

Application Form for ERSA Summer School 2010

1. First and last name:

David Burgalassi

2. Date of diploma giving access to doctoral studies in the country in which the diploma was obtained

19/07/2007. Two year Programme Master of Science in Local Sustainable Development and Management (University of Pisa, Italy)

3. Current status and affiliation

PhD Student

University of Pisa, Department of Economics
Via Ridolfi 10, 56124 Pisa (Italy)

4. Motivation Letter

Dear Sir, Madam,

Since I enrolled myself at the B.A. Course in “Environmental and Local Economics” (University of Pisa, 2002- 2005) I was interested about the issues of urban and regional analysis and development. The B.A. course was characterized by an interdisciplinary approach thought within social sciences. The courses I liked more were *Regional Economics* and *Ecological Economics*. The first allowed me to think over the role of the *space* in economic processes, which is often ignored by mainstream economics even if the spatial components are important factors for the study of social and economic activities. The second provided me with many key notions about the interaction between the “open” economic system and the physical system. I graduated *cum Laude* in June 2005.

After the graduation I enrolled myself to the M.Sc. Course (2 year programme) in “Sustainable local development and management” (University of Pisa, 2005-2007), that provided me with an advanced training into the disciplines which I studied in the B.A. and, in addition to this, it allowed to me to enlarge my knowledge to some other disciplines strictly related with “space”. In particular, the courses I most liked were: *environmental impact evaluation, local development policies, territorial marketing, land planning, geographic information systems*. I graduated *cum Laude* in July 2007.

In September 2007 I won the public competition for the Ph.D. programme in “Economics” (University of Pisa, Department of Economics) and I attended the first year courses (in the areas of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Econometric Methods), which have the aim to give the fundamental “basics” of the future research activity. After this year of training in general economics, aiming to enhance my knowledge in Spatial Economics, I applied and I was admitted to the Master Programme in Spatial, Transport and Environmental Economics, at VU University (Amsterdam). This programme was characterized by an interdisciplinary approach to spatial studies, even if strictly grounded in economics, and it provided me the necessary methods and tools for (economic) spatial analysis. Supervised by Prof. Henri de Groot I drawn my research project

and then my thesis on polycentric development in regions, which I finished in August 2009, graduating “with pleasure” (average grade 7,8 out of 10).

Now I am working on my PhD Dissertation My main research interests pertain to the study of sustainable development trajectories of local areas and of the effects of the polycentric territorial development (which characterises many areas in Europe) on social and environmental systems. I am finishing the first chapter, related to the role of polycentric development, its measurement issues and relationships with goals of sustainability, competitiveness and social cohesion. Now I would like to study dynamically spatial structures, with the aim to build scenarios for spatial development.

In the light of my study and research activities, the participation to the ERSA summer school would give me a unique opportunity to get essential tools on some topics that are already at the top of my interests. More explicitly, I look forward to get key notions on regional infrastructure productivity and financing – an issue that is strictly related with my interest on polycentric development and networks of cities in regions. Then, I find extremely interesting to go into more depth in some techniques – like cost benefit analysis, spatial econometrics and SCGEM – that I have already studied at introductory level. Last, I look forward to present the results of my research and then to get feedbacks and suggestions both from the other participants and lecturers. I also look forward to know the issues studied by the community of young learners in regional science, eventually considering the possibility to cooperate with some of them.

To sum up, I think I would benefit both from the lectures scheduled and from the experience of other participants. This is why I hope to be admitted to the next ERSA Summer School.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours faithfully,
David Burgalassi

Ph.D. candidate in Economics
Department of Economics, University of Pisa

5. Scientific Curriculum Vitae

First name(s) / Surname(s)	David Burgalassi
Address	97, Via Fabrizio De André I-56038 Ponsacco (Italy)
Mobile	+39 3339126333
E-mail(s)	d.burgalassi@gmail.com
Nationality	Italian
Date of birth	16 February 1983
Gender	Male
Work experience	
Dates	From October 2007
Occupation or position held	Research assistant
Main activities and responsibilities	I have been involved in some research activities in the field of Regional and Urban Economics, carried out by the Department of Economics: - (2008) Analysis of the social and economic effects of the EU funded Local Development Plan of Val di Cecina 2000-2006 (Province of Pisa, Italy). - (2007) Integrated analysis of the impacts caused by the activity of chemical industry in Val di Cecina (Province of Pisa, Italy), funded by the Regional Administration of Tuscany.
Name and address of employer	University of Pisa, Department of Economics and Department of Applied Statistics 10, Via Ridolfi, 56124 Pisa (Italy)
Dates	November 2009 - January 2010
Occupation or position held	Student assistant
Main activities and responsibilities	Tutorship and assistance to Bachelor students in Business and Economics, Macroeconomics course.
Name and address of employer	University of Pisa, Faculty of Economics 10, Via Ridolfi, 56124 Pisa (Italy)
Dates	01/10/2006 - 20/12/2006
Occupation or position held	Intern
Main activities and responsibilities	Monitoring of legislation drafts made by European Commission (DG Environment) and European Parliament, attending meetings with social partners (representing SMEs), with European Institutions and vote sessions at European Parliament.
Name and address of employer	UEAPME (European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises) 4, Rue Jacques de Lalaing, B-1040 Brussels (Belgium)
Education	
Dates	From November 2007
Title of qualification awarded	PhD Programme in Economics (to be awarded. Expected graduation: December 2010)
Principal subjects / occupational skills covered	Research on the relationships between spatial structures and local economic development. <i>Key words: polycentric development, Size-Distribution of cities, Functional Polycentricity and Network Cities, Interaction indexes, Urban Sprawl.</i>
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	University of Pisa, Department of Economics 10, Via Ridolfi, 56124 Pisa (Italy)

Dates 09/2008 - 08/2009
 Title of qualification awarded **Master of Science in Spatial, Transport and Environmental Economics**, awarded *with pleasure*.
 Principal subjects / occupational skills covered Regional and Urban Economics, Environmental Economics, Advanced Methods for Applied Spatial Economic Research, Microeconomics for Spatial Analysis and Policy, Network analysis, Geographic Information Systems, Academic English.
 Name and type of organisation providing education and training VU University Amsterdam, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
 1105, De Boelelaan, 1081 HV Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Dates 09/2005 - 07/2007
 Title of qualification awarded **Master of Science (two years Programme) in Local Sustainable Development and Management**, awarded *cum Laude*
 Principal subjects / occupational skills covered Environmental and Ecological Economics, Regional Economics, Local Development Policies, Sustainable Development Studies, Geography.
 Name and type of organisation providing education and training University of Pisa, Faculty of Economics
 10, Via Ridolfi, 56124 Pisa (Italy)

Dates 09/2002 - 06/2005
 Title of qualification awarded **Bachelor in Regional and Environmental Economics**, awarded *cum Laude*
 Principal subjects / occupational skills covered Environmental Economics, Regional Economics, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Statistics, Public Law, Social Multi Criteria Evaluation.
 Name and type of organisation providing education and training University of Pisa, Faculty of Economics
 10, Via Ridolfi, 56124 Pisa (Italy)

Personal skills and competences

Mother tongue(s) **Italian**

Other language(s)

Self-assessment
 European level (*)

English

French

Spanish / Castilian

Understanding				Speaking				Writing	
Listening		Reading		Spoken interaction		Spoken production			
C1	Proficient user	C1	Proficient user	C1	Proficient user	C1	Proficient user	C1	Proficient user
B1	Intermediate User	B1	Intermediate User	B1	Intermediate User	B1	Intermediate User	B1	Intermediate User
A2	Basic User	A2	Basic User	A1	Basic User	A1	Basic User	A1	Basic User

(*) [Common European Framework of Reference \(CEF\) level](#)

English Language Certifications:

(May 2008): TOEFL Test iBT (grade: 100/120).

(June 2006): Business English Certificate Preliminary of Cambridge University, Level B1 (*pass with merit*).

Social skills and competences - Good ability to adapt to international and multicultural environments, gained through my study experience in the Netherlands and work experience in Belgium.
 - Good ability in teamwork (gained through study experience and research activities).

Organisational skills and competences - Sense of organisation in working (I finished all study programs on time).

Computer skills and competences - Good command of Microsoft Windows, Mac OSX and Internet browsers.

Additional information

- Good command of Microsoft Office tools and open source equivalents.
- Good command of statistical and econometric software: Stata, SPSS, Gretl, R.
- Good command of Geographic Information Systems (GIS): ESRI ArcGis suite, GeoDa, Flow Mapper, ScapeToad.
- Good command of editing software (LateX).
- Basic knowledge of Matlab.

Papers and Publications

2009

Book Chapter: "Un Quadro Socio-Economico della Val di Cornia" (with E. Freschi and G. Bourou), in Tra Cultura e Ambiente. Verso un Bilancio Sociale della Parchi Val di Cornia SpA. (edited by T. Luzzati and L. Sbrilli), Il Sole 24 Ore, Milan.

Translated Title: "A Social and Economic Analysis of Val di Cornia".

2008

Article: "Conflict in Campania: Waste Emergency or Crisis of Democracy" (with G. D'Alisa, H. Healy, M. Walter). Paper presented at the 8th International Conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics (Ljubljana, June 2009). Submitted to Ecological Economics (accepted with revision).

Book Chapter: "Un'analisi Socio-Economica della Val di Cornia" (with B. Cheli, E. Freschi, D. Donati and T. Luzzati), in La Solvay e la Val di Cecina: ricadute socio-economiche e ambientali di una grande industria chimica sul suo territorio (edited by B. Cheli and T. Luzzati), PLUS Edizioni, Pisa (forthcoming).

Translated Title: "A Social and Economic Analysis of Val di Cornia".

2007

Article: "Il paradosso di Jevons e la questione energetica", Locus, rivista di cultura del territorio (6), 21-22. (ISSN 1827-7772).

Translated title: "Jevons' Paradox and energetic issues".

Master Thesis: Identificazione dei sistemi locali, analisi del territorio e traiettorie di sviluppo sostenibile: ipotesi per la Val di Cecina, University of Pisa.

Translated title: Defining Local Systems, Local Analysis and Sustainable Development Patterns: hypotheses for Val di Cecina.

2006

Article: "Rigassificatori in Toscana. Scelte complesse" (with T. Luzzati), Locus, rivista di cultura del territorio (2), 98-111. (ISSN 1827-7772).

Translated title: "Liquified Natural Gas regasification plants in Tuscany. Complex Choices".

2005

Bachelor Thesis: Un'ipotesi di analisi sociale a criteri multipli.

(available on http://www-dse.ec.unipi.it/luzzati/documenti/cervaiobleurga/studio_cervaiole.html).

Translated title: "An application of Social Multi Criteria Evaluation".

Advanced Training Courses:

- June-July 2008: Course of Econometrics for PhD Students, Bertinoro (FC, Italy), with scholarship.
- May 2007: THEMES Summer School "Methods and tools for environmental appraisal and policy formulation", New University Lisbon (with EU Marie Curie Program scholarship awarded).

Grants:

2009: Prize for MSc Thesis, from the Chamber of Commerce of Pisa.

2007: Full scholarship for PhD Programme, from Italian Ministry of Education and University.

2007: Scholarship for a period of study abroad, from University of Pisa.

Pisa, February 28, 2010

David Burgalassi

6. Previous and current research work

During my Bachelor Programme, I was particularly charmed by the course of “*Social Multi-Criteria Evaluation*” (SMCE), taught by Prof. Tommaso Luzzati and Prof. Giuseppe Munda (Universitat Autònoma Barcelona), because it is a discipline based on the principles of democracy, transparency and interdisciplinary. So, supervised by Prof. Tommaso Luzzati, I applied the framework of the SMCE for my dissertation, studying a project of marble extraction in the Apuane Alps (Tuscany). The work is available on the page:

http://www.dse.ec.unipi.it/persona/docenti/Luzzati/documenti/cervaiobleburga/studio_cervaioble.html

During this time I cooperated with Prof. Luzzati to a study of project of a Liquefied Natural Gas re-gasification plant in the coastal area of Tuscany (this study was published on an Italian journal). I also cooperated to a Research Group set in the Faculty of Economics (University of Pisa), about *Integrated study of economic, environmental and social impact of the presence of chemical industry in Val di Cecina (Tuscany)*. In particular, I focused on the social and economic analysis of the area, a “local economic system” characterised by the historical presence of chemical industry that is strictly impacting on the environment.

The results of the study, which are forthcoming on an Italian book edited by Pisa University Press, were part of my final dissertation of the Master Programme, which I finished in July 2007, and was then elaborated in the following year through a Research Project committed by the Provincial Administration of Pisa in April 2008 to the Department of Economics, called “*Effects of the ‘Integrated Plan of Economic Development of Val di Cecina’ on the territorial economy and society*”, in which I worked from April to August 2008.

During 2008 I was involved in a study concerning local development in Val di Cornia, a coastal area in the South of Tuscany, concerning the evaluation of the economic and social role of a natural park set up in the territory. In particular, I conducted the socio-economic analysis of the area, characterised by the historical presence of metal industry – a sector that is dramatically declining. Then, I evaluated the role of the park as new “economic engine” for the area.

In Fall 2008, when I attended the Master Course in Spatial, Transport and Environmental Economics, I was particularly charmed by the concept of *polycentric development* and its implications for competitiveness, cohesion and environmental sustainability in regions. So, first I carried out a research project by reviewing the most prominent contributions on this issues, both from economic and geographical perspective. Then, I focused on the definition and the possible measures of polycentricity and polycentric development in regions. My Master Thesis was devoted to those issues. It is available on the following web page:

<http://www.ubvu.vu.nl//pub/index.cfm?objectid=109&objecttype=page&trefwoord=Burgalassi&lang=&SearchObjectid=8&st3=0&tabmode=2&st4=0&st5=0&st6=0&st7=0&st8=0&st9=>

In the last months I went into more depth in the issue of polycentric development, by studying the case of Tuscany Region. The result is a paper that is now going to be published as a discussion paper of the Department of Economics, University of Pisa. Related to that, I am currently studying the relationship between spatial structure and income distribution in Italian regions, by considering both morphological and functional measures of polycentric development. Now I would like to study the dynamics of spatial structures, with the aim to build scenarios for spatial development.

I am also interested in the relationships between spatial structures and environmental sustainability, especially in terms of land use and transport pollution. I am thinking to study those issues by considering data about land use in Italy and constructing transition matrices.

7. Future career plans

Currently, I am working on my PhD dissertation, aiming to finish the PhD programme in early 2011. Then, I aim to have the possibility to continue the research on regional and urban studies, possibly developing my research on polycentric development. To do that, I think it is crucial, in order to increase my

academic and professional skills, to have more experience abroad, working in an international and multicultural environment.

So, I am currently selecting a list of Universities and research institutes and networks that may be possible destinations. Another possibility would be to continue my research within regional and national research institutes or within European Institutions (DG Regional Policy).

8. PhD Supervisor

Prof. Tommaso Luzzati

Department of Economics,
University of Pisa
Via Ridolfi 10, 56124, Pisa, Italy
tluzzati@ec.unipi.it

9. Name and address of two researchers who are willing to write a letter of recommendation

Prof. Tommaso Luzzati
Department of Economics,
University of Pisa
Via Ridolfi 10, 56124, Pisa, Italy
tluzzati@ec.unipi.it

Dr. Henri de Groot
Department of Spatial Economics,
VU University Amsterdam
De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands
hgroot@feweb.vu.nl

10. Title and Abstract of the intended presentation

Polycentric Development and Income Distribution in Italian NUTS2 Regions

This study examines the role of polycentric spatial structure on economic competitiveness and social cohesion in Italian regions. The motivation of this study derives from the fact that, despite polycentric development is a widely used term both in academic research and in the normative agenda, its theoretical foundations and economic implications are still quite vague. Since 1999 – when the European Spatial Development Perspective came out – polycentricity has gone into a set of normative tools that are supposed to be employed to reach crucial aims of the European Union: social cohesion, territorial competitiveness and environmental sustainability. However, those propositions lack of theoretical rationale (see, e.g., Davoudi, 2003). Moreover, the empirical basis that should validate the effectiveness of polycentricity seem still too weak, especially with reference to social cohesion, measured by income distribution (Meijers and Sandberg, 2008). We focus on the relationship between polycentricity and income distribution in Italian regions, which are characterized by strong diversity in their spatial structures, as well as differences in income distribution. Therefore, they provide an interesting case study.

The paper starts analyzing the reasons of research gaps on the role of polycentric development, which are manifolds and related with problems of definitions and measurement. First, the concept can be applied to different geographical levels, assuming different meanings: we focus on polycentricity at the regional level. Second, polycentricity can be conceptualized from different perspectives: the taxonomy proposed here considers the morphological (rank-size distribution) and the functional (based on interaction) perspective. The numerous possibilities of defining polycentricity determine several ways to measure it. Despite it is not easy to reach synthetic and reliable measures of polycentricity, we briefly report on the several methodologies that can be utilized, deriving from the perspective adopted: those might affect results and, hence, policy implications.

Within this framework, we carry out the empirical analysis by considering Italian NUTS2 regions. We compare the degree of regional polycentricity when measured

differently, both following a morphological and a functional approach. The results allow for critical discussion and might represent a contribution to the empirical literature on the patterns and effects of polycentric development.