

DAVIDE CANTONI

<http://www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~cantoni/>
cantoni@fas.harvard.edu

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

| | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------|
| Placement Director: Claudia Goldin | CGOLDIN@HARVARD.EDU | 617-495-3934 |
| Placement Director: Lawrence F. Katz | LKATZ@HARVARD.EDU | 617-495-5148 |
| Graduate Student Coordinator: Nicole Tateosian | NATATEOS@FAS.HARVARD.EDU | 617-495-8927 |

Office Contact Information

Harvard University
Department of Economics
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Home Contact Information

244 Chestnut Street
Cambridge, Mass. 02139
617-309-6577

Personal Information: Year of birth: 1981. Citizenships: Italy, Germany.

Undergraduate Studies:

Diplom, Economics, University of Mannheim (with distinction), 2005

Graduate Studies:

University of California, Berkeley, visiting student, 2003-2004

Harvard University, 2005 to present

Preliminary Thesis Title: "Essays on Natural Experiments in Economic History"

Expected Completion Date: June 2010

References:

| | |
|--|--|
| Professor James A. Robinson Department of Government, Harvard University 617-496-2839 jrobinson@gov.harvard.edu | Professor Elhanan Helpman Department of Economics, Harvard University 617-495-4690 ehelpman@harvard.edu |
|--|--|

| | |
|---|--|
| Professor Robert Barro Department of Economics, Harvard University 617-495-3203 rbarro@harvard.edu | Professor Claudia Goldin Department of Economics, Harvard University 617-495-3934 cgoldin@harvard.edu |
|---|--|

Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary fields: Economic History, Macroeconomics

Secondary (teaching) fields: Applied Econometrics, International Trade, Political Economics

Teaching Experience:

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Spring, 2009 | <i>Macroeconomic Theory (graduate)</i> , Harvard University, teaching fellow for Professor Robert Barro |
| Fall, 2008 | <i>Econometrics (undergraduate)</i> , Harvard College, teaching fellow for Professor Raffaella Giacomini |
| Fall, 2007 | <i>Macroeconomic Theory (graduate)</i> , Harvard University, teaching fellow for Professors David Laibson and Robert Barro |
| Fall, 2006 | <i>Macroeconomic Theory (graduate)</i> , Harvard University, teaching fellow for Professor Robert Barro |

- Spring, 2006 *Macroeconomics III (advanced undergraduate)*, University of Mannheim, teaching assistant for Professor Antonio Ciccone
- Spring, 2005 *Macroeconomics III (advanced undergraduate)*, University of Mannheim, teaching assistant for Professor Frank Heinemann

Research Experience:

- 2006-2007 Research assistant for Professor James A. Robinson
- 2006 Research assistant for Professors Alberto Alesina and Nicola Fuchs-Schündeln

Professional Activities:

Seminar presentations: (2008) Harvard, Yale, Heidelberg, EHA annual meeting–New Haven; (2009) Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, LMU Munich, MPI Bonn, HU Berlin, NBER Summer Institute, EEA annual meeting–Barcelona, Harvard, Yale, Colgate-Hamilton; (2010) Pompeu Fabra, Bocconi, Brown, LMU Munich, IIES Stockholm, Harvard.

Refereeing: *Economics of Transition*, *Explorations in Economic History*, *Journal of Economic Growth*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Princeton University Press*

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

- 2009-2010 Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- 2009 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University
- 2007-2009 Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes, Dissertation Fellowship
- 2007-2009 Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Graduate Student Affiliate
- 2007 Economic History Association, Exploratory Data and Travel Award
- 2005-2007 Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes, ERP Grant
- 2005-2007 Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Fellowship
- 2000-2005 Fellow, Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes (German Merit Foundation)

Job Market Paper:

“The Economic Effects of the Protestant Reformation: Testing the Weber Hypothesis in the German Lands”
(November 2009)

Abstract: Many theories, most famously Max Weber’s essay on the ‘Protestant ethic,’ have hypothesized that Protestantism should have favored economic development. With their considerable religious heterogeneity and stability of denominational affiliations until the 19th century, the German Lands of the Holy Roman Empire present an ideal testing ground for this hypothesis. Using population figures in a dataset comprising 272 cities in the years 1300-1900, I find no effects of Protestantism on economic growth. The finding is robust to the inclusion of a variety of controls, and does not appear to depend on data selection or small sample size. In addition, Protestantism has no effect when interacted with other likely determinants of economic development. I also analyze the endogeneity of religious choice: instrumental variables estimates of the effects of Protestantism are similar to the OLS results.

Research Papers:

“The Consequences of Radical Reform: The French Revolution” (with Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson)
(NBER Working Paper 14831, February 2009)

Abstract: The French Revolution of 1789 had a momentous impact on neighboring countries. The French Revolutionary armies during the 1790s and later under Napoleon invaded and controlled large parts of Europe. Together with invasion came various radical institutional changes. French invasion

removed the legal and economic barriers that had protected the nobility, clergy, guilds, and urban oligarchies and established the principle of equality before the law. The evidence suggests that areas that were occupied by the French and that underwent radical institutional reform experienced more rapid urbanization and economic growth, especially after 1850. There is no evidence of a negative effect of French invasion. Our interpretation is that the Revolution destroyed (the institutional underpinnings of) the power of oligarchies and elites opposed to economic change; combined with the arrival of new economic and industrial opportunities in the second half of the 19th century, this helped pave the way for future economic growth. The evidence does not provide any support for several other views, most notably, that evolved institutions are inherently superior to those ‘designed;’ that institutions must be ‘appropriate’ and cannot be ‘transplanted;’ and that the civil code and other French institutions have adverse economic effects.

“Clueless? The Impact of Television on Consumption Behavior” (with Leonardo Bursztyn)
(December 2009)

Abstract: This paper examines the impact of television on consumption behavior. We focus on a ‘natural experiment,’ in which differential access to Western television in former East Germany was determined by geographic features. Based on surveys from the early 1990s, we find that individuals less exposed to Western TV reported significantly lower importance to consumerist values. Using data from the German income and expenditure survey (EVS), we observe that soon after 1990 those individuals in East Germany that previously lacked access to Western television consumed significantly less goods with high intensity of advertisement.

“Medieval Universities, Legal Institutions, and the Commercial Revolution” (with Noam Yuchtman)
(November 2009)

Abstract: Europe experienced a ‘Commercial Revolution’ in the Middle Ages, changing from a rural backwater into an urban, commercial society between the years 900 and 1500. However, data on this transformation and an understanding of its causes are extremely limited. We present a new dataset that documents the economic transformation of the German lands of the Holy Roman Empire using information on the incorporation of cities and the establishment of markets. We then use this dataset to test whether the institutional changes concomitant with economic change played a causal role in increasing economic activity. In particular, we consider the role of medieval universities, examining the economic consequences of their exogenous establishment in Germany as a result of the Papal Schism of the 14th century. We find that the trend rate of market establishment breaks sharply upward just when the first German university was established, and that this break is greatest where the distance to a university shrank most. We argue that the link between universities and greater economic activity likely involved the development of formal legal and administrative institutions: medieval German universities trained thousands of individuals in the law; these individuals then went on to shape the legal institutions that enforced contracts and structured economic activity.

Papers in progress:

“Television and Happiness: Evidence from a Natural Experiment” (with Leonardo Bursztyn)

“Urbanization in Europe: Regional Variations, 1700-1900”

“Labor Market Rigidities, Skills Acquisition, and Trade Patterns”

Published Papers:

“From Ancien Régime to Capitalism: The Spread of the French Revolution as a Natural Experiment” (joint with Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson). In: Jared Diamond and James A. Robinson (eds.), *Natural Experiments of History*, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2010.

Language Skills: Italian, German (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate), Spanish, Dutch (reading knowledge), Latin.