

Final Report of Assistant Professor Call

Department: Policy Analysis and Public Management

Application deadline: 20/09/2016

Hiring committee: Andrea Colli, Giovanni Fattore, Massimo Morelli, Piero Stanig

Number of valid applications: 91

Number of flyouts: 5

Recommended Action: Call to be closed with 1 position filled.

Summary: Andrea Colli, Giovanni Fattore, Massimo Morelli and Piero Stanig have scrutinized the 91 applications received for the one position of Assistant Professor in political science. After a round of interviews at the APSA meeting in Philadelphia, the committee has agreed in inviting five candidates for a fly-out. Two more had been scheduled, but have rejected the campus invitation due to dominating offers.

The five candidates were, in alphabetical order (and with the respective affiliations):

OMISSIONS

*Livio Di Lonardo (NYU)

OMISSIONS

All the five candidates visited the Department between October and November, 2015

Decision: According to the Committee's judgment, and to the Department's members' anonymous opinions, among the five candidates who visited the department the two candidates who performed better have been OMISSIONS and Livio Di Lonardo. Given that OMISSIONS already has offers in hand from Harvard and NYU, and given the importance for the department to secure quickly a good AP hiring in political science rather, the choice of the committee is to propose Livio Di Lonardo for an offer.

The selected Candidate: Livio focuses in his research on the (presently, of paramount interest) politics of terrorism prevention and national security.

Livio studies how terrorism violence and threats affect democratic institutions, processes, and decisions. In his job market paper, he shows how terrorist attacks affect differently counterterrorism policy-making and electoral outcomes, depending on the target government's partisan affiliation. Right-wing incumbents, contrary to left-wing ones, benefit from attacks and higher threats, enact less aggressive anti-terror policies, and have an incentive to increase policy transparency when threats are high.

In another paper, he shows how, when facing potentially factionalized terrorist groups, the threat of military intervention from target countries is ineffective at deterring terrorist activities, and can even have the effect of increasing them.

He also shows in his dissertation the existence of a trade-off between deterrence of terrorist activities and informational flows from capturing terrorist operatives, and while excessive emphasis on deterrence can be electorally beneficial, it can allow terrorist threats to proliferate and survive longer. Finally, increased salience of terrorism as an electoral issue leads to less rather than more congruence between citizens' preferences and enacted counterterrorism measures.

Outside his dissertation, Livio has also published an article on the Journal of Theoretical politics on electoral competition and candidate entry.

Given the quality of his job market seminar, the Committee thinks he will be an excellent teacher, and his research is on a topic of great relevance (unfortunately) and hence we expect (and hope) that his very nice theories will soon bring to policy research that could have general audience and impact.

In conclusion, we received 91 applications, of whom we invited 5 for flyouts, and decided to make one job offer to Livio Di Lonardo.

The Department Executive Committee (Giunta) has been informed and has unanimously endorsed the Committee's proposal.

Sincerely,
Andrea Colli (Department Head, on behalf of the Hiring Committee)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Colli".