

Chiara Zanardello

IAST - Toulouse School of Economics

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🔗 <https://chiarazanardello.github.io/>

1 Esplanade de l'Université - 31080 Toulouse, France

Citizenship: Italian

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied microeconomics, economic history, human capital and education, migration, long-term growth

ACADEMIC POSITION

2025 – Present Postdoctoral Research Fellow

IAST-Toulouse School of Economics

DOCTORAL STUDIES

2021 – 2025 Ph.D. in Economics

UCLouvain

PhD Thesis: *Human Capital and Knowledge Networks: Market Forces, Scientific Academies, and the Spread of Ideas in Early Modern Europe.*

Supervisor: *David de la Croix*

Jan-Jun 2024 Visiting Graduate Fellow

Northwestern University

Host advisor: *Joel Mokyr*

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

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>.

WORKING PAPERS

- [Early Modern Academies, Universities, and Economic Growth](#)

JMP 2024/2025

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.

- [Flora, Cosmos, Salvatio: Pre-modern Academic Institutions and the Spread of Ideas](#)
(with David de la Croix, and Rossana Scebba)
CEPR Discussion Paper - DP20569

While having good ideas is not uncommon, their spread and evolution require a community. In premodern Europe (1084-1793), approximately 200 universities and 150 academies of sciences employed thousands of scholars, shaping an extensive network of intellectual exchange. By reconstructing inter-personal connections through institutional affiliations, we demonstrate how the European academic landscape facilitated the diffusion of ideas and led cities to develop – examples include botanic gardens, observatories, and Protestantism. Counterfactual simulations reveal that both universities and academies played crucial roles – alongside serendipity and more traditional channels such as books – with academies being particularly effective in connecting distant parts of the network. Moreover, we show that idea diffusion through the network remains remarkably resilient, even after the removal of key regions such as England or France. In Europe, ideas gain significance being effectively channelled by powerful institutions.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Persistence of Universities
- Destruction of Human Capital

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

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

TALKS

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|------|---|
| 2025 | Université Laval (Quebec City, Canada), University of Sussex (Brighton, UK), Economic History Society (Glasgow, Scotland), AMSE PhD lunch seminar (Aix-Marseille University, France), IAST-TSE Welcome Days (Toulouse, France) |
| 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** *Scholars and Literati at the Agiati Academy in Rovereto (1750–1800)*. Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae. [\[DOI\]](#)
- Clément, Blandine, and **Zanardello, Chiara** *Scholars and Literati at the Royal Naval Academy of France in Brest (1752–1793)*. Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae. [\[DOI\]](#)
- 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 (basic)