

ELENA PERRA

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

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

EDUCATION

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>	<i>September 2018 - July 2022</i>
UNU-MERIT Maastricht Visiting Period	<i>October 2021 - January 2022</i>
University of Passau Erasmus + Programme Evaluation of Development Policies, Rural Development, Health, Development and Public Policy	<i>April 2017 - September 2017</i>
University of Florence MSc in Economics and Development	<i>December 2015 - April 2018</i> <i>110/110 cum laude</i>
University of Florence BA in Economics and Trade	<i>September 2011 - October 2015</i>

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING PAPERS

Martorano, B., **Perra, E.**, Tiberti, M., (2023). "Spatial inequality during the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa using night-time lights data" MERIT Working Papers 2023-032, United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (MERIT)

Perra, E., Sanfilippo, M. and Sundaram, A. (2022). "Roads, Competition, and the Informal Sector". Department of Economics and Statistics "Cognetti de Martiis", Working Paper Series 21/22. [*Revise and Resubmit at Journal of Development Economics*]

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.

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.

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. 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.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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

University of Turin

Post-doctoral Research Fellow

March 2023 - Present

- Structural Transformation Processes in Sub-Saharan Africa.

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

February 2022 - Present

- 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

April 2020 - December 2020

External Consultant

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

Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES)

June 2019 - Present

Research Fellow

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

EDI Economic Development Initiatives (UK)

September 2017 - March 2018

Intern, Research Team

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

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistical Analysis	R, STATA, Minitab, Eviews, Gretl
Mapping	QGIS, ArcGIS
Software and Tools	MS Office, L ^A T _E X

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

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

Autumn School in Spatial Analysis and Policy Evaluation by FEEM (Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei), held online 7,8,14,15,22 October, 2021.

Urban Economic Association (UEA) PhD Student Workshop September 1-3, 2021 online.

Twentieth Summer School in International and Development Economics “Investment Choices in Developing Economies”, supported by Centro Studi Luca d’Agliano, 29 August - 1 September 2021.

IRVAPP Advanced School 2020 - Advanced Methods For Impact Evaluation, held online 14-19 December, 2020.

University of Trento course in “Survey sampling methods and applications” (2021)

STEG Virtual Course on Key Concepts in Macro Development 5 February - 7 May, 2021.

Geo4Dev 2020 Workshop, 10-11 December 2020.

University of Essex, 52nd Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, August 2019. Courses in Quantitative Text Analysis.

SITES - Ideas, X Summer School in Development Economics, Prato, June 2019

CONFERENCES

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. Presenter (“Roads to Division: Ethnic Favouritism in the Provision of Road Infrastructure in Ethiopia”).

Nordic Conference in Development Economics (NCDE 2023), on June 13-15, Gothenburg, Sweden. Presenter (“Spatial inequality during the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa using night-time lights data”).

Jobs and Development Conferences organized by the World Bank, IZA (Institute of Labor Economics), UNU-WIDER, and the Network on Jobs and Development. The conference will take place in Cape Town, South Africa, on December 14-15, 2022. Presenter (“Roads, Competition, and the Informal Sector ”).

UNU-Merit Internal Conference, 29-30, September 2022, Maastricht, Netherlands. Presenter (“The inequality cost of Covid-19 pandemic”).

The Bank Al-Maghrib, the International Monetary Fund, and the IMF Economic Review Conference “Transformational Recovery: Seizing Opportunities from the Crisis”, 23-24, June 2022, Rabat, Morocco. Presenter (“Roads, Competition, and the Informal Sector ”).

20th EUDN PhD Workshop on Development Economics, online, 25-26 November 2021, Wageningen University, the Netherlands. Presenter (“Roads to Division: Ethnic Favouritism in the Provision of Road Infrastructure in Ethiopia”) and Discussant.

15th North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, online, October 14-16, 2021. Presenter (“Roads to Division: Ethnic Favouritism in the Provision of Road Infrastructure in Ethiopia”) and Discussant.

DevEconMeet 2021 - University of Florence - 30 September - 1 October 2021. Presenter (“Roads to Division: Ethnic Favouritism in the Provision of Road Infrastructure in Ethiopia”) and Discussant.

SasCa PhD Conference in Economics 2021 - University of Sassari and Ca’ Foscari University of Venice - 16-17 September 2021. Presenter (“Roads to Division: Ethnic Favouritism in the Provision of Road Infrastructure in Ethiopia”) and Discussant.

Urban Economic Association (UEA) PhD Student Workshop September 1-3, 2021 online. Elevator pitch presentation of my paper “Roads to Division: Ethnic Favouritism in the Provision of Road Infrastructure in Ethiopia”.

EMNES Annual Conference, “Towards a Regional Integration and Employment Driven Socio-Economic Model in the Mediterranean: A Comprehensive Policy Road map”, Brussels, June 2019. Presented the Working Paper: “Wars and Economic Development: the Case of Syria”.

LANGUAGES

Italian - Mother tongue

English - Fluent

French - Fluent

REFERENCES

Prof. Giorgia Giovannetti

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Department of Economics and Management
University of Florence
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50127 Firenze (Italy)
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Prof. Bruno Martorano

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Prof. Asha Sundaram

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