



Economics Seminars

Thursday 19 October 2023 at 12:00

Aula Lai

Facoltà di Scienze Economiche Giuridiche e Politiche - Via Nicolodi, 102

Andrea Geraci

University of Pavia

Running the Risk: Immunity and Mobility in Response to a Pandemic

Abstract. The relative effectiveness of anti-COVID-19 government measures depends on whether, in the absence of policy restrictions, individuals' social behavior changes with the risk of infection. We estimate how individuals respond to changes in COVID-19 mortality risk using mobility data from GPS devices. To overcome the reverse causality – more risk taking leads to more deaths– we exploit geographic heterogeneity in COVID-19 exposure during the first wave on immunity. There is evidence of a sizeable immunity effect acquired after the first wave that leads to an increase in risk taking, indicating that individuals adjust their behaviour to local mortality risk.