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**EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE – ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT**

**References:**

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**Graduate Studies:**

European University Institute, 2018 - present  
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics  
Thesis Title: "Essays in applied microeconometrics"  
Expected Completion Date: July 2023

**Undergraduate Studies:**

M.Sc. Economics, Specialization in Applied Economics, Stockholm School of Economics, Honors list 2017 and final GPA 4.63/5, 2016-2018

B.Sc. International Economics, Management and Finance, Major in Economics, Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi, with honors (final grade 100 cum laude/100), GPA 29.6/30, 2016

Erasmus+ program, Department of Economics, University of Warwick. September-December 2015

**Teaching and Research Fields:**

Research fields: health economics, political economy, labour economics, economic history

Teaching fields: microeconometrics (cross-sectional and panel data methods, causal inference)

**Teaching Experience:**

Fall semester, 2021	"The Econometrics of Causality", European University Institute (Ph.D. level, Economics), teaching fellow for Professor Fabrizia Mealli
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Fall semester, 2020	“The Statistics of Causal inference”, European University Institute (Ph.D. level, for both Economics and Political Sciences Ph.D. students), teaching fellow for Professor Andrea Ichino
Spring semester, 2021 and Fall semester 2021	Panel Data for Banking Sector Analysts, Florence School of Banking and Finance, teaching fellow for Professor Jeffrey M. Wooldridge

### **Research Experience and Other Employment:**

April 2022 – March 2023	University of Florence, Researcher (assegnista). Working on experimental designs to promote vaccination uptake (“SpingeVacs” project, Prof. Leonardo Boncinelli)
November 2020 - present	European University Institute, Research Assistant for Professor Andrea Ichino
February 2018 – July 2018	European Central Bank, DG Statistics, Monetary and Financial Statistics, Trainee

### **Professional Activities**

Referee: *The Economic Journal, Labour Economics, Review of Development Economics, Journal of Institutional Economics, International Migration, Journal of Peace Research*

Other services: support to M.Sc. Economics admissions (2017, Stockholm School of Economics), Researchers’ Representative (2019, European University Institute), support to Ph.D. Economics pre-admissions (2021, European University Institute), Assistant for the Self-Assessment report of the Economics Department (2021, European University Institute).

### **Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:**

March 2022 (awarded)	“Assegno di ricerca”, University of Florence (equivalent to a Postdoctoral fellowship), April 2022 – March 2023
November 2020	Merck Investigator Studies Program, Merck International: funding for the research project “Education, Immigration and HPV Vaccination: an Informational Randomized Trial”, Project leader, 186.000 Euros (with Lisen A. Dahlström)
November 2020	Early Stage Researcher Grant, European University Institute. Funding for data collection for the project “Family systems, gender norms and economic outcomes: a lesson from Italian history”. 1000 Euros

June 2020	Prize for the best 2 <sup>nd</sup> year paper and presentation, “Family systems, gender norms and economic outcomes: a lesson from Italian history”, European University Institute
November 2019	Early Stage Researcher Grant, European University Institute. Funding for data collection for the project “Family systems, gender norms and economic outcomes: a lesson from Italian history”. 1000 Euros.
September 2018	Full Ph.D. grant, The Swedish Research Council

### **Conferences and seminars:**

2022                      LSE Graduate Economic History Seminar series (online)  
Spring Meeting of Young Economists (Orleans, France – Planned for May)  
23<sup>rd</sup> IZA Summer School in Labor Economics (Buch, Germany – Planned for May)

### **Programming Languages:**

R (Base R, Tidyverse) – preferred  
Stata  
Matlab

### **Languages:**

Italian (Native), English (Full proficiency), Spanish (Full proficiency, C2 Cervantes certification), Portuguese and French (Limited working proficiency), Swedish and Icelandic (Beginner)

### **Other affiliations:**

Karolinska Institute, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Solna, Sweden  
University of Florence, Department of Economics and Business (DISEI), from April 2022

### **Publications:**

Landy, J. F., Jia, M. L., Ding, I. L., Viganola, D., Tierney, W., Dreber, A., ... & Crowdsourcing Hypothesis Tests Collaboration. (2020). “Crowdsourcing hypothesis tests: Making transparent how design choices shape research results”. *Psychological Bulletin*, 146(5), 451.

### **Research Papers in Progress:**

“The Medieval origins of Catholic political preferences”

Abstract: To what extent do conservative culture and institutions affect conservative political preferences in the long term? In every Italian election with a running Catholic party, regions in north-eastern Italy showed marked differences in their Catholic votes (above 20 p.p.), which are also reflected by anti-divorce and anti-abortion votes

in dedicated referenda (1974, 1981). I exploit a natural experiment to disentangle the effects of two possible long-term determinants of these different preferences: conservative formal institutions (the theocratic Papal States), and conservative culture (Medieval patriarchal norms). For several centuries, a river separated two regions: one with conservative culture but progressive institutions, the other with progressive culture and only partially subject to conservative institutions. I formalize and estimate an extension to geographic regression discontinuity designs, the Difference-in-Geographic Discontinuities (DIG) estimator, and I find that conservative institutions do not explain the different votes. I argue that the entire effect is attributable to conservative culture.

“Education, Immigration and HPV Vaccination: an Informational Randomized Trial”,  
with Lisen A. Dahlström [Winner of the Merck Investigator Studies Program grant]

Data collection completed

Abstract: We randomize an informational intervention on 7500 mothers of girls and boys due to receive the HPV vaccine in Sweden. The treatment is the framing of a leaflet that covers the vaccine’s safety and the consequences of catching HPV-induced cancers, in terms of sterility and invasive medical procedures. These are concerns that disinformation on the HPV vaccine leverages on. It is framed emotionally (T1), through the testimonies of local cancer survivors, or scientifically (T2), using medical and statistical terminology. We also include a pure placebo that only provides a reminder, and attach a short survey to the leaflet to complement other baseline variables from Swedish administrative data. Mothers are stratified by education level, and we include a stratum of 2500 immigrant mothers from selected representative countries. We find that only lowly-educated mothers respond to our intervention by vaccinating more, as measured by administrative vaccination records. Scientific framing is more effective, with significant differences between mothers of boys and girls. While the magnitude of the effects is larger for girls (approximately 25 p.p. increase in vaccination rates, versus 10 p.p. for boys), girls’ parents only react when paying attention to the leaflet, measured by whether they reply to our survey. Since boys were just included in the HPV vaccination campaign and were previously not targeted by institutional information, we hypothesize the presence of decreasing returns to information on vaccines that are independent of the information’s framing.

“Family systems, gender norms and economic outcomes: a lesson from Italian history”

Abstract: This paper investigates the causal effect of family systems (Todd, 1990) and associated gender norms on household economic outcomes. I construct a geo-referenced, household-level dataset on the Pontine Marshes’ colonization (1933-1943), during which agrarian families from Northern Italy with two different family systems moved to an uninhabited area under strict control of the fascist regime, and were subject to different shocks following WWII males’ conscription. I exploit the variation in men’s presence during the war to measure how culture affected women’s ability to lead production and secure agricultural land ownership. Preliminary analyses on partial data suggest that women from the more patriarchal family system were significantly more successful.

“Digital skills and university choice: a Randomized Trial”  
with Martina Ferracane and Adriano De Falco

Intervention ongoing

Project summary: We conduct a Randomized Controlled Trial in Italian high schools in which we randomize access to digital skill courses. Courses are taken for credit and held by Fablabs, they are standard in format and employ a tested learn-by-doing pedagogical approach. They cover 3D design, 3D printing, and laser cutting. We test

whether participation fosters interest in STEM subjects for future university studies, relative occupations and employability, with a particular interest in girls.

“Executive gender quotas and social services: evidence from Italy”

with Flavia Cavallini and Olivia Masi

Abstract: We investigate the effect of executive female representation on the provision of different social services, in the context of Italy. While Italy is a high-income country, many families still rely on women to take care of children, the elderly, and family members in need of assistance. We exploit a 2014 reform that mandated 40% gender quotas in the executive committees of municipalities with more than 3000 inhabitants. To account for confounding policies introduced at the same cutoff, we employ a difference-in-discontinuities empirical strategy with additional identifying assumptions. We find that while the policy was effective in increasing female representation, it did not have an impact on any social services expenditures.