November 20, 2018

# Federico Zilio

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**Employment**

**Postdoctoral Research Associate**, University of Cambridge — Mar 2018-

**Research Interests**

Applied Microeconometrics, Health Economics, Labour Economics

**Education**

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|---|---|
| **PhD in Economics**, ISER, University of Essex (UK) | 2013-Feb 2018 |
| MSc in Applied Economics and Data Analysis, University of Essex (UK) | 2012-2013 |
| MSc in Statistics, Economics and Finance, University of Padua (Italy) | 2006-2009 |
| BSc in Statistics, Economics and Finance, University of Padua (Italy) | 2003-2006 |

**Publications**

Crossley, T and Zilio, F. (2018) **The Health Benefits of a Targeted Cash Transfer: The UK Winter Fuel Payment** *Health Economics* 27(9):1354-1365.

**Research**

**What do we really know about the employment effects of the National Minimum Wage?** (*with Mike Brewer and Thomas Crossley*)

**Does a Housing Subsidy cut really lower rents? Evidence from a reform in the UK**

**Work in Progress**

**New Estimates of the Cost of Disability** (*with Hamish Low, Thomas Crossley & Luigi Pistaferri*)

**A Rich Characterization of Family Income Dynamics** (*with Ben Etheridge*)

**Conferences and Workshops**

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| Internal Seminar, Dept. of Economics, University of Cambridge (12 October). | 2018 |
| 29th EALE Conference (21-23 September, St. Gallen); 26th European Workshop on Econometrics and Health Economics, (13-16 September, Prague), Internal Seminar, Dept. of Economics, University of Essex (27 November). | 2017 |
| 28th EALE Conference (15-17 Sept, Ghent). | 2016 |
| 4th SOLE/EALE World Conference (26-28 June, Montreal); Workshop on Social and labour market policy evaluation with administrative data, (11-12 June 2015, LISER, Luxembourg). | 2015 |

## Awards and scholarships

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| ESRC Collaborative & Multidisciplinary Funding for the project "Let's Talk" (£8 K) (with R. Baltaru, S. Lo Iacono, R. Weir and B. Sonmez) | 2017 |
| Faculty of Social Sciences Executive Dean Fund for the project "Let's Talk" (£5 K) (with R. Baltaru, S. Lo Iacono, A. Moldovan and R. Weir) | 2016-2017 |
| ESRC Collaborative & Multidisciplinary Funding for the project "Let's Talk" (£16 K) (with R. Baltaru, S. Lo Iacono, A. Moldovan and R. Weir) | 2016 |
| ESRC Full studentship + AQM (Advanced Quantitative Methods) | 2013-2016 |
| Research Scholarship offered by Department of Statistics, Regione Veneto (Italy) | 2010-2012 |
| EU Erasmus exchange programme Scholarship to study at University of Elche (Spain) | 2008 |

## Research experience

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| Researcher on the project "A Rich Characterization of Family Income Dynamics" | Nov 17- Feb 18 |
| Research Assistant on Understanding Society: The UK Household Longitudinal Survey | May 17- Feb 18 |
| Researcher at the Department of Statistics, Veneto Region (Italy) | 2010-12 |

## Teaching experience

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Essex** **2016-17**

Econometric Methods (3rd year BSc)
Microeconomics (2nd year BSc)
Introduction to Quantitative Economics (1st year BSc, *lab classes*)
Introduction to Understanding Society using Stata (ISER workshop, 6-7 April)

## References


**Professor Thomas Crossley**
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University of Essex, Colchester &
Institute for Fiscal Studies
E-mail: tcross@essex.ac.uk

**Professor Hamish Low**
Department of Economics,
University of Oxford, Oxford &
Institute for Fiscal Studies
E-mail: hamish.low@economics.ox.ac.uk

**Professor Mike Brewer**
Institute for Social and Economic Research, &
University of Essex, Colchester &
Institute for Fiscal Studies
E-mail: mbrewer@essex.ac.uk


## Additional Qualifications & Skills

Teaching: Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (2017)
Languages: Italian (native), English (fluent), Spanish (fluent)
Computer Skills: STATA, Microsoft Packages, Latex.

## Job Market Paper

**What do we really know about the employment effects of the National Minimum Wage?**
*with Mike Brewer and Thomas Crossley*


A substantial body of research on the UK National Minimum Wage (NMW) has concluded that the introduction and subsequent up-ratings of the NMW did not have a detrimental effect on employment. This research has directly influenced, through the Low Pay Commission, the conduct of policy including the subsequent introduction of the National Living Wage (NLW). We revisit this literature and offer a reassessment, motivated by two concerns. First, much of this literature employs difference-in-difference designs, even though there are significant challenges in conducting appropriate inference in such designs, and they can have very low power when inference is conducted appropriately. Second, the literature has focused on the binary outcome of statistical rejection of the null hypothesis, without attention to the range of employment effects that are consistent with the data. In our reanalysis of the data, we conduct inference using recent suggestions for best practice and consider what magnitude of employment effects the data can and cannot rule out. We find that the data are consistent with both large negative and small positive impacts

of the UK National Minimum Wage on employment. We conclude that the existing data, combined with difference-in-difference designs, in fact offered very little guidance to policy makers..

## Research Papers

**The Health Benefits of a Targeted Cash Transfer: The UK Winter Fuel Payment**
*with Thomas Crossley*

Each year, the UK records 25,000 or more excess winter deaths, primarily among the elderly. A key policy response is the "Winter Fuel Payment" (WFP), a labelled but unconditional cash transfer to households with a member above the female state pension age. The WFP has been shown to raise fuel spending among eligible households. We examine the causal effect of the WFP on health outcomes, including self-reports of chest infection, measured hypertension, and biomarkers of infection and inflammation. We find a robust, 6 percentage point reduction in the incidence of high levels of serum fibrinogen. Reductions in other disease markers point to health benefits, but the estimated effects are less robust.

**Does a Housing Subsidy cut really lower rents? Evidence from a reform in the UK**

A subsidy can potentially affect the market price for both subsidised and unsubsidised buyers. This paper investigates how a cut to housing subsidies changed rents paid by subsidised and unsubsidised tenants. I exploit an exogenous cut in housing subsidies in the UK as a quasi-experimental design to estimate whether the incidence of the reform in the housing subsidy fell on landlords or subsidised tenants. I find that rents did not decrease significantly and most of the burden of the subsidy cut was borne by subsidised tenants. In addition, the subsidy cut did not produce on average any spillover effect on rents paid by unsubsidised tenants. These findings give evidence that the rental market was not originally segmented between subsidised and unsubsidised tenants. The decrease in the demand of subsidised tenants was offset by the recent expansion of the private rental market due to an increase in number of unsubsidised tenants and new subsidy recipients.