

The Research Centre of the School of Economics and Business,
in cooperation with **the Bank of Slovenia,**
cordially invites you to a free research seminar
on **Tuesday, 7 November 2023, at 13:00 CET** in room **P-119**
at the **School of Economics and Business, University of Ljubljana**

Author
Giovanni Mellace
University of Southern Denmark

will present the article
**The Gray Zone: How Not Imposing a Strict Lockdown at the Beginning of
a Pandemic Can Cost Many Lives**

Abstract:

The public debate on the effectiveness of lockdown measures is far from being settled. We estimate the impact of not having implemented a strict lockdown in the Bergamo province, during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, despite observing an infection rate in this area similar to the one observed in nearby municipalities where a strict lockdown was instead promptly implemented. We estimate the causal effect of this policy decision on daily excess mortality using the synthetic control method (SCM). We find that about two-thirds of the reported deaths could have been avoided had the Italian government declared a Red Zone in the Bergamo province. We also clarify that, in this context, SCM and difference-in-differences implicitly restrict effect heterogeneity. We provide a way to empirically assess the credibility of this assumption in our setting.

Please sign up for the free seminar at <http://raziskave.ef.uni-lj.si/a/1616>.

We look forward to seeing you.

