

## Cecilia TESTA

---

### **BUSINESS ADDRESS**

Sir Clive Granger Building  
University of Nottingham  
Nottingham, NG7 2RD  
United Kingdom  
E-mail: cecilia.testa@nottingham.ac.uk

### **PERSONAL DETAILS**

Married  
One daughter, born in January 2012

---

### **EDUCATION**

#### **London School of Economics and Political Science**

PhD in Economics, August 2003. Thesis: "Public policy and private interests in representative democracies" Advisor: Prof. Tim Besley

#### **Università degli Studi di Salerno**

Doctorate in Public Economics, February 1998.

#### **DELTA – (EHESS-ENSAE-ENS-Ecole Polytechnique), Paris**

Master degree: "Analyse et Politiques Economiques" *with distinction*, September 1995

#### **Università Commerciale L.BOCCONI , Milan**

Diploma di Laurea (B.Sc.) *summa cum laude* in Economics

### **CURRENT and PAST ACADEMIC POSITION**

#### **University of Nottingham, School of Economics, 2014-**

Professor (Chair of Political Economy)

#### **Royal Holloway University of London, Economics Department, 2001-2014**

Professor (2014), Reader (2012-2014), Senior Lecturer (2009-2011), Lecturer (2001-2008)

#### **Abilitazione Professore Ordinario, settore disciplinare Economia Politica (13/A1), 2015-2021**

#### **Idoneita' Professore Associato, settore disciplinare Economia Politica (SECS-P01), January 2011**

Erasmus University, ESE, Rotterdam, 2010 -2011, Universiteit docent (part-time)

#### **London School of Economics and Political Science, Economics Department, 2000-2001, Lecturer**

### **OTHER AFFILIATIONS**

CEPR, Research Fellow, 2023-

**Nottingham Interdisciplinary Centre for Economic and Political Research (NICEP)**, *Founding Director*, 2015-

**Centro Studi Luca D'Aglia**, *Fellow*, 2009-

**Tinbergen Institute**, *Research fellow*, 2010-2012

**STICERD (LSE)**, *Affiliate*, 2001-

## **VISITING POSITIONS AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Harvard, Department of Government**, Visiting Scholar (2024-2025)

**Harvard, Department of Government**, Visiting Scholar (2015-2016)

**Australian National University, RSCS**, Visiting Scholar (July-September 2009)

**Hong Kong University of Science and Technology**, Visiting Scholar (September 2008)

**University of Essex, Economics Department**, Visiting Scholar (October-December 2007)

**MIT Political Science Department**, Visiting Scholar (January, 2006)

**University of Sao Paulo**, Visiting Scholar (July-August, 2004)

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, Visiting Scholar (September 2003)

**STICERD (LSE) Research Assistant** (Sept 1996- July 1997)

**French Ministry of the Economy, Research Department**, (Feb-Mar.1996)

**DELTA, Research Assistant** (July-Aug. 1995)

**Università Commerciale L. BOCCONI, Teaching Assistant**, (1993 – 1994)

**IGIER, Research Assistant**, (1993 – 1994)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Black Empowerment and Whites' Mobilization: The Effects of the Voting Rights Act (2025), joint with Andrea Bernini, Giovanni Facchini and Marco Tabellini, *Journal of Political Economy*, Volume 133, Number 10, pages 3078-3131.

The Franchise, Policing and Race: Evidence from Arrests Data and the Voting Rights Act (2025), joint with Giovanni Facchini and Brian Knight,, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, Volume 17, Number 4, Pages 134-54.

Sixty Years of the Voting Rights Act: Progress and Pitfalls (2024), joint with Andrea Bernini, Giovanni Facchini and Marco Tabellini) *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, Volume 40, issue 3, Pages 486-497.

Race, Representation and Local Governments in the US South: the effect of the Voting Rights Act (2023), joint with Andrea Bernini and Giovanni Facchini, *Journal of Political Economy*, Volume 131, Number 4, Pages 994-1056.

The 'Baccarini Law' railways (1880-1890): their long-run sectoral impact" (2022) with Roberto Bonfatti, Alex Tarasov, Gian Luca Tedeschi and Cecilia

Testa, *Rivista di Storia Economica, special issue in honour of Stefano Fenoaltea*, Pages 233-261.

The Rhetoric of Closed Borders: Quotas, Lax Enforcement and Illegal Migration (2021), joint with Giovanni Facchini, *Journal of International Economics*, Volume 129, Article 103415.

Bicameralism (2019) in *Oxford Handbook of Public Choice* (Oxford University Press), Edited by Roger Congleton, Bernie Grofman and Stefan Voigt.

Corruption and bicameral reforms (2016), joint with Giovanni Facchini, *Social Choice and Welfare*, Volume 47, Issue 2, Pages 387-411.

Asylum policy and illegal immigration: perspectives and challenges (2016), joint with Giovanni Facchini and Alessandra Casarico, *CESifo DICE report*.

The political economy of migration enforcement: domestic versus border control (2015), joint with Giovanni Facchini, *CESifo Economic Studies, Symposium on Migration Policy*.

Why do small states receive more federal monies? US Senate representation and the allocation of federal budget (2013), *Lead article Economics and Politics*, Volume 25, Issue 3, Pages 257-514.

Changing needs, sticky budget: Evidence from the Geographic Distribution of US Federal Grants (2013), joint with Valentino Larcinese and Leo Rizzo, *National Tax Journal*, 66, Pages 311-342.

Testing the Swing Voter Hypothesis Using Federal Spending in the US States (2013), joint with Valentino Larcinese and James M. Snyder Jr., *The British Journal of Political Science*, 43, pages 845-875.

Is Polarization Bad? (2012), *European Economic Review*, Volume 56, Issue 6, Pages 1104-1118.

Bicameralism and Corruption (2010), *European Economic Review*, Volume 54, Issue 2, Pages 181-198. Reprinted in *Design of Constitution* (2012), by Stefan Voigt, Economic Approaches to Law Series, R. Posner and F. Parisi eds., Edward Elgar Publishing.

The Political Economy of Public Spending: Evidence from the US States (2010), joint with James Snyder and Valentino Larcinese, in *Public Choice and Political Economy*, pp. 143-163, Fabio Padovano & Alessandro Petretto (eds.), Franco Angeli.

Who's against a Common Market? (2009), joint with Giovanni Facchini, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, Vol. 7, No. 5, Pages 1068-1100.

Fiscal Decentralization, Inequality and Bailout: Lessons from Brazil's Debt Crisis (2008), joint with Giovanni Facchini, *Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*, 48 (2), Pages 333-344.

Allocating the US Federal Budget to the States: The Impact of the President (2006), joint with Valentino Larcinese and Leo Rizzo, *Journal of Politics* 68 (2): Pages 447-456.

Reform, Lobbies and Welfare: a common agency approach (2005), *Public Choice*, 125, 3-4: Pages 305-337.

## **WORKING PAPERS**

Regional Deprivation, Individual Prospects and Political Resentment (2025) joint with Giovanni Facchini, Anja Neundorf and Sergi Pardo-Prado, CITP WP023, *revise and resubmit*, *British Journal of Political Science*.

Pork, Infrastructure and Growth: Evidence from the Italian Railway Expansion (2021), joint with Roberto Bonfatti, Giovanni Facchini, Alexander Tarasov, Gianluca Tedeschi, *CEPR DP16462*, *revise and resubmit*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*.

Ballot, Badge and Bench: The Voting Rights Act and Representation in the Justice System (2025), joint with Andrea Bernini, Giovanni Facchini and Hye Young You.

## **COLUMNS and PRESS RELEASES**

The Voting Rights Act's Impact on Black Representation in Local Government, *Journal of Political Economy*, May 1, 2023

Policing and race: The role of electoral accountability, joint with Giovanni Facchini and Brian Knight, *VOX*, July 7 2020

The rhetoric of closed borders, joint with Giovanni Facchini, *VOX*, April 28 2011

## **GRANTS, AWARDS AND HONOURS**

**2022-**

**ESRC**, *Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy*, Co-Investigator

Overall budget approximately £ 12 million

## **2018-2024**

**Volkswagen Foundation**, *Challenges for Europe. The Rise of Populist Parties in Europe: the Dark Side of Globalization and Technological Change?*, Co-Investigator Overall project budget approximately 980,000 euros

Australian National University visiting fellowship (2009)

Royal Economic Society Grant for visiting abroad (2003-2004)

CNR Grant for research abroad (2001-2002)

Marie Curie Fellowship Grant, TMR, European Union (1997-2000)

Post-graduate Scholarship from Italian Ministry of Research (1994-1997)

## **PhD STUDENT SUPERVISION and EXAMINATION COMMITTEE**

Malena Arcidiacono, University of Nottingham, School of Economics (ongoing)

Kevin Kittoe, University of Nottingham, School of Politics, (ongoing)

Lucas De Melo, University of Nottingham, School of Economics

Edoardo Cefala, University of Nottingham, School of Economics

Kraiynos Patrawart, Royal Holloway, Department of Economics

Silvia Platoni, Royal Holloway, Department of Economics (second advisor)

Claudia Cerrone, Royal Holloway, Department of Economics (second advisor)

Chiara Kofol, Royal Holloway, Department of Economics, (second advisor)

Mike Seiferling, London School of Economics and Political Science (external examiner)

Patrick Blanchenay, London School of Economics and Political Science (external examiner)

Samer Matta, University of Nottingham (internal examiner)

Bruno Nogueira Lanzer, Queen Mary (external examiner)

Simon Pedro Lodato, Essex (external examiner)

Federico Trombetta, Warwick (external examiner).

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Principles of Microeconomics (undergraduate)

Microeconomics (graduate)

Political Economy (undergraduate and graduate)

Research Methods (undergraduate and graduate)

Economic Policy Analysis (undergraduate)

Comparative and Transition Economics (undergraduate)

International Economic Policy (undergraduate)

Principles of Macroeconomics (undergraduate)

American Politics (undergraduate),

MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses), The Politics of Economics and the Economics of Politicians, in collaboration with Vince Cable (Former MP and Secretary of State for Business)

## **SERVICE**

Member of the Council, University of Nottingham, 2025 –

Member of the Senate, University of Nottingham, 2022 –

Member of the Professorial (L7) Promotion Committee, University of Nottingham, 2022-2025

Chair of the School of Economics Recruitment Committee, University of Nottingham, 2022-

Member of the School of Economics Research Committee, University of Nottingham, 2021-

Joint Honors Program Coordinator, School of Economics, University of Nottingham, 2014-

Member of the School of Economics Recruitment Committee, University of Nottingham (2017-2018)

PhD Admissions Director, Economics Department, Royal Holloway University of London, 2013-2014.

Member of the Learning and Teaching Committee, Economics Department, Royal Holloway University of London 2013-2014.

Undergraduate Admissions Director, Economics Department, Royal Holloway University of London, 2001-2003 and 2006-2009.

Postgraduate Admissions Director, Economics Department , Royal Holloway University of London, 2006-2007.

Member of the Recruiting Committee, Economics Department, Royal Holloway University of London, 2008-2009.

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL DUTIES**

Scottish Journal of Political Economy, Co-editor, 2024-

Economica, Associate Editor, 2023-

POLECONUK, member of the executive board, 2017-

LSE, Department of Government: External examiner

University of Leicester, REF External research output reviewer.

Society the Advancement of Economic Theory (SAET), session organizer 2023, 2016, 2013, 2011

Royal Economic Society Conference: Programme Committee Member, 2006-2009

*Referee:* American Economic Review, American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, British Journal of Political Science, Canadian Journal of Economics, Constitutional Political Economy, Comparative Political Studies, Economic Journal, Economic Theory, European Economic Review, Journal of Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Public Choice,

Review of Economic Studies, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Rivista di Politica Economica, Social Choice and Welfare, Southern Economic Journal

### **CONFERENCES ORGANIZED**

2025 NICEP Annual Conference

2024 NICEP Annual Conference

2023 NICEP Annual Conference

2020 NICEP Annual Conference

2019 POLECONUK Conference

The Economic Roots of Populism, 2019 (joint NICEP/GEP workshop, sponsored by the Volkswagen Foundation)

2018 NICEP Annual Conference

2017 NICEP Annual Conference

2016 NICEP Inaugural Conference

First Erasmus Workshop in Political Economy: Organization, selection, group power and the media, Erasmus University (Rotterdam), 2010.

### **CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS and INVITED SEMINARS**

#### **2025**

Havard (Alberto Alesina PE seminar)

#### **2024**

Brown (Department of Economics), Havard (Department of Government)

#### **2023**

ERINN Conference (Paris), CESifo workshop The Economic Analysis of Critical Junctures (Venice), SAET conference (Paris), CEPR Conference Political Economy of Populism (2023)

#### **2022**

CEPR Paris Symposium, LSE-NYU PSPE Conference

#### **2021**

University of Warwick

#### **2020**

NYU (Abu Dhabi)

#### **2019**

ECPR Keynote for the Standing Group on Analytical Politics and Public Choice, Warwick in Venice Political Economy Conference, Causes and Consequences of Populism (Bocconi), Warwick, CAGE conference, University of California San Diego.

#### **2018**

Political Economy workshop (Sheffield), Kings College (London), LSE-NYU Conference, Identity Segregation and Conflict (London)

**2017**

POLECONUK workshop (LSE), Political Economy of Development Conference (University of Warwick)

**2016**

MPSA meetings (Chicago), EPSA (Bruxelles), SAET (Rio de Janeiro), Comparative Politics and Formal Theory Conference (Harvard), University of York

**2014**

Comparative Approaches to the Study of Immigration (Stanford), Trade, Growth and Income Distribution (Barcelona GSE Summer forum).

**2013**

SAET conference (Paris), CESifo Economic Studies Conference on Migration (Munich).

**2011**

Migration: Economic Change, Social Challenge Conference, UCL (London), X SAET meeting, session organizer (Faro), Universitat de Barcelona (IEB).

**2010**

CEPR-LDA workshop on "Illegal Immigration and the effects of immigration on destination countries (Milan), PSPE Conference (London School of Economics and Political Science), Applied Economics workshop (Petràlia Sottana), IZA workshop on "Illegal Immigration", Norface Migration Programme, World Bank and CReAM, Joint Conference - "Migration, Development, and Global Issues".

**2009**

Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association (San Francisco), Erasmus University of Rotterdam, University of Ancona, Public Economic Theory Annual Meeting (Galway), Australian National University, Dublin Political Economy workshop, CESifo workshop on Political Economy.

**2008**

Midwest Meeting of Political Science (Chicago), PSPE Conference "Designing Democratic Institutions (London School of Economics and Political Science), University of Warwick, CESifo workshop on Political Economy.

**2007**

Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association (Chicago), Università degli Studi di Milano, SAET conference (Kos), University of Cambridge.

**2006**

Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association (Boston), Brazilian Econometric Society Meeting (Bahia), STICERD (LSE), University of Birmingham.

**2005**

University of Bristol, University of Warwick, EBRD (London), University of Southern Illinois at Carbondale, Public Economics w-end (Essex), Midwest Economic Theory Meeting (Vanderbilt), Midwest Political Science Meeting



(Chicago), Workshop on Heterogeneous Agents and Organizations (CORE), SAET conference (Vigo), Conference on Regulation Competition and Income Distribution: Latin American Experience (Paraty, Brazil).

**2004**

SOAS Economics Seminars (London), Ente per gli Studi Monetari e Bancari L. Einaudi (Rome), Università degli Studi di Ferrara, Latin American Meeting of the Econometric Society (Santiago), University of Sao Paulo, Fundacao Getulio Vargas, APSA meeting (Chicago), Public Economic week-end (Essex), STICERD (LSE).

**2003**

Summer meeting of the North American Econometric Society (Chicago), Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory (Rhodes), Università "La Sapienza" (Rome), Università di Siena, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, STICERD (LSE), Universidad Carlos III (Madrid).

**2001**

Annual Meeting American Economic Association (New Orleans), University of Colorado (Boulder), University of Essex, University of Exeter, University of Oxford, Royal Holloway University of London, SITE Summer Workshop in Political Economy and Public Finance (Stanford).

**2000**

LACEA Meeting (Rio de Janeiro), World Congress of the Econometric Society (Seattle), PET, II (Warwick), Royal Economic Society Conference (St Andrews).

**1997-1998**

EEA/ESEM, (Berlin).