



BANCA D'ITALIA  
EUROSISTEMA



## Conference on nontraditional data & statistical learning with applications to macroeconomics – Call for Papers

The concurrent availability of substantial amounts of data and the swift advance of modelling techniques--like those from machine learning--promise new insights into the economy and provide a larger information set for policymakers. The Bank of Italy and the Federal Reserve Board will organize a two-day virtual conference on **November 11-12, 2020**, featuring new research on **nontraditional data, machine learning, and natural language processing in macroeconomics**. The event will highlight the importance of these new techniques and data sources for macroeconomic analysis, with a particular focus on topics relevant to policymaking.

In order to allow participation in different time zones the conference will be limited to 4 hours and a half per day (the exact time schedule will be given in the final program).

Please direct all questions and correspondence to the organizers. Paper submissions should be done through Conference Maker (link: <https://editorialexpress.com/conference/BIFRBCConf>).

We invite you to submit empirical and methodological work leveraging new granular data sources or exploring recent analytical developments to analyze the macroeconomy.

### Possible Paper Topics:

The conference will accept academic papers from a wide range of topics, methods, disciplines, and perspectives. Areas of particular interest include, but are not limited to:

- Research and policy work focused on novel ways of measuring inflation, the labor market, or macroeconomic activity
- The use of large, granular structured or unstructured data sources to predict or understand the current state of the economy, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Machine learning directed at macroeconomic analysis
- Big data topics covering businesses, households, financial markets, labor markets, or fiscal analysis
- Natural language processing (NLP) for macroeconomics, financial stability, or banking supervision
- The use of NLP in analyzing central bank communications

### Paper Submissions and Conference Invitations:

We invite authors to submit extended abstracts or completed papers through Conference Maker at the link <https://editorialexpress.com/conference/BIFRBCConf> by August 30, 2020. A strong preference will be shown toward completed papers. Extended abstracts should be 2-4 pages in length and include motivation for the research question, methodology, data sources if an empirical

study, and a description of expected research findings and policy implications. Submissions should be in PDF format and indicate who the presenting author will be. The organizing committee will review and select submissions for presentation. Authors of accepted papers will be notified by the beginning of October 2020.

**Organizing Committee:**

- **Giuseppe Bruno**, Division of IT support for Economics and Statistics, Bank of Italy  
(giuseppe.bruno@bancaditalia.it)
- **Ricardo Correa**, Division of International Finance, Federal Reserve Board  
(ricardo.correa@frb.gov)
- **Christopher J. Kurz**, Division of Research and Statistics, Federal Reserve Board  
(christopher.j.kurz@frb.gov)
- **Juri Marcucci**, Division of Statistical Research Data center, Bank of Italy  
(juri.marcucci@bancaditalia.it)