

Discussion of

Bisin and Patacchini

Cultural Integration in Europe:
the Italian Context

Issues

- Definitions
- Empirical Strategy
- Outcome variables (other neglected dimensions of integration)

Definitions – measurement

- 1st generation **migrants**: country of birth. Potential misclassification as immigrants of ‘true nationals’ born abroad for whatever reason. Problem for countries with former colonies, such as France, the U.K., Belgium and Portugal. Less for Italy
- 2nd generation migrants as individuals born in Italy with at least one parent born abroad. Here you miss about half a million second generation according to Istat.
- **Illegal migrants** not captured by LFS as it uses the Population Register. Ongoing project of www.frdb.org on illegal migrants sampling blocks. Problem with amnesties and population registers in LFS data.
- Why do you think that **permanence** is under-reported? 11 years on average looks reasonable (half before 1994-5; half later)

Origin

- Better to classify countries of origin by income level and UE, non-UE.
- Does it make sense to pool together Albanians and Swiss nationals?
- How 2nd generations with parents from two different countries classified?

Empirical strategy

- Selection addressed by covariates, but a very few covariates.
- One of the covariates, education, is an outcome variable.
- Completed fertility as children in the dwelling. But many migrants (66% if illegal, 44% if legal; Dustman and Fasani) leave children at home.
- I do not believe that 1^o gen migrants have less children than natives.

Synthetic index

- What is it?
- Surprising results
- 1^o generation. Least integrated are those coming from Northern Europe and North America. The best integrated are Africans and Asians

Other dimensions: 1. take up of welfare

Coefficients of migrant dummies in probit regression of benefit receipt

Contributory Extra EU 25		Non Contributory Extra EU 25	
<i>Austria</i>	-0.01	<i>Austria</i>	-0.07***
<i>Belgium</i>	-0.20***	<i>Belgium</i>	0.14***
<i>Denmark</i>	0.06***	<i>Denmark</i>	0.04
<i>Finland</i>	0.07***	<i>Finland</i>	0.16***
<i>France</i>	-0.10***	<i>France</i>	0.29***
<i>Germany⁺</i>	0.03**	<i>Germany⁺</i>	0.15***
<i>Greece</i>	-0.08***	<i>Greece</i>	-0.05***
<i>Ireland</i>	-0.19***	<i>Ireland</i>	-0.03
<i>Italy</i>	0.00	<i>Italy</i>	-0.01
<i>Luxembourg</i>	-0.10***	<i>Luxembourg</i>	0.10**
<i>Netherlands</i>	-0.13*	<i>Netherlands</i>	0.42***
<i>Portugal</i>	-0.12***	<i>Portugal</i>	-0.18***
<i>Spain</i>	-0.09***	<i>Spain</i>	-0.02***
<i>Sweden</i>	-0.24***	<i>Sweden</i>	0.01
<i>United Kingdom</i>	-0.15***	<i>United Kingdom</i>	-0.22***

Look at rules!

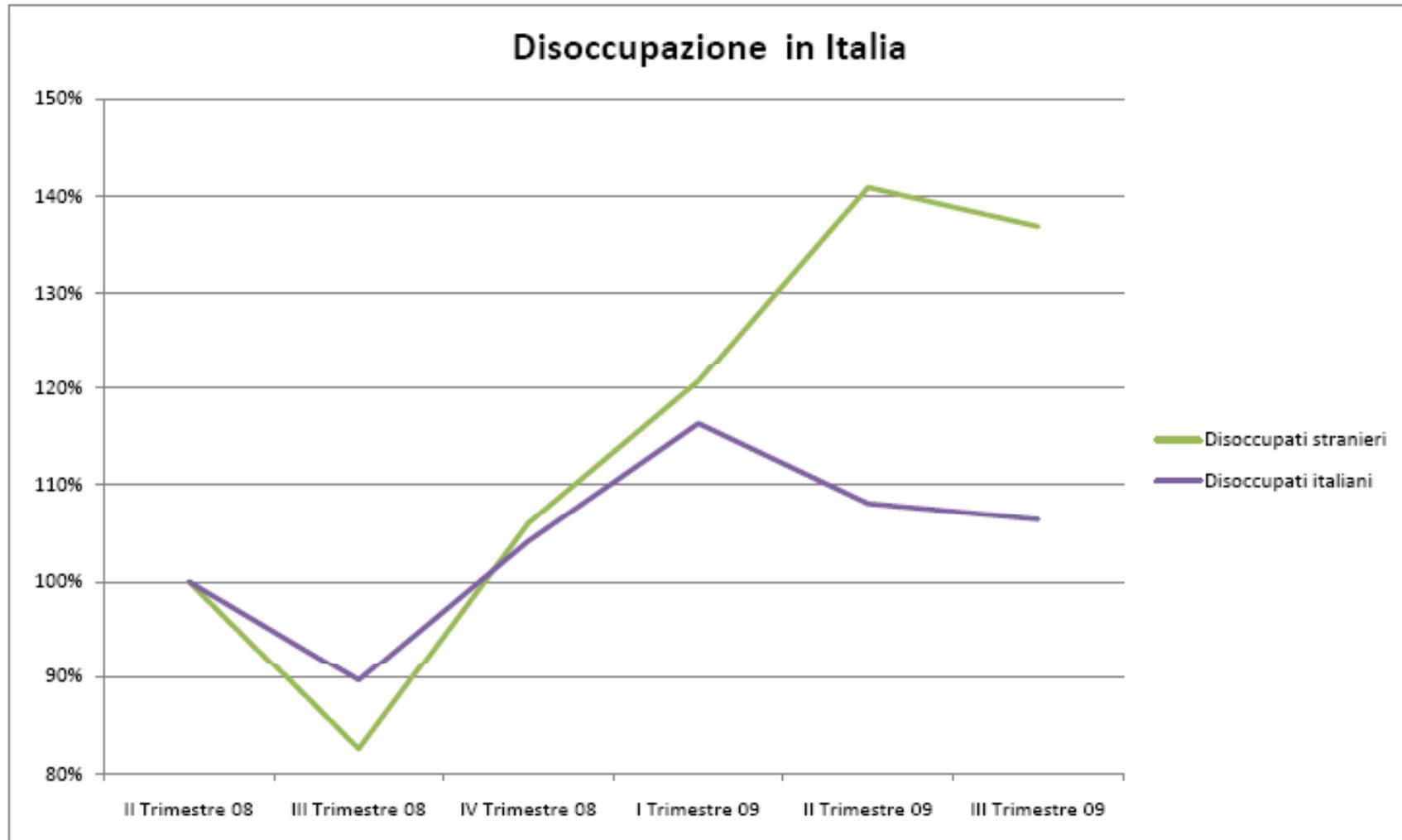
2. Wages

VARIABLES	(1) l_wage	(2) l_wage
eta	0.162*** (0.0107)	0.163*** (0.0106)
eta_sq	-0.00602*** (0.000540)	-0.00622*** (0.000535)
determinato	-0.246*** (0.00882)	-0.245*** (0.00884)
edu1	-0.153*** (0.00566)	-0.147*** (0.00560)
edu3	0.229*** (0.00778)	0.223*** (0.00765)
immigr		-0.199*** (0.0115)
Constant	6.094*** (0.0514)	6.120*** (0.0512)
Observations	42658	42658
R-squared	0.184	0.201

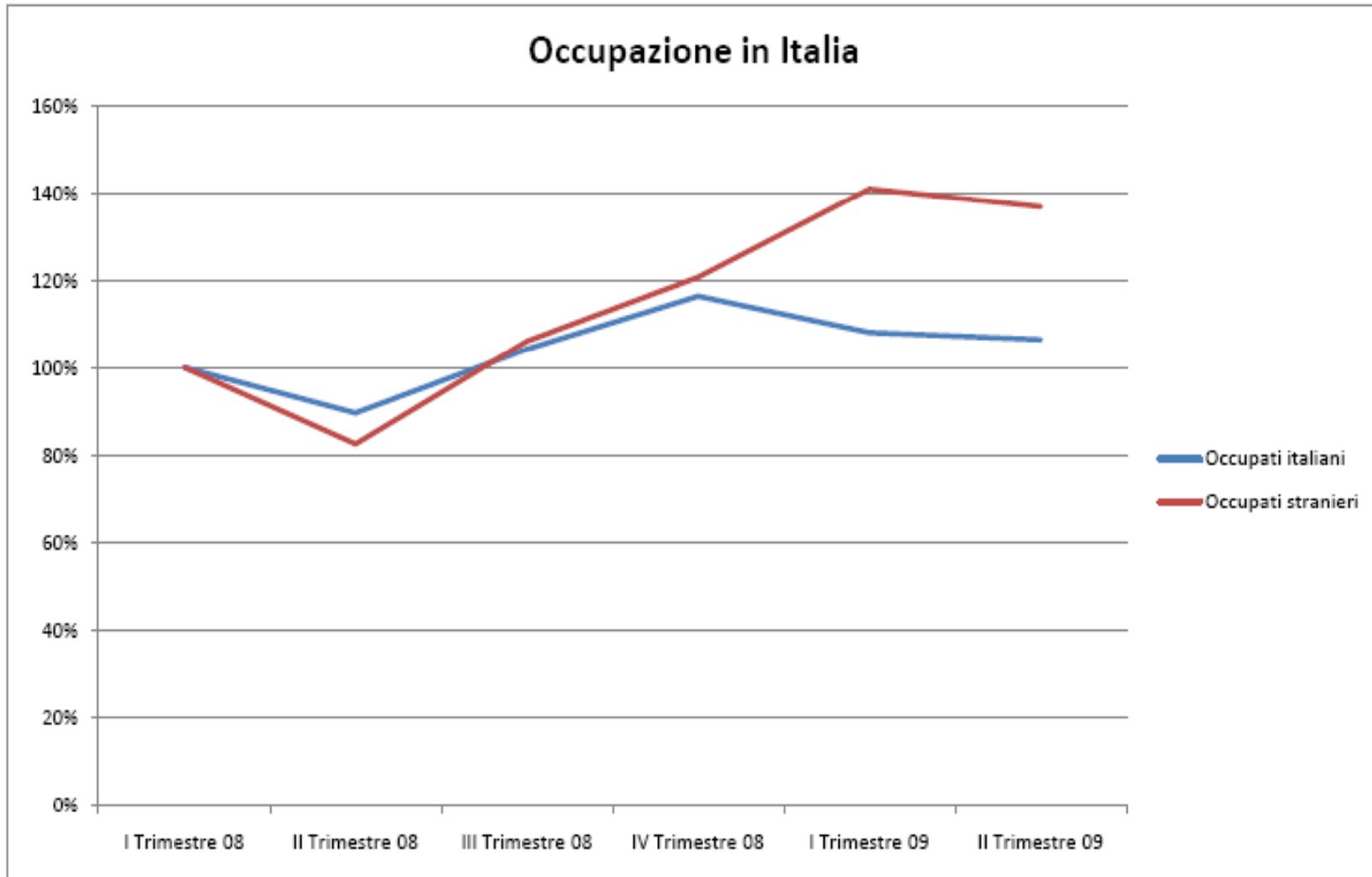
Robust standard errors in parentheses

*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

3. Experience in the Recession



Effects of regularisations?



4. Knowledge of Italian language

- Istat: 2009
- 90 % of males use Italian at work, 16% in the family.
- For women 95 and 35 respectively
- Because of family support?
- How does it compare with other countries?

5. Citizenship

- Only half of those born in Italy with both parents born abroad acquire citizenship
- Compared with almost 100% for those having at least one parent born in Italy.
- Again Istat 2009.

6. Media coverage

- In Italy many more controversial news (crime, safety, terrorism, racism) about migrants
- De Phillips 2009: it affects perceptions (controlling for endogeneity)
- Mayda and Puglisi (in progress)

- Other dimensions:
- Crime: Fasani (2000), Mastrobuoni and Pinotti (in progress). No differences between natives and migrants in recidivism