

Chiara Zanardello

IRES/LIDAM - UCLouvain

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Citizenship: Italian

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Economic history, applied microeconomics, human capital, migration, long-term growth

DOCTORAL STUDIES

2021 – Present	Ph.D. Candidate Economics	UCLouvain
	PhD Project: <i>Human Capital and Knowledge Networks: Market Forces, Scientific Academies, and the Spread of Ideas in Early Modern Europe.</i>	
	Supervisor: <i>David de la Croix</i>	
	Expected graduation: <i>Summer 2025</i>	
Jan-Jun 2024	Visiting Graduate Fellow	Northwestern University
	Host advisor: <i>Joel Mokyr</i>	

REFERENCES

Professor David de la Croix UCLouvain david.delacroix@uclouvain.be	Professor Joel Mokyr Northwestern University j-mokyr@northwestern.edu	Professor Joseph F. Gomes UCLouvain joseph.gomes@uclouvain.be
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PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES

2020 - 2021	M.Res. Economics (Joint Degree)	UCLouvain
2019 - 2021	M.Sc. Economics and Political Science	University of Milan
Fall 2018	Undergraduate Exchange Program (Erasmus+)	University of Latvia
2016 - 2019	B.Sc. Economics and Commerce	University of Verona

PUBLICATIONS

Zanardello, Chiara (2023). “Market forces in Italian Academia today (and yesterday)”. In: *Scientometrics* 128, pp. 651–698. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-022-04579-0>.

JOB MARKET PAPER

- Early Modern Academies, Universities, and Economic Growth **JMP**
LIDAM Discussion Paper - 2024/12
Knowledge production is vital to modern progress, but what about the past? Pre-industrial European academic institutions are often assumed to have been flawed, with misallocated resources and talent. In this paper, I examine the role of academies, dynamic and scientifically oriented institutions that emerged between 1650 and 1800. Using new data on historical European academia and advanced difference-in-difference methods, I find that academies contributed to long-term urban growth. Exploiting individual-level data on scholars, I further show that literary academies had no long-term effect, whereas scientific academies led to persistent growth. Finally, I demonstrate that academies had positive spillover effects, both on the growth of neighboring cities and on the quality of pre-existing universities. Altogether, I provide the first empirical evidence of the pivotal role scientific academies played in Europe’s economic growth.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Salvation, Plants, and Cosmos: How Pre-modern Universities Spread Ideas
(with David de la Croix, and Rossana Scebba)

Having a few good ideas in a lifetime is not uncommon, but for those ideas to spread and evolve, a community is essential. About 200 universities operated in premodern Europe. Together with about 150 academies of sciences which blossomed in the 17th century, they employed thousands of scholars. The ideas developed by these individuals spread across time and space through these institutions. By building a network of scholars exchanging ideas through institutional affiliations (intention to treat), we demonstrate how the European academic landscape exposed cities to new ideas, influencing their development. We highlight examples such as Protestantism, Botanic Gardens, and the publication of calendars. Through counterfactual simulations, we show that both universities and academies played a crucial role, with their interaction proving especially impactful. Ideas gain significance when effectively channelled by powerful institutions.

- Persistence of Universities (with Pedro Aldighieri)

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

2023	Mobility scholarships: Scientific Stay Grant (FRS-FNRS), and Travel Grant (FWB)
2023	Ph.D. Fellowship (within <i>PDR (FRS-FNRS)</i> – Main promoter: David de la Croix)
2021	Ph.D. Fellowship (within <i>ERC grant 883033</i> – Supervisor: David de la Croix)
2020	Joint Degree Program UNIMI – UCLouvain
2020, 2021	Right to University Education (DSU) (University of Milan)
2018	Erasmus+ Study Abroad Program
2017, 2018, 2019	Right to University Education (DSU) (University of Verona)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2023	<i>Advanced Macroeconomics III</i> (TA, Graduate)	UCLouvain
2025	<i>Using Economic Tools to Solve Global Challenges</i> (TA, Graduate)	UCLouvain

TALKS

2024	Economic History Lunch (Northwestern University), Cliometric Society Conference (AU Washington DC), European Doctoral Program Jamboree (Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona), FRESH workshop “Institutions, human capital, and long-term development: Lessons from pre-modern Europe” (UCLouvain), EHA “Globalization: Perspectives from the Past” (Sacramento, CA), CEPR-YSI (University of Southern Denmark)
2023	Doctoral Workshop (UCLouvain), IRES Lunch Seminar (UCLouvain), Econometric Society Winter Meeting (UManchester)
2022	IRES Lunch Seminar (UCLouvain), Conference “Early modern science, technology, and institutions” (UManchester), Doctoral Workshop (UCLouvain), AMSE Summer School “The Economics of Growth” (Aix-Marseille University), Conference “Religion, culture and economic growth in historical perspective” (UCLouvain)

DATA PAPERS

2024	Gualandris, Tifenn, Vitale, Mara, and Zanardello, Chiara <i>Scholars and Literati at the Agiati Academy in Rovereto (1750–1800)</i> . <i>Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae</i> . [DOI]
	Clément, Blandine, and Zanardello, Chiara <i>Scholars and Literati at the Royal Naval Academy of France in Brest (1752–1793)</i> . <i>Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae</i> . [DOI]

- 2024 **Zanardello, Chiara** *Scholars and Literati at the Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts of Arras (1737–1793)*. Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae. [\[DOI\]](#)
- 2023 Clément, Blandine, and **Zanardello, Chiara** *Scholars and Literati at the Academy of Georgofili (1753 – 1800)*. Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae. [\[DOI\]](#)
- de la Croix, David, and **Zanardello, Chiara** *Scholars and Literati at the University of Modena (1175–1800)*. Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae. [\[DOI\]](#)
- Zanardello, Chiara** *Literati and Scholars at the Dissonanti Academy in Modena (1680-1800)*. Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae. [\[DOI\]](#)
- de la Croix, David, and **Zanardello, Chiara** *Scholars at the Royal Academy of Sciences in Paris (1666-1793)*. Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae. [\[DOI\]](#)
- 2022 **Zanardello, Chiara** *Scholars and Literati at the Philosophical Society of Oxford (1651–1690)*. Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae. [\[DOI\]](#)
- Rolla, Cecilia, and **Zanardello, Chiara** *Scholars and Literati at the Academy of Sciences of Bologna (1714–1800)*. Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae. [\[DOI\]](#)
- Zanardello, Chiara** *Scholars and Literati at the University of Turin (1404–1800)*. Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae. [\[DOI\]](#)
- 2021 de la Croix, David, and **Zanardello, Chiara** *Scholars and Literati at the Academy of Sciences of Turin (1757–1800)*. Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae. [\[DOI\]](#)

SKILLS

Digital Skills R, Stata, L^AT_EX, TeamPortal, Matlab, EViews

Languages Italian (mother tongue), English (advanced), French (advanced), German (intermediate)