



Graduate School of Information Science, University of Hyogo 21st International Research Seminar

TERRITORIAL MARGINALIZATION AND PLACE-BASED POLICY: EVIDENCE FROM ITALY'S INNER AREAS.

Wed. 4 Mar. 2026 (13:00 ~ 14:00) JST

IN-PERSON/ONLINE SEMINAR

The National Strategy for Inner Areas (SNAI) was introduced in 2014 by the Italian government with the aim of reducing territorial disparities in access to essential services. It targets municipalities affected by demographic decline and limited accessibility to key public services, such as education, healthcare, and transport. This seminar focuses on the evaluation of SNAI from multiple perspectives.

Relying on real-time travel data from OpenStreetMap and TomTom, we develop a replicable monitoring framework to assess driving times to service hubs for more than 7,600 municipalities. Using this approach, we reclassified Inner Areas for 2025 and identified a 20% increase in their number compared to the last official classification, carried out over five years ago.

We further refine the analysis by developing a monitoring system differentiated by specific essential services. When accessibility is measured in terms of distance to schools, Inner Areas account for about 12.5% of municipalities; this share rises to 36.9% when considering train stations and to 46.5% when focusing on hospitals. Within this framework, we also assess the potential role of interventions under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) in reducing gaps in access to hospital facilities.

Finally, we examine whether municipalities that received SNAI funding experienced improvements in local labor market outcomes. The results indicate no significant positive effects; in some specifications and for certain groups of workers, particularly male workers, we even observe slightly negative impacts.

Overall, these findings provide a valuable monitoring tool for both central and local policymakers. At the same time, the absence of measurable labor market effects suggests the need to reconsider and possibly redesign the current implementation of place-based policies.

Register here (free)

<https://shorturl.at/3DhoO>

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Guest Speaker



Nicola Caravaggio

Research fellow,
University of Molise, Italy



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Nicola Caravaggio is a research fellow in Public Economics at the University of Molise, specializing in health economics, labor economics, local finance, and forestry economics. He previously held a postdoctoral position at Roma Tre University, where he conducted in-depth analyses of the Italian labor market using administrative big data. He earned his Ph.D. in Environmental Economics from Roma Tre University in 2019, with a dissertation exploring the relationship between economic growth and forest resource use. He also holds a master's degree with honors in Environmental and Development Economics and a bachelor's degree in Political Economics from the same institution. Nicola has collaborated on international research projects with institutions including CATIE (Costa Rica), TESAF (University of Padua), the University of Ferrara, UFPA (Brazil), and the Polytechnic University of Valencia. His research is grounded in advanced quantitative methods, with expertise in statistical software and programming languages such as R, Stata, and Python. He is particularly skilled in analyzing time-series and longitudinal data, and his interests include machine learning applications and impact evaluation methodologies.

For more details:

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