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Tommaso De Santo

Economist & Data Scientist

EDUCATION

New York University *Ph.D. in Economics* New York, NY · 2021–present

Collegio Carlo Alberto *M.A. in Economics (Allievi Program)* Turin, Italy · 2018–2020

University of Turin *M.Sc. in Economics — 110/110, summa cum laude* Turin, Italy · 2018–2020

University of Trento *B.A. in Economics — 110/110, summa cum laude* Trento, Italy · 2015–2018

SELECTED PROJECTS

Fertility, Housing, and Location Decisions

- Analyzed PSID panel data and full ACS 1-year microdata (~45 million individuals).
- Built and estimated (SMM + indirect inference) a lifecycle model of fertility, housing, and location choices; used it to evaluate zoning deregulation, downpayment assistance, and housing vouchers.
- Found that new parents are ~30% more likely to own their home and tend to move to larger spaces within five years of a first child.

Consumption Sorting and Inequality *with Saverio Spinella*

- Designed price, search, and store-density measures from ~170 billion NielsenIQ retail scanner records.
- Built a model showing that a household's spending can be predicted from its neighbors' shopping behavior.
- Simulated retail price policies, finding that price caps lower the cost of living unevenly — helping wealthier areas more than poorer ones (the savings gap widens from 20% to 34%).

Presented at the SaM Annual Conference, the DC Search & Matching Workshop, and the Indiana University / Chicago Fed Symposium on Real Estate & Urban Policy (2026).

Frictional Rental Markets and Inequality

- Showed that young, recently-moved renters pay systematically higher rents, especially in dense cities where housing is hard to build.
- Built a model that explains the wide variation in rents and predicts who is most affected.
- Found that building more housing helps younger, more mobile renters the most.

EXPERIENCE

European Central Bank Frankfurt, Germany · 2020–2021

Trainee, Directorate General Statistics

- Improved tools and developed scripts for the Euro Area Financial Accounts.
- Automated revision assessments across a complex multi-source statistical system.
- Supported the team's migration to a new Python+R IT system.

New York University New York, NY · 2022–2025

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics

- Taught Introduction to Econometrics, Intermediate Macroeconomics, and International Economics across eight semesters; explained technical material clearly to non-specialist students.

SKILLS

PROGRAMMING Python (pandas, NumPy, scikit-learn), R, SQL, Stata, MATLAB.

METHODS Causal inference, structural modeling, counterfactual policy evaluation, dynamic programming, numerical methods, time-series and forecasting.

LANGUAGES Italian, English.

AWARDS

NYU MacCracken Fellowship (2021–2027) · Unicredit Marco Fanno Scholarship (2021) · Carlo Alberto Allievi Honors Program (2018–2020) · University of Trento Honors Program (2015–2018).