Gaia Ghirardi

Curriculum Vitae

Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna
Department Statistical Sciences "Paolo Fortunati", Via Belle Arti 41, Bologna, Italy
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Bluesky
Personal Website
Google scholar

Research Interests

social stratification, educational inequality, early childhood, sociogenomics

Employment

2024 - Present	**Research Fellow**
	University of Bologna, Department of Statistical Sciences "Paolo Fortunati"
	Project: GENPOP
	PI: Nicola Barban

Education

2020 - 2025	**Ph.D. Social and Political Sciences**
	European University Institute (EUI), Florence
	Thesis: 'Interaction of Family Socioeconomic Status and Genotype in the Intergenerational Transmission of Educational and Health Inequalities'
	Advisor: Fabrizio Bernardi
	Committee: Melinda Mills, Nicola Barban, Juho Härkönen
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

Feb 2025 - Present	**LCDS, University of Oxford**, United Kingdom
	Visiting postdoctoral researcher - Host: Melinda Mills
Sept 2023 - May 2024	**Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED)**, Madrid
	Visiting PhD student - Host: Fabrizio Bernardi
May 2023	**University of Bologna**, Italy
	Visiting PhD student - Host: Nicola Barban
Sept 2022 - Dec 2023	**Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques (INED)**, Paris
	Center for Research in Economics and Statistics (CREST), Paris
	Visiting PhD student - Host: Lidia Panico & Felix Tropf

Awards and Scholarships

2025   **Best Article Award for Young Scholar - Italian Society of Economic Sociology (SISEC)**
"Interaction of Parental SES with Children's Genetic Propensity for Cognitive and Noncognitive Skills: No Evidence of the Scarr-Rowe Hypothesis for Educational Outcomes"

2023   **EUI Early Stage Researchers** (ESR) call 2023
GxE interaction and educational inequalities (PI: Gaia Ghirardi)

2021   **RC28 Travel Award (Dronkers Award)**
ISA RC28: Accumulation and compensation of inequalities, Turku, Finland

2020   **University of Oxford**
Ph.D. full funded scholarships in Sociology (declined)

2019   **Price for the best Poster Presentation**
4th NEPS Conference, LIfBi, Bamberg, Germany

2019   **Double-degree scholarship**
University of Trento

2016   **Merit-based scholarship**
University of Milano Bicocca

Publications

Peer-reviewed journal articles

Ghirardi G., & Bernardi F., (2025) "Compensating or Boosting Genetic Propensities? Gene-Family Socioeconomic Status Interactions by Educational Outcome Selectivity" *Social Science Research*

Bernardi F., & **Ghirardi G.** (2025) "Socioeconomic Status, Genotype, and the Differential Effects of Parental Separation on Educational Attainment" *Demography*

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*

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*

Others

Kleinert, C., Baier, T., **Ghirardi, G.**, and Triventi, M. (2024) Führt ein Kitabesuch zu einem Ausgleich sozialer Unterschiede? *LIfBi Forschung kompakt*, No 5, 01/2024.

Submitted and under review

Ghirardi G., & Gioachin F. "Decomposing the Role of Childcare Arrangements in Early Educational Inequalities by Socioeconomic Background"

Ghirardi G. "The Development of of Body Mass Index from Adolescence to Adulthood: A Genotype-Family Socioeconomic Status Interaction Study"

Work in progress

Breinholt, A. & **Ghirardi G.** "Interactions between Childhood Socioeconomic Status and Genotype in Educational Outcomes: A Novel Theoretical Typology and Meta-Analysis of Molecular Studies"
- Preregistration

Teaching Experiences

January 2025	**Guest Lecturer 'Analysis of genetic data'**
	Winter School on Inequality and Social Welfare Theory
	Thesis Co-supervisor
2024	Fatema Khan: MA level (Department of Statistical Sciences, UNIBO)
2023; 2024; 2025	**Guest Lecturer 'Applications in Sociogenomics'**
	University of Bologna, Department of Statistical Sciences, MA level
	Sociogenomics course, Nicola Barban
October 2019 - March 2020	**Tutor Quantitative Methods**
	Department of sociology, BA level
	Quantitative Methods in Sociology, Enrico Rettore
	Quantitative Methods in International Studies, Stefano Benati

Research Assistant

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

Present	**Reviewer**
	European Societies, European Sociological Review, Social Science & Medicine, Research in Social Stratification and Mobility, Early Child Development and Care, Mind & Society, Nature Communication
26 April 2024	**Co-organizer workshop on Sociogenomics**
	European University Institute
29 Feb - 1 March 2024	**Co-organizer workshop on Sociogenomics**
	University of Oslo (with Arno van Hootegem, 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

2025	**AlpPop**, **RC28 Spring Meeting**, **PAA Annual Conference**, **ESSGN***	
	La Thuile (IT), Milan (IT), Washington DC (US), Bristol (UK)	
	PopDays (scheduled)	
	Cagliari (IT)	
2024	**SISEC**, **BGA**, **ECSR Annual Conference**	
	Cagliari (IT), London (UK), Barcelona (ES)	
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	**ISA RC28 Spring Meeting**	
	Turku (FI) - Online	
2019	**4th NEPS Conference***	
	Bamberg (DE)	

*	Poster presentation
No symbol:	Oral presentation

Invited talks

2025	**Interactions between childhood socioeconomic status and genotype in educational outcomes: A novel theoretical typology and meta-analysis of molecular genetic studies**
	Max Planck Research Group Biosocial, Berlin (online)
2024	**Socioeconomic status, genes, and the differential effects of parental separation on educational attainment**
	QSS CLS Seminar Series, UCL, London
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

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

Languages: **Italian** (Native) **English** (Competent)
Software: **Stata** (Competent) **LaTeX** (Competent) **R** (Basic)

Referees

Fabrizio Bernardi
Full Professor of Sociology
UNED Madrid
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Nicola Barban
Full Professor of Demography
University of Bologna
n.barban@unibo.it

Juho Härkönen
Full Professor of Sociology
European University Institute
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London, June 2025