

Barbara Sianesi – Curriculum Vitae

Self-employed Trainer, research design and evaluation methods.

Lead instructor, Policy Evaluation Methods (PEM), IFS/Cemmap.

I design and deliver in-depth, practice-oriented training in research designs and methods for causal inference and programme evaluation. Over 20 years' experience helping government, academic and third-sector audiences plan, run and critically appraise impactful evaluations.

Contact: barbarasianesi@gmail.com

Education

- PhD in Economics, University College London, 1998-2002.
- PhD in Economics, Milan, 1995-1998.
- MSc in Environmental and Resource Economics (Distinction), University College London, 1996-97.
- BA in Economics, Bocconi University, Milan – 110/110 *summa cum laude*, 1995.

Employment

- 2018-present: Self-employed Trainer, research design and evaluation methods.
- 2002-2018: Senior Research Economist, Institute for Fiscal Studies (part-time since 2007).
- 1998-2002: Research Scholar, Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Affiliations

- From 2014 Research Fellow, IZA – Institute of Labor Economics.

Teaching

Flagship course

Policy Evaluation Methods (PEM) – Cemmap/IFS (remote). 22 hours pre-recorded + 19.5 hours live, delivered 4-5 times per year since 2020.

Recent in-house deliveries (since 2022)

- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP): two full remote runs 2024 and 2025.
- Ofcom: two full remote runs 2024 and 2025.
- Department for Culture, Media and Sport / Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DCMS/DSIT): bespoke remote course with brainstorming components 2023.
- Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS): remote cohort 2023.
- The Health Foundation: remote cohort 2022.
- National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER): remote cohort 2022.
- University of Glasgow (Adam Smith Business School): in-person, May 2022 and May 2024.

Earlier delivery record (2002-2020)

- PEM (Cemmap), 3½-day in-person course delivered 40+ times, predominantly at UCL; additional runs at York, Bristol, Manchester and NCRM Southampton.

- Selected engagements: Universidad Internacional de Andalucía 2020; DWP, The Health Foundation and NHS Improvement 2019; FEP Porto PhD programme 2017; Turkey development agencies 2016; LISER (Luxembourg) 2015; HSE 2009; HM Treasury 2007; Birkbeck (MSc Economics) 2007; Ministry of Finance (Madrid) 2007; Institute of Education (MSc Policy Analysis and Evaluation) 2006 and 2007; ESRC Methods Festival (Oxford) 2006; Ministry for Social Development (Mexico) 2002; other earlier workshops and invited lectures across UK and Europe.

Journal articles

- "Quasi-experimental study designs series – Paper 7: Assessing the assumptions," *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, 2017, (with Bärnighausen T, Oldenburg C, Tugwell P, *et al*).
- "Evidence of randomisation bias in a social experiment: The case of ERA," *Journal of Econometrics*, 198: 41–64, 2017.
- "Misreported schooling, multiple measures and returns to educational qualifications," *Journal of Econometrics*, 181: 136–150, 2014 (with Battistin, E.; De Nadai, M.).
- "Misreported schooling and returns to educational qualifications: Evidence from the UK," *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 93: 495–509, 2011 (with Battistin, E.).
- "Differential effects of Swedish active labour market programmes for unemployed adults during the 1990s," *Labour Economics*, 15: 392–421, 2008.
- "Early education and children's outcomes: How long do the impacts last?," *Fiscal Studies*, 26(4): 513–548, 2005 (with Goodman, A.).
- "Evaluating the effect of education on earnings: Models, methods and results from the National Child Development Survey," *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series A*, 168(3): 473–512, 2005 (with Blundell, R.; Dearden, L.).
- "An evaluation of the Swedish system of active labour market programmes in the 1990s," *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 86(1): 133–155, 2004.
- "Swedish active labour market programmes in the 1990s: Overall effectiveness and differential performance," *Swedish Economic Policy Review*, 8(2): 133–169, 2001.
- "The returns to education: Macroeconomics," *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 17(2): 157–200, 2003 (with Van Reenen, J.).
- "Human capital investment: The returns from education and training to the individual, the firm and the economy," *Fiscal Studies*, 20(1): 1–23, 1999 (with Blundell, R.; Dearden, L.; Meghir, C.).

Book chapters

- "An evaluation of the Swedish system of active labor market programs in the 1990s," in LaLonde, R. J. (ed.), *Active Labor Market Policies*, Vol. II, Edward Elgar, 2016.
- "Early education and children's outcomes: How long do the impacts last?," in Schneider, J.; Avis, M.; Leighton, P. (eds.), *Supporting Children and Families: Lessons from Sure Start for Evidence-Based Practice in Health, Social Care and Education*, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 137–150, 2007 (with Goodman, A.).
- "Employer-provided vocational training: What are the returns to NVQ Level 2 and the potential effects of 'Train to Gain'?", in Kehoe, D. (ed.), *Practice Makes Perfect: The Importance of Practical Learning*, The Social Market Foundation, 88–98, 2007 (with Dearden, L.; Goodman, A.; Simpson, H.).
- "Measuring the returns to education," in Machin, S.; Vignoles, A. (eds.), *What's the Good of Education? The Economics of Education in the UK*, Princeton University Press, 117–145, 2005 (with Blundell, R.; Dearden, L.).

Other papers

- "Randomisation bias in the clinical literature: A review," *IFS Working Paper* No. W16/23, 2016.
- "Evaluating the labour market impacts of Universal Credit: A feasibility study," *Department for Work and Pensions Ad Hoc Research Report* No. 6, 2014 (with Adam, S.; Costa Dias, M.).
- "Measuring the impact of government interventions," *MethodsNews* 2, 2012.
- "The impact of the Employment Retention and Advancement Study on workers' outcomes," *Department for Work and Pensions Working Paper* No. 759, 2011.
- "Non-participation in the Employment Retention and Advancement Study: Implications for the experimental fourth-year impact estimates," *Department for Work and Pensions Working Paper* No. 96, 2011 (with Chowdry, H.).
- "Non-participation in the Employment Retention and Advancement Study: Implications for the experimental first-year impact estimates," *Department for Work and Pensions Technical Working Paper* No. 77, 2010.
- "Ethnic parity in labour market outcomes for benefit claimants," *CEPR Discussion Paper* No. 7042, 2008 (with Crawford, C.; Dearden, L.; Mesnard, A.; Shaw, J.).
- "Labour market programmes and labour market outcomes: A study of the Swedish active labour market interventions," *IFAU Working Paper* 2007:27, 2007 (with Adda, J.; Costa Dias, M.; Meghir, C.).
- "Non-participation in the Employment Retention and Advancement Study: A quantitative descriptive analysis," *Department for Work and Pensions Technical Working Paper* No. 39, 2007 (with Goodman, A.).
- "The role of credit constraints in educational choices: Evidence from the NCDS and BCS70," *Centre for Economics of Education Discussion Paper* No. 48, 2004 (with Dearden, L.; McGranahan, L.).
- "Returns to education for the 'marginal learner': Evidence from the BCS70," *Centre for Economics of Education Discussion Paper* No. 45, 2004 (with Dearden, L.; McGranahan, L.).
- "An in-depth analysis of the returns to National Vocational Qualifications obtained at Level 2," *Centre for Economics of Education Discussion Paper* No. 46, 2004 (with Dearden, L.; McGranahan, L.).

Software

- `psmatch2` (with Leuven, E.): Stata module to perform full Mahalanobis and propensity score matching, common support graphin, and covariate imbalance testing, 2003 – successor to early `psmatch`.
- `film` (with Leuven, E.): Stata module to perform 'fully interacted linear matching', a fully interacted linear regression model in which the treatment dummy is interacted with each regressor, 2004.