October 20th, 2014

Course of social network analysis: "Networked life", Online course, coursera.org - University of Pennsylvania (US)

The course explored the most recent scientific efforts to explain social, economic and technological structures -- and the way these structures interact -- on many different scales, from the behaviour of individuals or small groups to that of complex networks such as the Internet and the global economy. The course presented some of the most important models for the analysis of social networks, by using an interdisciplinary approach, i.e. covering computer science, game theory, economic and environmental topics. Grade achieved: 99.3/100 with Distinction.

July 6th, 2014 - August 1st, 2014

47th Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, University of Essex, Colchester (UK)

The first part of the course provided knowledge about the fundamentals of social network analysis, starting from the main theoretical arguments to some of the principal empirical applications. The second part of the course showed some of the main advanced statistical methods for analyzing social network data, focusing on testing hypotheses about network structure (e.g. reciprocity, transitivity, and closure), and the formation of ties based on attributes (e.g. homophily). The course organizers were: Prof. John Skvoretz, University of South Florida and Prof. Filip Agneessens, University of Surrey (UK).

October 1st, 2013 – December 1st, 2013

Course of social network analysis, Online course, coursera.org - University of Michigan (US)

The course provided knowledge about the theoretical foundations and the techniques of empirical investigation of the social network analysis. A significant part of the course was dedicated to the study of some of the most relevant existing research in the field, following a strong interdisciplinary perspective (e.g., mathematics, medicine, sociology, politics and gastronomy). Much of the time was dedicated to empirical work, using specific software for processing relational data and the graphical representation of social networks: Gephi and NetLogo. The course organizer was Prof. L. Adamic, University of Michigan (U.S.). Grade achieved: 88.7/100.

November, 2010 - February, 2014

PhD in economic sociology. Dissertation title: "Towards a quantitative sociology of finance: investors, networks and online communities" University of Brescia, Brescia (Italy)

The program included a first training year on theory and methodology, with an interdisciplinary perspective. Theory included: sociology, economics, psychology, theory of choice and game theory. Methodology included: (i) experimental social research, (ii) data analysis, (iii) treatment of relational data, and (iv) survey via interview. During the program I have worked on a research about "new social media and finance", an inter-disciplinary project between sociology of finance and new studies on social networks, artificial intelligence and social media, and collaborated with research performed at GECS group (www.eco.unibs.it/gecs). The project supervisor was Prof. F. Squazzoni, University of Brescia (Italy).

September 9th, 2013 – September 15th, 2013

Summer School in "Statistical Models for Network Data" University of Salerno (Italy) - University of Napoli Federico II, Anacapri (NA), Italia

The course showed the main statistical models for relational data, focusing in particular on: random effects models and social networks, ERGM models, models for longitudinal social networks. The course also included a tutorial for the following software for the statistical analysis of social networks: R, SIENA, PNET. The course organizers were: Prof. F. Agnessens, University of Surrey (UK) and Prof. M. Van Duijn, University of Groningen (NED).

June 20th, 2013

Tutorial on Pajek, University of Salerno (Italy), Roma (Italy)

The course provided the basics of programming in Pajek, one of the leading programs for the analysis and graphical representation of social networks. The course was organized by Prof. V. Batagelj, University of Ljubljana (SLO) and took place at the conference ARS 2013, the fourth workshop on network analysis (Rome, June 20th to June 22th 2013).

November 1st, 2012 – March 1st, 2013

Visiting period DIT - Dublin Institute of Technology, Dublin (Ireland)

During the visiting period at the DIT I worked at the Department of Computer Science on a project on "new social media and finance." Skills acquired: statistical analysis and social network analysis. The supervisor of my work was Prof. P. Dondio, DIT, Dublin (IRL).

May 4th, 2012

Course in: "The use of STATA for users of alternative statistical software" T-stat, software for statistics, econometrics e mathematics, Milano (Italia)

The course provided the fundamental concepts for programming in STATA, using theoretical explanations and exercises guided by the teacher. The course was organized by Professor Una-Louise Bell.

2008 – 2010

Master Degree in international economics - University of Brescia, Brescia (Italy)

Skills developed: economics and international finance, statistics, law, economic sociology. Thesis title: "Trust and cooperation: some empirical and experimental evidence", supervisor Prof. F. Squazzoni (University of Brescia) and Prof. M. Castellani (University of Brescia). Final mark: 109/110.

2004 – 2007

Bachelor Degree in political economy - University of Brescia, Brescia (Italy)

Skills developed: economics, business administration, law, economic sociology, mathematics and statistics. Thesis title: "Violations of the rational choice model: an experiment on mental accounting", supervised by Prof. G. Bravo (Linnaeus University, SWE). Final mark: 110/110.

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue: Italian

Other language(s):

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	B2	B2	B2	B2	B2
French	A2	A2	A1	A1	A1

*Levels: A1/2: Basic user - B1/2: Independent user - C1/2 Proficient user. Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Relational skills

Listening, understanding skills, and empathy. Skills developed through the collaboration and interaction with university colleagues, the role currently held of President of the "Mario Casnici musical association", the experience as player in several local volleyball teams and the experience as lodger in the hall of residence for excellent students "Collegio Universitario Lucchini".

Organizational / managerial skills

I developed organizational skills during my experience as PhD student and Postdoc researcher: managing research projects, collaborating in interdisciplinary team, setting up and performing educational activities, including mentoring and tutoring young students. Furthermore, the ISUP master was a great environment to learn the fundamentals of corporate management and management of innovative projects. Finally, as president of the musical association "Mario Casnici", I acquired skills in motivating people, sharing visions and strategies with others and coordinating human resources.

Computer skills

Microsoft Office package (Excel, Power-point, Word): excellent level.

Software for statistical analysis: Stata (excellent level), SPSS (good level), R (excellent level), Gretl (basic level).

Software for the analysis of social networks (social network analysis): UCINET (excellent level), Gephi (excellent level), Nodexl (excellent level), R (good level), Pnet (good level), Pajek (basic level), NetLogo (basic level).

Artistic skills

Drummer

Driving licence

European driving licence, category B

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

Publications

Scientific journals

1. Casnici N., Bravo G., Castellani M., Squazzoni F., "Cooperazione, fiducia e differenze di genere: un'indagine cross-metodologica", in *Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia*, 4/2012, pp. 573-600, doi: 10.1423/38848
2. Squazzoni F., Casnici N. (2013), "Is social simulation a social science outstation? A bibliometric analysis of the impact of JASSS", in *JASSS-Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation*, vol.16 (1), DOI: 10.18564/jasss.2192
3. Bianchi F., Casnici N., Squazzoni F., "Solidarity as a byproduct of professional collaboration: Social support and trust in a coworking space", in *Social Networks*, Volume 54, July 2018, Pages 61-72, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socnet.2017.12.002>
4. Casarin R., Casnici N., Dondio P., Squazzoni F. (2015), "Back to Basics! The Educational Gap of Online Investors and the Conundrum of Virtual Communities", in *Journal of Financial Management, Markets and Institutions* 1/2015, pp. 51-69, doi: 10.12831/80530
5. Casnici N., Dondio P., Casarin R., Squazzoni F. (2015), "Decrypting Financial Markets through E-Joint Attention Efforts: On-Line Adaptive Networks of Investors in Periods of Market Uncertainty", in *PLoS ONE* 10(8): e0133712. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0133712>
6. Casnici N., Grimaldo F., Gilbert N., Squazzoni F. (2016), "Attitudes of referees in a multidisciplinary journal: An empirical analysis", in *JASIST-Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, <https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.23665>.
7. Casnici N., Grimaldo F., Gilbert N., Dondio P., Squazzoni F. (2017), "Assessing peer review by gauging the fate of rejected manuscripts: the case of the Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation", in *Scientometrics*, Volume 113, Issue 1, pp 533–546, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-017-2241-1>
8. Akbaritabar A., Casnici N., Squazzoni F. (2018), "The conundrum of research productivity: a study on sociologists in Italy", in *Scientometrics*, Volume 114, Issue 3, pp 859–882, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-017-2606-5>
9. Casnici N. (2018), "Real agents in real markets: socio-cognitive scaffolds that "reduce" market uncertainty", forthcoming in *Sociologica* 1/2018.
10. Bianchetti L., Squazzoni F., Casnici N., Bianchini D., Garrafa E., Archetti C., Romano V., Rozzini L., Melchiori M., Fiorentini C., Uberti D., Calza S., Marengoni A. (2017). "Social networks and health status in the elderly: the 'ANZIANI IN-RETE' population-based study", in *Aging Clinical and Experimental Research*, 29(6):1173-1179. doi: 10.1007/s40520-017-0726-7
11. Dondio P., Casnici N., Squazzoni F. (2015), "Unpacking the structure of knowledge diffusion in Wikipedia: local biases, noble prizes and the wisdom of crowds", ICWSM-15, *The 9th International Conference on Web and Social Media*, Oxford (UK), DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.1.3969.6482
12. Garrafa E., Casnici N., Squazzoni F., Uberti D., Marengoni A. (2017), "C-reactive protein, lipoprotein (a) and cystatin C levels increase with multimorbidity in older persons", in *European journal of internal medicine* 42, DOI: 10.1016/j.ejim.2017.04.010

Ph.D. dissertation

"Verso una sociologia quantitativa della finanza: investitori, reti e comunità online". Supervisor: Prof. Flaminio Squazzoni. Coordinator: Prof. Giancarlo Provasi. Dissertation discussion: 28th February, 2014.

Local press

Casnici N., "La network analysis nelle imprese: perché è così importante studiare le relazioni sociali dentro e fuori l'azienda", in *Bergamo News*, 10th August, 2017.

Research groups membership

From 2013, member of GECS (Research Group on Experimental and Computational Sociology), University of Brescia (Italy).

Research and teaching assistance

- April 2018, January 2018 and January 2017: seminars on “Social capital and health status in the old age” at the “Sociology of an ageing society” course. Master degree in “Science and technology for population health and wealth”, University of Brescia (Italy). Coordinator: Prof. Flaminio Squazzoni.
- November 2017: seminar on “Managing innovative projects” at the “Sociologia dell’innovazione” course. Master degree in “Management”, University of Brescia (Italy). Coordinator: Prof. Marco Castellani.
- October 2017: seminar on “Social conditions that foster innovation” at the “Sociologia dell’innovazione” course. Master degree in “Management”, University of Brescia (Italy). Coordinator: Prof. Marco Castellani.

Participation to conferences

1. *Salone del Risparmio*, Bocconi University (Milan-Italy), April 18th-20th 2012. Presentation on: "Popular finance and Internet: a challenge for the new media". Invited speaker.
2. *ITforum*, Palacongressi, May 17th-19th 2012, Rimini. Presentation on: "Popular finance and Internet: a challenge for the new media". Invited speaker.
3. *SASE conference* (Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics), University of Milan, June 27th-29th 2013. Presentation of the paper “Decrypting financial markets through mass-collaboration: on-line networks of investors in periods of uncertainty” (authors: Niccolò Casnici [speaker], Pierpaolo Dondio, Roberto Casarin, Flaminio Squazzoni).
4. *ESA conference* (European Sociological Association), University of Torino, August 28th-31th 2013. Presentation of the paper “Decrypting financial markets through mass-collaboration: on-line networks of investors in periods of uncertainty”. (authors: Niccolò Casnici [speaker], Pierpaolo Dondio, Roberto Casarin, Flaminio Squazzoni).
5. *ECCS conference* (European Conference on Complex Systems), World Trade Center, September 16th-20th 2013, Barcelona (ES). Presentation of the paper “Decrypting financial markets through mass-collaboration: online networks of investors in periods of uncertainty” (authors: Niccolò Casnici [speaker], Pierpaolo Dondio, Roberto Casarin, Flaminio Squazzoni).
6. *ARS -5th International Workshop on Social Network Analysis*, Anacapri, NA (Italy), April 2015. Presentation of the paper "Who knows about it? Analyzing the Structure of Knowledge Diffusion in 52 Wikipedia Versions through an ERGM approach"(authors: Niccolò Casnici [speaker], Pierpaolo Dondio, Flaminio Squazzoni).
7. *PEERE - International conference on peer review* (COST action TD1306), Valencia (ES), March 2016. Presentation of the paper “Network effects on peer review: an empirical analysis on a multidisciplinary journal” (authors: Niccolò Casnici [speaker], Pierpaolo Dondio, Flaminio Squazzoni).
8. *XXXVI Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis*, Newport Beach (CA), USA, April 2016. Presentation of the paper: “Coworking and social support among peers. A multivariate ERGM of economic and social exchange between ICT freelancers” (authors: Federico Bianchi [speaker], Niccolò Casnici, Flaminio Squazzoni).
9. *INAS-Conference of the International Network of Analytical Sociologists*, Utrecht, The Netherlands, June 2016. Presentation of the paper: “Coworking and solidarity among peers. A full network study of the emergence of support between co-working freelancers” (authors: Federico Bianchi [speaker], Niccolò Casnici, Flaminio Squazzoni).
10. *Herbert Simon Society, fourth International Workshop: Behavioral Economics Nudges and Heuristics for Public Policies*, Turin, October 2016. Presentation of the paper “The anchor that makes you safe cannot help much. Heuristics of information search and communication in an online forum of investors under market uncertainty” (authors: Manuela Testa [speaker], Pierpaolo Dondio, Niccolò Casnici, Marco Castellani, Flaminio Squazzoni).
11. *SISEC (Società Italiana di Sociologia Economica) - Le nuove frontiere della sociologia economica*, Rome, January 2017. Presentation of the paper “Trust and Informal Hierarchy in Solidarity. A Social Network Study of Economic and Social Exchange between Freelancers in a Coworking Space” (authors: Federico Bianchi [speaker], Niccolò Casnici, Flaminio Squazzoni).
12. *PEERE - International conference on peer review* (COST action TD1306), Vilnius (LT), March 2017. Presentation of the paper “The “invisible hand” of peer review: Network effects on scientific collaboration” (authors: Niccolò Casnici, Pierpaolo Dondio [speaker], Flaminio Squazzoni).
13. *Invecchiamento di successo – Ageing opportunities*, Fondazione Ferrero, Alba (CN), Italy, November 2017. Presentation of the paper “Social contexts and cognition in the elderly: the case of Brescia” (authors: Niccolò Casnici, Alessandra Marengoni [speaker], Marco Tononi, Flaminio Squazzoni).
14. *SISEC (Società Italiana di Sociologia Economica) - Il destino del lavoro: Tra ricerca di senso e rivoluzione digitale*, Milan, January 2018. Presentation of the paper “Social contexts and cognition in the elderly: the case of Brescia” (authors: Niccolò Casnici [speaker], Alessandra Marengoni, Marco Tononi, Flaminio Squazzoni).

Scientific Awards

Best junior paper, *Herbert Simon Society - fourth International Workshop: Behavioral Economics Nudges and Heuristics for Public Policies*, Turin, October 2016 (paper: "The anchor that makes you safe cannot help much. Heuristics of information search and communication in an online forum of investors under market uncertainty"- coauthors: Manuela Testa, Pierpaolo Dondio, Marco Castellani, Flaminio Squazzoni).

Society and program committee membership

-ECMS 2014, the 28th European Conference on Modelling & Simulation, Brescia (Italy): member of the organizational staff
-PEERE - International conference on peer review (COST action TD1306)-, Rome (Italy) 2018: member of the program committee
-Member of SISEC (Società Italiana di Sociologia Economica)
-ISSI2019 - 17th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENTOMETRICS & INFORMETRICS: member of the program committee

Peer review

Reviewer for: *JASSS-Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation-*, *Scientometrics*, *Journal of Media and Communication Studies*, *Sociologica*, "Think Forward Initiative" 2018 (<https://www.thinkforwardinitiative.com/>).

Patents and inventions

Niccolò Casnici and Pierpaolo Dondio: "Buzz marketing and social media: how to increase the reliability of online reviews". Italian patent n° 1424673, October 2016. In this patent, notions from (i) social network analysis, (ii) social capital literature and (iii) experimental studies on real/social incentives are applied in order to generate a new peer-to-peer market system based on trust and reputation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- From 2012 to 2016 lodger in the hall of residence for excellent students "Collegio Universitario Lucchini" (Brescia-Italy).
- From 2017, member of the cultural association "Alumni Collegio Lucchini", promoting committee (Brescia-Italy).
- From 2009 president of the musical association "Mario Casnici" (Carpenedolo, BS -Italy).
- Keen about contemporary history, basketball, volleyball, gastronomy and cooking.

In faith,

PhD Dr. Niccolò Casnici

