

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*(scheduled) **Ph.D. researcher in 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

March 2025 - Present **LCDS, University of Oxford**, United Kingdom
Visiting postdoctoral researcher - Invited by: Melinda Mills

Sept 2023 - May 2024 **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
Center for Research in Economics and Statistics (CREST), Paris
Visiting PhD student - Invited by: 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*

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. Führt ein Kitabesuch zu einem Ausgleich sozialer Unterschiede? *LIfBi Forschung kompakt*, No 5, 01/2024.

SUBMITTED AND UNDER REVIEW

Bernardi F., & **Ghirardi G.** (2025) “[Socioeconomic Status, Genes, and the Differential Effects of Parental Separation on Educational Attainment](#)” (R&R)

Ghirardi G., & Gioachin F. “[Decomposing the Role of Childcare Arrangements in Early Educational Inequalities by Socioeconomic Background](#)” (R&R)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Ghirardi G. “The Development of Overweight from Adolescence to Adulthood: A Gene-Family Socioeconomic Status Interaction Study”

Breinholt, A. & **Ghirardi G.** “Interactions between Childhood Socioeconomic Status and Genotype in Educational Outcomes: A Novel Theoretical Typology and Meta-Analysis of Molecular Studies” - [pre-registration](#)

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 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)
May 2023; May 2024	Guest Lecturer ‘Applications in Sociogenomics’
May 2025 (scheduled)	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 <i>European Societies, European Sociological Review, Social Science & Medicine, Research in Social Stratification and Mobility, Early Child Development and Care, Mind & Society, Nature Communication</i>
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** (scheduled), **PopDays** (scheduled), **ESSGN***(scheduled)
La Thuile (IT), Milan (IT), Washington DC (US), Cagliari (IT), Bristol (UK)
- 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 **ECSR Annual Conference, 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) **L^AT_EX** (Competent) **R** (Basic)

REFEREES

Fabrizio Bernardi

Full Professor of Sociology

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Nicola Barban

Full Professor of Demography

University of Bologna

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Juho Härkönen

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