# Francesco Casalena

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in Francesco Casalena

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# Education

Ph.D. in International Economics, Geneva Graduate Institute (IHEID) 2021 - 2025 (expected)

Supervisor: Prof. Cédric Tille. Second reader: Prof. Nathan Sussman.

Swiss Doctoral Program, Studienzentrum Gerzensee

Sequences: Econometrics and Macroeconomics.

M.Sc. in Economics, The London School of Economics (LSE) 2019-2020

Supervisor: Prof. Saleem Bahaj.

B.Sc. in Economics and Business, LUISS "Guido Carli" 2016-2019

Supervisor: Prof. Saul Lach.

# Work Experience

# International Monetary Fund (IMF)

06/2024 - 08/2024

2022-2023

PhD Intern

- o Internship in the General Macro and Fiscal (MF) division of the Institute for Capacity Development (ICD) department.
- Research project on macro stabilising properties and debt sustainability implications of fiscal rules in emerging countries.
- Publication of (forthcoming) IMF working paper.

# United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

01/2024 - 04/2024

Consultant

- Data analysis on long-term greenfield Foreign Direct Investment trends in manufacturing and services, with emphasis on the geographical dimension of FDI flows.
- Contribution to the redaction of the policy report "Global economic fracturing and shifting FDI patterns".
- $\circ\,$  Abridged version of the report published as VoxEU column.

# International Labour Organisation (ILO)

09/2022 - 04/2023

Consultant

- Quantitative meta-analysis of the empirical literature on the dynamic relation between the demographic transition, old age social protection, labour market outcomes and economic growth.
- Estimation of fiscal costs of universal pension coverage in low and lower-middle income countries.
- Contribution to the redaction of a policy brief synthesising the main findings, published as part of the 11<sup>th</sup> ILO Monitor on the World of work.

## Centro Europa Ricerche S.r.l.

07/2020 - 05/2022

Junior Economist

- o Construction and evaluation of short and medium-term forecasts of the main macroeconomic indicators.
- $\circ~$  Redaction of fortnightly notes on the global macroeconomic outlook with a specific focus on the Eurozone and the US.
- Total publication of five chapters in CER's quarterly Reports. Topics included: the impact of lockdown policies on economic activity, the macro dynamics of international trade during the pandemic, an analysis of the causes of the US inflation, the macro effects of the US 2021 fiscal stimulus.

# Teaching Experience

#### Geneva Graduate Institute (IHEID)

01/2023 - Present

Graduate Teaching Assistant

- o Supervising Applied Research Projects (ARP) in Sustainable Trade and Finance.
- $\circ~$  Other courses assisted:
  - Spring 2023: Macroeconomics B (Prof. Philippe Bacchetta)
  - Fall 2023: Econometrics I (Prof. Julia Cajal Grossi)
  - Spring 2024: Econometrics II (Prof. Marko Mlikota)

#### École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)

09/2022 - 02/2024

Graduate Teaching Assistant

o Course assisted in Fall 2022 and Fall 2023: "Globalisation, robotics and the future of work" (Prof. Richard E. Baldwin).

### Research

# • Back to normal? Assessing the Effects of the Federal Reserve's Quantitative Tightening

**Abstract:** We study the effects of the Federal Reserve's two Quantitative Tightening (QT) programmes implemented over the last decade. We use a high frequency identification strategy to distinguish between conventional monetary policy shocks. Treasury borrowing announcement shocks and the unwinding of the balance sheet. Further, we analyse both QT announcements and operations. Our results show that the Fed was successful in muting the signalling effect of its Balance Sheet Policy (BSP) announcements, as statements not containing quantitative information about QT did not impact significantly asset prices. Conversely, communications disclosing information over the size and the pace of QT had an effect on financial markets. We also find that QT operations have a significant and persistent deflationary effect on interest rates and asset prices. A 1-trillion USD reduction in securities holdings by the Fed is associated with an increase in 10-year Treasury yields by 2 percentage points. While the contractionary effects of QT have so far been at least partially offset by liquidity operations that have expanded the supply of reserves, our results suggest that balance sheet reductions entail in principle strong negative effects on financial markets. Although QT does not represent in the policymakers' view the primary tool to achieve price stability, it is yet far from running quietly in the background of the monetary policy stance.

- o Presented at IHEID and HEC Lausanne internal seminars in 2024.
- Published as a IHEID Working Paper.
- Forecasting the UK Pound/US Dollar exchange rate with a continuous time macroeconometric model (in progress)

Abstract: Over the last forty years, researchers have repeatedly tried to overturn the puzzling result of Meese and Rogoff (1983), according to which a simple random walk without drift is the best ex post predictor of the nominal exchange rate. We contribute to the literature by estimating a New Keynesian Small Open Economy (NK-SOE) continuous time model of the United Kingdom, with the primary purpose forecasting the Pound/Dollar spot exchange rate. The model consist of 20 simultaneous differential equations, with 8 exogenous variables and 77 parameters. The data sample used for estimation is quarterly, running from 1982Q1 to 2019Q4. The forecasting performance of the model is gauged against the standard random walk without drift. Several forecast evaluation tests are proposed and discussed.

# Skills

Softwares: Stata, R/RStudio, Matlab/Dynare, LATEX, MS Office, Bloomberg, Datastream.

#### Additional Training (Selection):

- "Bayesian Methods for Empirical Macroeconomics" by Prof. Gary Koop (Gerzensee ADP 08/2022).
- "The Identification of Structural Shocks" by Prof. Jean-Paul Renne and Prof. Kenza Benhima (HEC Lausanne 02/2023).
- "The Macroeconomics of Exchange Rates" by Prof. Oleg Itskhoki (Gerzensee ADP 08/2023).

Languages: Italian (native), English (C1), French (C1), Spanish (C1), German (basic).

#### Academic References

Prof. Cédric Tille Professor of Economics Geneva Graduate Institute (IHEID)

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Prof. Ugo Panizza Professor of Economics Geneva Graduate Institute (IHEID)

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Prof. Paolo Cavallino Visiting Professor of Economics Geneva Graduate Institute (IHEID)

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# Professional References

Dr. Ali Alichi Division Chief, ICD-MF International Monetary Fund (IMF)

✓ aalichi@imf.org

Prof. Julia Cajal Grossi Professor of Economics Geneva Graduate Institute (IHEID)

**□** julia.cajal@graduateinstitute.ch

Dr. Roger Gomis **Economist** International Labour Office (ILO)