

# 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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[Twitter](#)

[Personal Website](#)

[Google scholar](#)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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social stratification, educational inequality, sociogenomics, early childhood

## EMPLOYMENT

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2024 - Present    **Research Fellow**  
University of Bologna, Department of Statistical Sciences “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: ‘Interaction of Family Socioeconomic Status and Genotype in the Intergenerational Transmission of 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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Jan 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

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- 2025 **Best Article Award from the 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 **Travel Award** (Dronkers Award)  
ISA RC28: Accumulation and compensation of inequalities, Turku, Finland
- 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

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### Peer-reviewed journal articles

**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

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

Bernardi F., & **Ghirardi G.** “[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

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**Ghirardi G.**, Wolfram T., & Ruks, M., “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.** “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

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January 2025	<b>Guest Lecturer ‘Analysis of genetic data’</b> Winter School on Inequality and Social Welfare Theory <b>Thesis Supervisor</b>
2024	Fatema Khan: MA level (Department of Statistical Sciences, UNIBO)
May 2023; May 2024	<b>Guest Lecturer ‘Applications in Sociogenomics’</b> University of Bologna, Department of Statistical Sciences, MA level Sociogenomics course, Nicola Barban
October 2019 - March 2020	<b>Tutor Quantitative Methods</b> 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	<b>European University Institute (EUI)</b> Research assistant, Juho Härkönen
January 2019 - March 2020	<b>Student Research Assistant at University of Bamberg</b> NORFACE project: Life-Course Dynamics of Educational Tracking (LIFE-TRACK) Steffen Schindler
January 2019 - March 2019	<b>Student Research Assistant at University of Bamberg</b> DFG Project: Recent Immigration Processes and Early Integration Trajectories in Germany (ENTRA) Corinna Kristen

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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

## CONFERENCES

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- 2025 **AlpPop\***, **RC28 Spring Meeting\***(scheduled), **PAA Annual Conference\***(scheduled), **PopDays\***(scheduled)  
La Thuile (IT), Milan (IT), Washington DC (US), 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 **ECSR Annual Conference\***, **ISA RC28 Spring Meeting\***  
Turku (FI) - Online
- 2019 **4th NEPS Conference ★**  
Bamberg (DE)

\* Oral presentation

★ Poster presentation

## INVITED TALKS

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- 2025 **Interactions between childhood socioeconomic status and genotype in educational outcomes: A novel theoretical typology and meta-analysis of molecular studies**  
Max Planck Research Group Biosocial, Berlin (online - scheduled)
- 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

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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

### **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, January 2025