

Dissertations Topics 2014-2015

Dear students, to ease your choice of the final year dissertation, we have prepared a list of dissertation topics. These topics apply concepts and methodologies that you have learnt during these two years at the LM in Economics. You are free to choose any of these topics, regardless of whether you have attended the course. These listed topics are also close to our professors' research interests. This is very important as you will be able to take advantage of your supervisor's research experience. The courses in LM in Economics are taught by professors with a long research record (see their webpages!) and working with them on these topics can be a great opportunity for you to enhance your research skills. You remain free to agree a topic with your supervisor which is outside this list. Topics are allocated on a first-come first-serve basis.

Enjoy it!

Prof Elisabetta Iossa, Coordinator
Prof Daniela Vuri, Director of Students Relations
Prof Stefano Gagliarducci, Director of Teaching Program

Prof Vincenzo Atella (Health Economics)

Title 1: Measuring the disease burden of chronic diseases in Italy in an ageing society: implication for the economic sustainability of the health care and social security system.

Title 2: Measuring the productivity of the Health care system in Italy: a regional analysis

Title 3: The production function of the public health care system in Italy: the role of institutional changes.

Prof Eloisa Campioni (Theory of Banking)

Title 1: Bank's credit risk and the role of the interbank market

Title 2: Regulating a risk averse financial intermediary

Title 3: Competition among financial intermediaries

Prof Luisa Corrado (International Economics and Macroeconomics)

Title 1: Contagion in financial networks

Title 2: Credit cycles and macroprudential regulation

Title 3: Fiscal compact, banks' leverage and the role of stabilisation policies.

Prof Gianluca Cubadda (Time series)

Title 1: Macroeconomic and financial forecasting using many predictors (uses Matlab skills)

Title 2: Modelling co-movements of economic time series in a data-rich framework (uses Matlab skills)

Title 3: Common trends and common cycles in the Italian economy.

Prof Gianni De Fraja (Public Economics)

Title 1: A theoretical analysis of the use of complicated price schedules to confuse consumers.

Title 2: An empirical study of the 2014 assessment of research performance in British universities.

Title 3: Socioeconomic conditions and school performance in the UK, a panel analysis.

Prof Leo Ferraris (Monetary Economics)

Title 1. The "New Monetarist" Approach to Monetary Economics: Theory and Applications

Title 2. Redistributive Monetary Policy in a Microfounded Model of Money

Title 3. Credit and Banking in a Monetary Economy: Theory and Applications

Prof Stefano Gagliaducci (Stata, Public Choice)

Title 1: Electoral accountability and ideological voting

Title 2: Pandering within the electoral cycle

Title 3: Spoil-system in the bureaucracy

Prof Paolo Gibilisco (Mathematics)

Applications of operator monotone functions in Economics.

See http://www.kirj.ee/public/proceedings_pdf/2010/issue_1/proc-2010-1-42-47.pdf

Prof Tommaso Proietti (Macroeconometrics)

Title 1:: Measuring core inflation

Title 2: Structural models for estimating the output gap and potential output

Title 2: Robust forecasting

Prof Elisabetta Iossa (Industrial Organization)

Title 1. Public private partnerships in the airport sector: tariff regulation and risk allocation

Title 2.: Contracting out the provision of local transport services to private operators

Title 3. Procurement of Research and Development services.

Prof Giancarlo Spagnolo (Law and Economics)

Title 1. Antitrust/Competition Policy design and Enforcement

Title 2. Corruption/Anti-Corruption Policies

Title 3. Financial Markets Regulation and its Enforcement

Prof Tommaso Valletti (Microeconomics)

Title 1. The effect of mobile telecoms mergers on prices and investments

Title 2. The economics of privacy.

Title 3. Mobile payments and financial inclusion

Prof Daniela Vuri (Labour and Personnel Economics)

Title 1. The gender wage gap in Italy in the last three decades: empirical evidence from the Bank of Italy data

Title 2. Body weight and socio-economic determinants: quantile estimates from the ECHP data

Title 3. Changes in reimbursements over regions and over time and incidence of caesarean births

Prof Robert Waldman (Macroeconomics)

Title 1. Housing prices and aggregate demand: A comparison of Italy and the USA.

(It has been argued that low aggregate demand and severe or repeated recessions can be

understood without appeal to financial frictions, given the sharp decline in the price of houses.)
Title 2. Expected long term relative House Price inflation and housing investment (this has to be for the USA because only Shiller has asked).

Title 3. The Correlation of average consumption growth and average real interest rates over long intervals and the habit formation model. (it should be high but it is about as low as the short run correlation)

Title 4. Quantitative easing, petroleum prices and expected inflation (A large discussion ignores the clear effect of recent changes on the price of oil on expected inflation calculated using yields on inflation protected and ordinary bonds).

Title 5. Recent inflation and medium term inflation expectations (the regression coefficient is too high compared to the coefficient of achieved inflation on lagged inflation)

Prof Mariangela Zoli (Environmental Economics)

Title 1. Environmental behaviors: the role of personal values, social norms and monetary incentives

Title 2. The climate change agreements: equity issues and opportunities for developing countries

Title 3. Green public procurement, environmental policy and eco-innovation