

GAIA GHIRARDI

Curriculum Vitae

Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna

Department Statistical Sciences “Paolo Fortunati”, Via Belle Arti 41, Bologna, Italy

✉ gaia.ghirardi@unibo.it

[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 - May 2025 **University of Oxford**
Leverhulme Centre for Demographic Science (LCDS)
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 - Hosts: Lidia Panico & Felix Tropsch

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 **Trinity College Dublin**
Ph.D. full funded scholarships in Sociology (declined for incompatibility with other position)
- 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

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*

SUBMITTED AND UNDER REVIEW

Ghirardi G. “The Development of of Body Mass Index from Adolescence to Adulthood: A Genotype-Family Socioeconomic Status Interaction Study” (R&R)

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

WORK IN PROGRESS (SELECTED)

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](#)

Bernardi, F., Ferrara, A. & **Ghirardi G.** “Unequal chance: modeling luck in educational inequality”

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 <i>European Societies, European Sociological Review, Social Science & Medicine, Research in Social Stratification and Mobility, Early Child Development and Care, Mind & Society, Nature Communication, PNAS</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 Hoogtem, 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*, PopDays**
La Thuile (IT), Milan (IT), Washington DC (US), Bristol (UK), 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)

REFEREES

Fabrizio Bernardi

Full Professor of Sociology

UNED Madrid

fbernardi@poli.uned.es

Nicola Barban

Full Professor of Demography

University of Bologna

n.barban@unibo.it

Juho Härkönen

Full Professor of Sociology

European University Institute

juho.harkonen@eui.eu

London, July 2025