

# GAIA GHIRARDI

## Curriculum Vitae

European University Institute

Department of Political and Social Sciences, Via dei Roccettini 9, I-50014 San Domenico di Fiesole (FI) - Italy

✉ [gaia.ghirardi@eui.eu](mailto:gaia.ghirardi@eui.eu)

[Twitter](#)

[Personal Website](#)

[Google scholar](#)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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social stratification, sociogenomics, educational inequality, early childhood

## EMPLOYMENT

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2024 - Present    **Postdoctoral Researcher**  
University of Bologna, Dipartimento di Scienze Statistiche “Paolo Fortunati”  
Project: [GENPOP](#)  
PI: Nicola Barban

## EDUCATION

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2020 - Present    **Ph.D. researcher in Social and Political Sciences**  
European University Institute (EUI), Florence  
Thesis: “Gene-Environment Interactions in Educational and Health Inequalities”  
Advisor: Fabrizio Bernardi

2017 - 2020    **M.A. Sociology** (*with distinction*)  
University of Trento & University of Bamberg - *Double degree program*  
Advisors: Moris Triventi, Corinna Kleinert, Tina Baier

2014 - 2017    **B.A. Sociology** (*with distinction*)  
University of Milano Bicocca  
Advisor: Maurizio Pisati

## RESEARCH STAYS

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Sept 2023 - Present    **Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED)**, Madrid  
Visiting PhD student  
Invited by: Fabrizio Bernardi

May 2023    **University of Bologna**, Italy  
Visiting PhD student  
Invited by: Nicola Barban

Sept 2022 - Dec 2023    **Institut National d’Etudes Démographiques (INED)**, Paris  
Visiting PhD student  
Invited by: Lidia Panico  
**Center for Research in Economics and Statistics (CREST)**, Paris  
Visiting PhD student  
Invited by: Felix Tropsch

## AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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- 2023 **EUI Early Stage Researchers (ESR) call 2023**  
[GxE interaction and educational inequalities](#) (PI: Gaia Ghirardi)
- 2021 **Travel Award** (Dronkers Award)  
ISA RC28: Accumulation and compensation of inequalities, Turku, Finland
- 2019 **Price for the best Poster Presentation**  
4th NEPS Conference, LfBi, Bamberg, Germany
- 2019 **Double-degree scholarship**  
University of Trento
- 2016 **Merit-based scholarship**  
University of Milano Bicocca

## PUBLICATIONS

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Peer-reviewed journal articles

**Ghirardi G.**, Baier T., Kleinert C., Triventi M., (2022) [“Is Early Formal Childcare an Equalizer? How Attending Childcare and Education Centres Affects Children’s Cognitive and Socio-Emotional Skills in Germany”](#) *European Sociological Review*

**Ghirardi G.**, Gil-Hernández C., Bernardi F., van Bergen E., & Demange P., (2024) [“Interaction of Parental SES with Children’s Genetic Propensity for Cognitive and Noncognitive Skills: No Evidence of the Scarr-Rowe Hypothesis for Educational Outcomes”](#) *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*

## SUBMITTED AND UNDER REVIEW

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**Ghirardi G.**, & Bernardi F., [“Compensating or Boosting Genetic Propensities? Gene-Family Socioeconomic Status Interactions by Educational Outcome Selectivity”](#)

Bernardi F., & **Ghirardi G.** [“Socioeconomic Status, Genes, and the Differential Effects of Parental Separation on Educational Attainment”](#)

**Ghirardi G.**, & Gioachin F. [“The Role of Different Childcare Arrangements on Social Inequalities in Children’s Early Cognitive Competencies: A Research Note”](#)

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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**Ghirardi G.**, Wolfram T., Ruks, M., & Tropf. F., [“Family Socioeconomic Status Compensates and Triggers Genetic Propensity for Externalizing Behavior on Adverse High School Outcomes”](#)

**Ghirardi G.** [“The Development of Overweight from Adolescence to Adulthood: A Gene-Family Socioeconomic Status Interaction Study”](#)

Breinholt, A. & **Ghirardi G.** [“The Interaction between Socioeconomic Status and Genetic Propensity for Education: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Molecular Studies”](#)

**Ghirardi G.**, Berger L. M., Panico L., & Solaz A. [“The Impact of Early Formal Childcare Attendance and Exposure on Children’s Developmental Outcomes in France”](#)

## TEACHING ASSISTANT

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- May 2023 and May 2024 **Class “Applications in Sociogenomics” at University of Bologna**  
Department of Statistical Sciences, MA level  
Sociogenomics, Nicola Barban
- October 2019 - March 2020 **Tutor Quantitative Methods at University of Trento**  
Department of sociology, BA level  
Quantitative Methods in Sociology, Enrico Rettore  
Quantitative Methods in International Studies, Stefano Benati

## RESEARCH ASSISTANT

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- March 2023 - June 2023 **European University Institute (EUI)**  
Research assistant, Juho Härkönen
- January 2019 - March 2020 **Student Research Assistant at University of Bamberg**  
NORFACE project: Life-Course Dynamics of Educational Tracking (LIFE-TRACK) Steffen Schindler
- January 2019 - March 2019 **Student Research Assistant at University of Bamberg**  
DFG Project: Recent Immigration Processes and Early Integration Trajectories in Germany (ENTRA) Corinna Kristen

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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- Present **Reviewer**  
*European Societies, European Sociological Review, Social Science & Medicine, Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*
- 26 April 2024 **Co-organizer workshop sociogenomics**  
EUI (with Kim Stienstra)
- 29 Feb - 1 March 2024 **Co-organizer workshop sociogenomics**  
University of Oslo (with Arno van Hoetegem, Ruth Eva Jørgensen, Torkild Hovde Lyngstad, Karri Silventoinen)
- September 2021 - 2022 **Co-organizer working group and seminars at European University Institute**  
CLIC, DISTANT CLIC and Inequality Working Group (IWG)  
Sponsors: Fabrizio Bernardi, Juho Härkönen

## CONFERENCES

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- 2024 **SISEC\*, BGA\*, ECSR Annual Conference\***(scheduled)  
Cagliari (IT), London (UK), Barcelona (ES) - *Oral presentations*
- 2023 **AlpPop\*, SISEC\*, ESSGN\*, RC28 Spring Meeting\*, ECSR Annual Conference\*, LIVES\***  
La Thuile (IT), Brescia (IT), Bologna (IT), Paris (FR), Prague (CS), Losanna (CH)
- 2022 **PAA Annual Conference\*, RC28 Spring Meeting\*, ECSR Annual Conference\*, PopFest\***  
Atlanta (US), London (UK), Amsterdam (NL), Florence (ITA)  
**ESSGN\*, SISEC\***  
Bologna (IT)
- 2021 **ECSR Annual Conference\*, ISA RC28 Spring Meeting\***  
Online, Turku (FI)
- 2019 **4th NEPS Conference ★**  
Bamberg (DE)

\* Oral presentation

★ Poster presentation

## INVITED TALKS

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- 2024 **Re-theorizing sociogenomics research on the gene-by-family socioeconomic status (GxSES) interaction for educational attainment**  
University of Trento, Euregio Seminar
- 2023 **Re-theorizing sociogenomics research on the gene-by-family socioeconomic status (GxSES) interaction for educational attainment**  
Sociogenomics workshop, Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Helsinki
- 2022 **Do high-SES parents compensate for genetic risk for poor educational achievement in offspring?**  
VU University Amsterdam
- 2022 **Re-theorizing sociogenomics research on the gene-by-family socioeconomic status (GxSES) interaction for educational attainment**  
ECSR's Network Workshop, European University Institute, Florence

## SUMMER SCHOOLS, WORKSHOPS, AND TRAININGS

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- August 22 - 26 , 2022 **Introduction to Sociogenomics**  
University of Oslo (Felix Tropf)
- July 5 - 16, 2021 **Nature and Nurture: Twin Research and Human Genetics**  
VU Amsterdam Summer School
- October 16 - December 21, 2020 **Introduction to Social Science Genetics**  
The Silver Beach Institute (Robbee Wedow, and Andrew Grotzinger)
- May 14 - 15, 2019 **Panel Data Analysis**  
GESIS Training Course in Mannheim (Josef Brüderl)

## ADDITIONAL SKILLS

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LANGUAGES: **Italian** (Native) **English** (Competent)  
SOFTWARE: **Stata** (Competent) **L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X** (Competent) **R** (Basic)

## REFEREES

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### **Fabrizio Bernardi**

Full Professor of Sociology  
UNED Madrid  
fbernardi@poli.uned.es

### **Juho Härkönen**

Full Professor of Sociology  
European University Institute  
juho.harkonen@eui.eu

### **Nicola Barban**

Full Professor of Demography  
University of Bologna  
n.barban@unibo.it