**INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION**

**Research Assistant in the**

**Department of Economics and Finance**

**on the research project:**

**“Social Identity and Rule Conformity”**

***1. Institutional details***

* Tutor name and email: Professor Giorgio Gulino
* Economic fields: Political Economy
* Internship start date (please indicate if flexible or not): January 2025 (Flexible)
* Full-time/Part-time: Part-time

***2. Skills and Experience required***

* Languages required: English
* Degree requirement: Enrollment in MSc Economics
* Skills required: good programming skills in scientific computing languages; experience in data management; sound knowledge of econometric techniques.

***3. Job description: “Research Assistant for the Project Social Identity and Rule Conformity”***

* This research project aims to explore how the salience of out-group identity influences the propensity of immigrants to commit low-stakes crimes, specifically under-reporting items at self-service checkouts in Italian supermarkets. Using a difference-in-differences approach with high-frequency data from 800,000 random audits, we find that following identity salience shocks at the local level -- such as hate crimes, negative media coverage, or right-wing campaign stops -- immigrants, particularly visible minorities, are less likely to under-report, suggesting increased conformity to rules. Our findings are consistent with theories of ostracism and social exclusion, highlighting the dynamic nature of social hierarchies and resulting changes in the material, social, and psychological costs of rule non-conformity for out-group members.
* The intern will be involved in:
  + Assisting in the collection, cleaning, and analysis of large datasets related to rule conformity and social identity, including high-frequency data from supermarket audits.
  + Supporting the implementation of econometric techniques, including difference-in-differences analysis, to assess the effects of identity salience shocks on immigrant behavior.
  + Preparing visualizations and summaries of findings to support ongoing research and academic dissemination.
* The intern will develop the following skills:
  + Managing and analyzing large datasets using scientific programming languages (e.g., Python, R, or Stata).
  + Advanced econometric techniques, with a focus on causal inference methods such as difference-in-differences.
  + Critical thinking and problem-solving in the context of complex social science research questions.
  + Experience in academic research processes, including literature review, data interpretation, and the preparation of scholarly materials.

**Please note:** The student must complete 150 internship hours over the course of at least three months and submit the Tutor’s final evaluation document, questionnaires and timesheet at least 45 days prior to his/her graduation. Upon termination of the internship, the Tutor will be required to send immediate notice to Desk Imprese Economia Tor Vergata [deskimprese@economia.uniroma2.it](mailto:deskimprese@economia.uniroma2.it) with [msc\_economics@economia.uniroma2.it](mailto:msc_economics@economia.uniroma2.it) in copy so the student may obtain credit recognition for the internship activity.