

# ELENA PERRA

Department of Economics and Statistics "Cognetti de Martiis"  
University of Turin  
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## CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

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University of Turin Post-doctoral Research Fellow	March 2023 -
UNU-MERIT Maastricht Affiliated Researcher	January 2022 -

## EDUCATION

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University of Florence Post-doctoral Research Fellow	February 2022 - February 2023
University of Florence and University of Trento PhD in Development Economics Department of Economics and Management and School of Social Sciences <i>Thesis title: "Empirical Essays on the Impact of Infrastructural Investments in Ethiopia"</i> <i>2022-23 Andrea Vaona award for the best doctoral dissertation in Economics</i>	September 2018 - July 2022
UNU-MERIT Maastricht Visiting Period	October 2021 - January 2022
University of Passau Erasmus + Programme Evaluation of Development Policies, Rural Development, Health, Public Policy	April 2017 - September 2017
University of Florence MSc in Economics and Development	December 2015 - April 2018 110/110 cum laude
University of Florence BA in Economics and Trade	September 2011 - October 2015

## PUBLICATIONS

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Perra, E., Sanfilippo, M. and Sundaram, A. (2024) "Roads, Competition, and the Informal Sector". Journal of Development Economics, 2024, 103339, ISSN 0304-3878.

## WORKING PAPERS

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Sanfilippo, M., Perra, E. and Sileci, L. (2024) "Crude Chain Reaction: From Oil to Soil, the Nigerian Case"

Hiluf Abay, Mehari, Tiberti, L. and Perra, E. (2024) "The Fertility Highway: How Road Investments Shape Childbearing in Ethiopia"

Martorano, B., Perra, E., Tiberti, M., (2023). "Beyond Data Gaps: Tracking Spatial Inequality in Africa via Nighttime Lights" MERIT Working Papers 2023-032, United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (MERIT) (Under Review)

Perra, E. (2022). "Road to Division: Ethnic Favouritism in the Provision of Road Infrastructure in Ethiopia", DISEI Working Papers - Economics, Working Paper N.01/2022. (Under Review)

Giovannetti, G. and Perra, E. (2020). "Syria in the Dark: Estimating the economic consequences of the civil war through satellite-derived night lights". DISEI Working Papers - Economics, Working Paper N.05/2019.

## POLICY PUBLICATIONS

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Perra, E., Sanfilippo, M., & Sundaram, A. (2024). "Road infrastructure boosts competition, which affects formal and informal sector firms differently." VoxDev.

Giovannetti, G., Bigi, V. and Perra, E. (2020) "Estimates of GDP loss using night-time light satellite imagery". In: "Compounding Crises: Will Covid-19 and Lower Oil Prices Lead to a New Development Paradigm in the Arab Region?". United Nations Development Programme.

Giovannetti, G., Bigi, V. and Perra, E. (2021) "The Impact of Covid-19 on Arab Countries: What can we 'See'?" United Nations Development Programme, RBAS WORKING PAPERS SERIES.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Development Economics  
University of Turin

January 2023 - June 2023

- Teaching Assistant

Political Economy of Development  
University of Florence

January 2022 - June 2023

- Adjunct Lecturer

Sustainable Management for Local Development  
University of Florence

October 2021

- Guest Lecturer

International Trade  
University of Florence

September 2015 - April 2018

- Academic Tutor

Microeconomics  
University of Florence

September 2015 - April 2018

- Academic Tutor

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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University of Florence  
Post-doctoral Research Fellow

February 2022 - February 2023

- Principal researcher on EUniWell project, analyzing and reporting the educational performance of the 8 partner universities in the consortium.

European University Institute  
Research Assistant

November 2022 - December 2022

- Harmonizing and Geolocalizing DHS survey data covering all African countries, combining with geolocalized animal diseases information from FAO. Preparing a technical appendix for the project, and ensuring full replicability.

World Bank  
Consultant

February 2022 - June 2022

- Analytical support to the LSMS-ISA program. Conducting empirical analysis based on remotely sensed nighttime light data to proxy for spatial inequality.

European University Institute  
Research Assistant

September 2020 - January 2021

- Data processing and construction of market access indicators for the paper "Trade Liberalization, Roads and Firm Productivity" (Fiorini et al. (2021), Journal of Development Economics).

United Nations Development Programme  
External Consultant

April 2020 - December 2020

- Report on the impact of COVID-19 on MENA countries.

Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES)  
Research Fellow

June 2019 - Present

- EMNES Annual Conference 2019 (presenter)
- Working Paper: "Syria in the Dark" (2020)

EDI Economic Development Initiatives (UK)  
Intern, Research Team

September 2017 - March 2018

- Data Cleaning for Development Projects at the Household Level.
- Academic Literature Reviews on Issues of Data Quality.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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<b>Statistical Analysis</b>	R, STATA, Minitab, Eviews, Gretl
<b>Mapping</b>	QGIS, ArcGIS
<b>Software and Tools</b>	MS Office, $\text{\LaTeX}$

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

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2022-23 Andrea Vaona Award for **the best doctoral dissertation in Economics**.

Winner, Associazione Villa Favard's Annual Prize for **the Most Original Dissertation, 2018**.

University of Florence - Productivity and Merit Scholarships 2015/2016 and 2016/2017.

## SUMMER SCHOOLS

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- FEEM (Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei) 7,8,14,15,22 Oct., 2021.  
*Autumn School in Spatial Analysis and Policy Evaluation*
- UEA (Urban Economic Association) 1-3, 2021 Sept., 2021.  
*PhD Student Workshop*
- Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano 29-1 Sept., 2021.  
*XX Summer School in International and Development Economics "Investment Choices in Developing Economies"*
- IRVAPP 14-19 Dec., 2020  
*Advanced Methods For Impact Evaluation, "Survey sampling methods and applications"*
- University of Essex August 2019  
*52nd Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis. Courses in Quantitative Text Analysis.*
- SITES June 2019  
*X Summer School in Development Economics*

## CONFERENCES

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- 2022-23 Andrea Vaona Award on September 18, 2023, Verona, Italy  
*Award Reception Lecture*
- XXXV SIEP Conference 2023 on September 14-15, 2023, Verona, Italy
- NCDE 2023 on June 13-15, Gothenburg, Sweden.  
*Nordic Conference in Development Economics*
- Jobs and Development on December 14-15, 2022, Capetown, South Africa  
*World Bank, IZA, UNU-WIDER, and the Network on Jobs and Development*
- UNU-Merit Internal Conference on September 29-30, 2022, Maastricht, Netherlands
- The Bank Al-Maghrib on June 23-24, 2022, Rabat, Morocco  
*The International Monetary Fund "Transformational Recovery: Seizing Opportunities from the Crisis"*
- EUDN on November 25-26, 2022, Wageningen, Netherlands  
*PhD Workshop on Development Economics*
- 15th North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association on October 14-16, 2021
- DevEconMeet 2021 on October 1, 2021, University of Florence
- SasCa PhD Conference in Economics 2021 on September 16-17, 2021 Alghero, Italy  
*University of Sassari and Ca' Foscari University of Venice*
- Urban Economic Association (UEA) PhD Student Workshop on September 1-3, online  
*University of Sassari and Ca' Foscari University of Venice*
- EMNES Annual Conference on June 2019, Brussels, Belgium  
*Towards a Regional Integration and Employment Driven Socio-Economic Model in the Mediterranean: A Comprehensive Policy Road map*

## LANGUAGES

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Italian - Mother tongue

English - Fluent

French - Fluent

## REFERENCES

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### **Prof. Giorgia Giovannetti**

Professor of Economics  
Department of Economics and Management  
University of Florence  
Via delle Pandette, 32  
50127 Firenze (Italy)  
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✉ giorgia.giovannetti@unifi.it

### **Prof. Bruno Martorano**

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### **Prof. Luca Tiberti**

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### **Prof. Marco Sanfilippo**

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### **Prof. Asha Sundaram**

Associate Professor of Economics  
Department of Economics  
University of Auckland  
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