

ITALO MORAIS SANTOS

PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME: Italo Morais Santos
PLACE OF BIRTH: Fortaleza, Brazil
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RESEARCH AREAS

Macroeconomics, Applied Bayesian Econometrics.

EDUCATION

Aug. 2016 – Present PH.D. Economics
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Feb. 2015 – Mar.2016 M.S. Economics
Federal University of Ceará
Feb. 2010 – Dec.2014 B.S. Economics
Federal University of Ceará

JOB MARKET PAPER

Towards Robust Local Projections In this paper I derive a new algorithm to perform Bayesian inference of structural impulse responses with an instrumental variable incorporating shrinkage, sign restrictions, and other forms of prior information. The proposed method is valid under non-invertibility and weak instruments. The Bayesian LP-IV is applied to estimate the effects of average marginal income tax shocks and monetary policy shocks.

OTHER WORKING PAPERS

On The Empirics of Optimal Tax policy Under Parameter Uncertainty. I study optimal tax policy when policymakers need to estimate and draw inferences regarding structural parameters from data. I show standard practice does not incorporate all prior information and propose using the welfare function as a loss function when constructing point and interval estimates.

WORKING PROJECTS

The Dynamic Macroeconomic Impact of Pension Spending: Evidence from Brazil I provide new estimates of the government spending multiplier in the Brazilian economy from 1990-2020 using pension reforms to construct a government spending instrument. According to my early results, the multiplier in Brazil is positive and between 0.7 and 1.8.

Building Counter-Factuals with Spatio-Temporal Data. (Joint with Marcelino Guerra) We propose a new identification strategy to perform causal inference in georeferenced spatial panel data using the difference between realization and model-based predictions. We apply the model to measure the effect of the construction of football fields in poor neighborhoods of Fortaleza, Brazil, on criminal activity.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Sole Course Responsibility

Fall 2021 – Spring 2022 Economic Forecasting
Advanced Undergraduate Level
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Teaching Assistant

Current Applied Microeconometrics
Ph.D. Level
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Fall 2019 - Spring 2021 Principles of Macroeconomics
Undergraduate Level
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Fall 2017 - Spring 2019 Principles of Microeconomics
Undergraduate Level
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Spring 2015 Mathematical Economics
Master's Level
Federal University of Ceará

Fall 2014 Advanced Macroeconomics
Master's Level
Federal University of Ceará

Fall 2013 - Spring 2014 Economic Growth
Undergraduate Level
Federal University of Ceará

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Summer 2021 Summer Research Award
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Fall 2016 - Spring 2023 Economics Department Graduate Fellowship
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Spring 2016 *Magna Cum Laude* Master's Degree
Federal University of Ceará

Fall 2014 *Magna Cum Laude* Bachelor's Degree
Federal University of Ceará

2012 Best Research Paper, Program of Tutorial Education
Federal University of Ceará

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Fall 2018 - Spring 2021 Research Assistant
Pooyan Amir-Ahmadi
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

PRESENTATIONS

2022 The University of Illinois Macroeconomics Seminar

OTHER SERVICES

Referee Reports Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance

TECHNICAL SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Programming R, Matlab
Languages Portuguese (Native), English (Fluent)