

# ELENA PERRA

Department of Economics and Statistics "Cognetti de Martiis"  
University of Turin  
(+39) 3331468885 ◊ elena.perra@unito.it ◊ website

## CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

---

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

## EDUCATION

---

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

## PUBLICATIONS

---

Perra, E., Sanfilippo, M. and Sundaram, A. (2022) "Roads, Competition, and the Informal Sector". Journal of Development Economics, 2024, 103339, ISSN 0304-3878.

## RESEARCH PIPELINE

---

Sanfilippo, M., Sileci, L. and Perra, E. (2024) "Oil Spills, Agriculture and Deforestation in Nigeria. Chain of Effects."

Hiluf Abay, Mehari, Tiberti, L. and Perra, E. (2024) "Can road infrastructure investments accelerate fertility transition? Evidence from Ethiopia"

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. (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  
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

---

|                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <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

---

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

---

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| FEEM (Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei)<br>Autumn School in Spatial Analysis and Policy Evaluation | 7,8,14,15,22 Oct., 2021. |
|--|--------------------------|

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| UEA (Urban Economic Association)<br>PhD Student Workshop | 1-3, 2021 Sept., 2021. |
|--|------------------------|

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano<br>XX Summer School in International and Development Economics "Investment Choices in Developing Economies" | 29-1 Sept., 2021. |
|---|-------------------|

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| IRVAPP<br>Advanced Methods For Impact Evaluation, "Survey sampling methods and applications" | 14-19 Dec., 2020 |
|--|------------------|

## 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*

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

---

Italian - Mother tongue

English - Fluent

French - Fluent

## REFERENCES

---

### **Prof. Giorgia Giovannetti**

Professor of Economics  
Department of Economics and Management  
University of Florence  
Via delle Pandette, 32  
50127 Firenze (Italy)  
☎ +39 055 2759601  
✉ giorgia.giovannetti@unifi.it

### **Prof. Bruno Martorano**

Associate Professor of Economics  
UNU-MERIT  
Maastricht University  
Boschstraat 24  
6211 AX Maastricht (The Netherlands)  
☎ +31 43 3884406  
✉ martorano@merit.unu.edu

### **Prof. Marco Sanfilippo**

Professor of Economics  
Department of Economics and Statistics  
"Cognetti de Martiis"  
University of Turin, Room 15 3.D1  
Campus Einaudi, via Lungo Dora Siena 100  
10513 Torino (Italy)  
☎ +39 011 6703 3860  
✉ marco.sanfilippo@unito.it

### **Prof. Asha Sundaram**

Associate Professor of Economics  
Department of Economics  
University of Auckland  
12 Grafton Road 1010 Auckland (New Zealand)  
✉ a.sundaram@auckland.ac.nz