

AGAPITO EMANUELE SANTANGELO

Profile

Applied economist working at the intersection of causal inference and digital trace data for the evaluation of public policies. Combining difference-in-differences designs, machine learning and text mining applied to large-scale web, social media and administrative data. Active research lines cover: digital transformation, institutional quality, and innovation.

Research Interests & Methodological Expertise

Research areas: Policy evaluation; Digital divide; Institutional quality; Applied economics.

Methods: Causal inference (*generalized and staggered Difference-in-Differences*, panel data econometrics); machine learning and Natural Language Processing (NLP) (*text mining, embeddings, supervised classification*); large-scale digital trace data (*web scraping, text mining, high-frequency data*) integrated with administrative data.

Education

PhD in Economics (XXXVIII Cycle) – *University of Molise.* Nov 2022 – Apr 2026

Thesis: Shocks, Public Policies, and Technological Progress: Four Essays on the Drivers of Innovation. *Supervisor: Prof. Giuliano Resce & Prof. Filomena Pietrovito*

MSc in Management, Entrepreneurship & Innovation (Summa cum laude) – *University of Molise.* Sep 2017 – Apr 2019

Professional Experience

Research Assistant – *Regione Lazio – Regional Statistical System for Policy Support* May 2025 – Present
Evaluation of the economic sustainability of Lazio municipalities.
Supervisor: Prof. Cecilia Tomassini

Data Analysis Strategist – *Instant Analytics* Sep 2024 – Present
Advanced analytics to inform strategic decisions and policy recommendations.
Principal Investigator Prof. Giuliano Resce

Research Assistant – PRIN Project – *University of Molise* May 2024 – May 2025
Evaluation of the Italian healthcare system in the post-pandemic context: efficiency, equity, territorial disparities.
Supervisor: Prof. Giuliano Resce

Research Assistant – Food Insecurity Trends Project – *University of Molise* Aug 2023 – May 2024
Project for the International Center for Tropical Agriculture: data-driven analysis of food insecurity drivers and hazards.
Supervisor: Prof. Giuliano Resce

Junior Expert in Policy Evaluation – *Eutalia S.p.A.* Apr 2023 – Dec 2023
Evaluation plan and impact evaluation of *PON Research and Innovation 2014–2020*.
Coordinator: Prof. Francesco Prota

Skills, Languages, Awards & Advanced Training

Programming & tools: R, Stata, Python, Latex.

Languages: Italian (native), English (C1), Spanish (B1).

Awards: Top 1,000 Italian graduates in economics (2019).

Advanced training: *SoBigData Academy Camp – Data Science, Machine Learning, Data Ethics and Social Data Analysis* (SoBigData Research Infrastructure, 2026); *LSE Summer School – Advanced Econometrics* (Dr. M. Schafgans, Dr. M. Gmeiner) and *Applied Econometrics and Big Data* (Prof. T. Komarova, Dr. M. Schafgans); *Modern Causal Inference* (Prof. J. M. Wooldridge, Prof. P. Sant’Anna); *SiDE – Introductory Econometrics* (Prof. G. Calzolari, 2024) and *Panel Data Econometrics* (Prof. M. E. Bontempi, Prof. R. Golinelli, Dr. I. Mammi, 2024); *Evaluation of Development Policies* (Prof. P. Montalbano, Prof. F. C. Rosati, Prof. C. Pietrobelli, 2023); *Harvard Online Professional Certificate in Data Science* (2023).

Publications

- Carneiro, B., Resce, G., Caravaggio, N., **Santangelo, A. E.**, Ruscica, G., ... & Coffey, K. (2025). *Text mining and machine learning reveal global determinants of food insecurity*. **Scientific Reports**, 15(1), 36709. [\[Link\]](#)
- Pastore, L., Corvo, L., **Santangelo, A. E.**, Resce, G., & Lelo, A. (2025). *Measuring sustainability impacts through SROI: a case study of the Italian glass industry's contribution to the SDGs*. **Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal**, 38(5), 1483–1498. [\[Link\]](#)
- **Santangelo, A. E.** (2023). *The relationship between financial constraints and innovation, with a supportive analysis on a sample of firms*. **Journal of Academic Research in Economics**, 15(3), 523–544. [\[Link\]](#)
- Pietrovito, F., & **Santangelo, A. E.** (2022). *Divario Nord-Sud: un focus sul Molise*. **GLOCALE**, 18(19). [\[Link\]](#)

Working Papers

- Caravaggio, N., Resce, G., & **Santangelo, A. E.** (2026). *Digital Investment and the Evolution of Government Services*. ESDP No. 26104, University of Molise. [\[Link\]](#).
Under review, *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics*.
- Bergantino, A. S., Gabrielli, L., Resce, G., & **Santangelo, A. E.** (2026). *Competition Without Punctuality Gains: Evidence from Italian High-Speed Rail*. SSRN Working Paper. [\[Link\]](#).
Under review, *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice*.
- Pietrovito, F., Rancan, A., Resce, G., & **Santangelo, A. E.** (2026). *Do Fiscal Constraints Affect Health Inequality Research? A Bibliometric Perspective*. ESDP No. 26102, University of Molise. [\[Link\]](#).
- Caravaggio, N., Resce, G., & **Santangelo, A. E.** (2025). *EU Cohesion Policy and Digital Public Services*. ESDP No. 25100, University of Molise. [\[Link\]](#).
Under review, *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*.

Conference Papers

- Cebrián Cerdá, E., **Santangelo, A. E.**, & Domenech, J. (2025). *Are people losing interest in environmental issues? Insights from Google Trends*. CARMA 2025, Rome, 2–4 July 2025. [\[Link\]](#)
- Nigro, I., **Santangelo, A. E.**, & Modina, M. (2025). *Detecting potential fake innovators using web scraping: the case for Italian startup*. CARMA 2025, Rome, 2–4 July 2025. [\[Link\]](#)
- Caravaggio, N., Di Renzo, G., Fanelli, L., Resce, G., & **Santangelo, A. E.** (2024). *In What is Europe Investing? A Text Mining Approach on Cohesion Projects*. CARMA 2024, Valencia. [\[Link\]](#)
- Carneiro, B., Resce, G., Tucci, G., Ruscica, G., Caravaggio, N., Fanelli, L., **Santangelo, A. E.**, & Cruciata, P. (2024). *A multi-platform framework for nowcasting social phenomena: a case study for food insecurity*. CARMA 2024, Valencia. [\[Link\]](#)

Policy Reports & Dissemination

- *PON Research and Innovation 2014–2020 – Final Evaluation Report*. [\[Link\]](#)
- *Eticaeconomia: In cosa investe l'Unione Europea? Un'analisi di Text Mining sui progetti di coesione*. [\[Link\]](#)
- *Eticaeconomia: Il PNRR nella comunicazione istituzionale dei comuni*. [\[Link\]](#)

Conferences & Workshops

- **Understanding and Addressing Digital Inequalities** – Annual Scientific Conference on Digital Democracy, Centre for a Digital Society, European University Institute (EUI), Florence, 20–21 November 2025. *Presenter*.
- **SIE 2025** – 66th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Italian Economic Association (Società Italiana di Economia), Università di Napoli Parthenope, 23–25 October 2025. *Presenter*.
- **AISRe 2025** – XLVI Annual Scientific Conference of the Italian Regional Science Association (RSAI Italian Section), Università “G. d’Annunzio” Chieti-Pescara, 10–12 September 2025. *Presenter*.
- **CARMA 2025** – 7th Int. Conf. on Advanced Research Methods and Analytics, Rome, 2–4 July 2025. *Organizer & Presenter*.
- **CARMA 2024** – 6th Int. Conf. on Advanced Research Methods and Analytics, Valencia. *Organizer & Presenter*.
- **HEAd’24** – 10th Int. Conf. on Higher Education Advances. *Organizer*.

Editorial Activity – Reviewer

- The Annals of Regional Science.
- Italian Economic Journal.
- Research in International Business and Finance.
- Journal of Infrastructure, Policy and Development.