Tommaso Sonno

Department of Economics
University of Bologna
Piazza Scaravilli 2, Bologna, 40126, Italy

www.tommasosonno.com
tommaso.sonno@unibo.it

POSITIONS

Associate Professor of Economics
Department of Economics, University of Bologna 2025-
Courses taught: globalization and international trade; framing, microdata analysis, and communication of evidence-based policy briefs.

Deputy Director
PNRR Lab, SDA Bocconi School of Management 2022-
Management of the lab's institutional and research activities.

Economic Expert 2026-
Italian Ministry for Economic and Finance
Steering Committee on Capital Markets Development.

Adjunct Professor
Bologna Business School 2025-
Course taught: Macroeconomics.
Italian Institute for International Political Studies 2020-
Preparation for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs diplomatic selection.
Johns Hopkins SAIS Europe 2019-
Courses taught: international trade; macroeconomics; monetary economics; economics of conflict, with a focus on evidence-based policy and effective communication with policy makers.
Bocconi University 2019-
Course taught: European economic policy.

AFFILIATIONS

Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics
Johns Hopkins SAIS Europe
Baffi Carefin, Bocconi University
Green, Bocconi University
Institute for European Policymaking, Bocconi University

OTHER POSITIONS

Member of the Board of Directors
Anemocyte S.r.l. 2024-

Lead Researcher
Interpeace and German Federal Foreign Office (Finance for Peace initiative) 2022-2023

President Board of Appeals
Former: President, Vice-President, Responsible for Fundraising, Inst. Relations
European Youth Parliament Italy 2008-2017

Responsible for Fundraising (Volunteer)
Nasara for Burkina - NGO 2003-

PAST POSITIONS

Assistant Professor of Economics, Dep. of Economics, University of Bologna 2019-2024

AWARDS, GRANTS

Modigliani Research Grant, UniCredit Foundation 2021-2022
Cordusio Research Grant, UniCredit Foundation and Cordusio SIM 2019-2020
Essay Award for Young Economist, Review of World Economics 2018
ECB Young Economists' Competition, 10 Ph.D. students shortlisted worldwide 2017
Research Fellow (fully funded), Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS 2016-2018

PUBLICATIONS

"The Financial Drivers of Populism in Europe", with L. Guiso, M. Morelli, H. Herrera. **Cambridge University Press**, Forthcoming.

"The Environmental Impact of Multinational Firms" , with F. Noack, D. Rohner. **Nature Climate Change**, 2026.

"Business Groups as Knowledge-Based Hierarchies of Firms", with C. Altomonte, G. Ottaviano, A. Rungi. **Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization**, 2026.

Liquidity as Competitive Advantage: The Role of Intangibles", with C. Altomonte, M. Morlacco, D. Favoino. **Journal of International Economics**, 2025.

"Globalization and Conflicts: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Corporations in Africa". **Economic Journal**, 2025.

"Curse or Blessing? Multinational Corporations and Labor Market Outcomes in Africa", with M. Mendola, G. Prarolo. **Review of World Economics**, 2024.

"Economic Insecurity and the Demand of Populism in Europe", with L. Guiso, H. Herrera, M. Morelli. **Economica**, 2024

"Saving the world from your couch: the heterogeneous medium-run benefits of COVID-19 lockdowns on air pollution", with J. P. Bonardi, Q. Gallea, D. Kalanoski, R. Lalive, R. Madhok, F. Noack, D. Rohner. **Environmental Research Letters**, 2021

"Global crises and populism: the role of Eurozone institutions", with L. Guiso, H. Herrera, M. Morelli. **Economic Policy**, 2019.

"On Economic Interdependence and War", with M. Morelli. **Journal of Economic Literature**, 2017.

BOOK CHAPTERS

"Global Value Networks", with C. Altomonte, I. Colantone, A. Rungi. In J. Amador and F. di Mauro ed., The Age of Global Value Chains: Maps & Policy Issues. **CEPR Press**, 2015.

"Firm-Level Productivity and Exporting. Diagnosing the role of Financial Constraints", with C. Altomonte, H. Vandenbussche. In Product Market Review 2013, **DG Economic and Financial Affairs, European Commission Publication**, 2014.

WORKING PAPERS

"Agricultural FDI, Production, and Local Development: Evidence from the Palm Oil Sector in Liberia", with D. Zufacchi. 2025.

"Business Groups, Strategic Acquisitions and Innovation", with C. Altomonte, N. El-Mallakh. 2025.

"Populism: Demand and Supply" with L. Guiso, H. Herrera, M. Morelli. CEPR DP 11871 (version 2), 2018.

WORK IN PROGRESS

"Cultivating Resilience: Climate Adaptation in Italian Agriculture", with R. Muri, D. Zufacchi.

"Cracks in the Pyramid: Business Group Structure and Natural Disasters", with C. Altomonte, G. Ottaviano.

"On City Growth: the Role of Skill Portability", with A. Sforza, K. Takeda.

"Intangibles and Knowledge-Sharing in Business Groups", with C. Altomonte, A. Greppi, A. Pisa.

INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Member of the University of Bologna's *Commissione Valorizzazione delle Conoscenze*, responsible for selecting projects to be submitted for evaluation to the Ministry of University and Research, 2024.

Member of the **Scientific Committee**, Annual "Marco Fanno Alumni Workshop", UniCredit Foundation, since 2023.

Head of the **Organizing and Scientific Committee** of the Annual Junior Trade Workshop, Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics, since 2022.

Head Organizer of the Economics Job Market Bootcamp in Tuscany, University of Bologna and CEPR, since 2020.

Member of the recruitment committee of the Junior Job Market, Department of Economics, University of Bologna, since 2019.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Affiliate, London School of Economics	2015-2018
Ph.D., Economics, Université catholique de Louvain	2013-2018
M.S. Joint Degree, Economics, Bocconi and Université cath. de Louvain	2010-2013
B.S., International Economics and Management, Bocconi	2007-2010

INVITED TALKS AND SEMINARS (Selection)

German Institute for Global and Area Studies	2026
Leuven-Louvain Trade Workshop	2025
Johns Hopkins SAIS	2024
Department of Economics, University of Munich LMU	2022
Department of Economics, University of Groningen	2022
Unit for Stabilisation and Peacebuilding, German Federal Foreign Office	2021
Online Political Economy Seminar Series	2021
Department of Economics, University of Leicester	2021
Department of Economics, Aarhus University	2018
Department of Economics, Carlo Alberto	2018
Department of Economics, University of Bologna	2018
Department of Economics, University of Naples	2018
Department of Economics, University of Nottingham	2018
Bank of Italy	2018

INVITED CONFERENCES (Selection)

Empirical Microeconomics Workshop, Banff	2025
OECD, INCAF Workshop, Paris	2024
Investment For Peace, United Nation and German FFO, Berlin	2022
European Trade Study Group, Groningen	2022
Peacebuilding Support Office, Dep. of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, UN	2022
European Trade Study Group, Ghent	2021
Political Economy of Power Relations, Milan	2021
Households in Conflict Network Workshop, Paris	2019
European Political Science Association, Belfast	2019
Bruneck-Brunico Workshop on Political Economy	2018
European Economic Association Annual Meeting, Cologne	2018
European Trade Study Group, Warsaw	2018
Danish International Economics Workshops, Aarhus	2018
European Trade Study Group, Florence	2017
ASSA Meeting, San Francisco	2016
Royal Economic Society Symposium, Sussex	2016

REFEREEING

Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of European Economic Association, Economic Journal, American Political Science Review, Journal of International Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Theory, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of Comparative Economics, European Economic Review, European Journal of Political Economy, Economic Policy, Economica, Plos ONE.