

GIACOMO DE NICOLA

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Birthdate: 07.11.1993 ♦ Nationality: Italian

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EDUCATION

LMU Munich

PhD in Statistics (ongoing), with Prof. Göran Kauermann

2019 - present

Munich, Germany

Bocconi University

MSc in Economic and Social Sciences

2015 - 2019

Milan, Italy

- Comprehensive quantitative course in Economics. A world-renowned program providing students with outstanding theoretical and applied Economics prowess while bolstering research skills.

University of Florence

BSc in Statistics

2012 - 2015

Florence, Italy

- Classical undergraduate program in Statistics with a secondary focus on Computer Science.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Department of Statistics, LMU Munich

Research and Teaching Associate

2019 - present

Munich, Germany

- While pursuing my PhD, I'm employed full time at the Department of Statistics, within the Chair of Applied Statistics in Social Sciences, Economics and Business.
- My research mainly revolves around analyzing networks to answer questions posed within the social sciences through use of novel statistical modeling techniques, with an interdisciplinary outlook.
- I am also an active member of the CODAG (COVID-19 Data Analysis Group), where I am doing research on several topics related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated mortality.
- In addition to research, I also regularly teach courses and seminars aimed at masters student in Statistics and Data Science (full list below).

Department of Finance, Bocconi University

Research Assistant

Jan-Apr 2018

Milan, Italy

- Carried out a project in the area of behavioral finance under the guidance of Prof. Nicola Gennaioli.
- The project focused on the analysis of cryptocurrency markets, with the goal of finding similarities and differences with traditional financial markets. The findings heavily hint at the presence of market inefficiencies at the intraday medium-frequency level. This work provided the basis for my master thesis and eventually resulted in a published paper.

IRPET - Regional Institute for Economic Planning of Tuscany

Research Intern

Apr-Jun 2015

Florence, Italy

- Carried out a project in the field of operations research. Developed an algorithm to balance accounting matrices through quadratic optimization in the R environment. This work provided the basis for my bachelor thesis, which was written under the supervision of Prof. Leonardo Grilli.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses

- Advanced Statistical Modeling (Data Science Masters, main teacher, 2019-2022)
- Statistical Reasoning and Inference 2 (Data Science Masters, exercise sessions, 2020-2022)
- Analysis of Longitudinal Data (Statistics Masters, exercise sessions, 2020-2021)
- Statistical Reasoning and Inference 1 (Data Science Masters, exercise sessions, 2020-2022)
- Regression for Correlated Data (Statistics Masters, exercise sessions, 2022)

Seminars

- Complex Networks (2020)
- Statistical Analysis of Social Networks (2021)
- Statistical Analysis of COVID-19 Data (2022)
- Statistical Modeling of Political Networks (2022)

Supervised Theses:

- “Recovering network structure through latent space models” (Lea Schulz-Vanheyden, BSc Statistics, 2020)
- “Network analysis of COVID-19 Twitter data” (Victor Tuekam, MSc Data Science, 2022)
- “Statistische Netzwerkdatenanalyse von deutschen Unternehmen und ihren Vorständen” (Marie Kraft, BSc Statistics, 2022)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English	Fluent (Cambridge English C2 Proficiency, Grade A)
German	Advanced
Italian	Native

HONORS AND AWARDS

Best Poster Award - DAGSTAT 2022

Awarded for the poster “*Modelling large and dynamically growing bipartite networks - A case study in patent data*” presented at the DAGSTAT conference, March 28-Apr 1, 2022, Hamburg, Germany

“Giuseppe Parenti” Prize, Best Graduate, class of 2015

Honor awarded by the alumni association of the Florence school of economics (“Associazione Villa Favard”) on the basis of overall GPA among all graduates of the faculty of Economics, Management and Statistics of the class of 2015 (1000+ students).

Productivity and merit scholarship - 2013, 2014, 2015

Scholarship awarded on the basis of academic merit and productivity by the University of Florence.

VARIOUS

Fellowships

I am an active member of the German Statistical Society and the COVID-19 Data Analysis Group (CODAG@LMU), and a fellow at the LMU Open Science Center.

Media Appearances

My research was featured in interviews with Nature and The New York Times, in addition to other Swiss, Italian and German media and TV outlets.

RESEARCH

Current Research Interests

- Statistical Network Analysis
- Latent Variable Network Models
- Statistical Modeling
- Excess Mortality Estimation

Publications

- [1] C. Fritz, G. De Nicola, M. Rave, M. Weigert, Y. Khazaei, U. Berger, H. Küchenhoff, and G. Kauermann. “Statistical modelling of COVID-19 data: Putting Generalised Additive Models to work”. *Statistical Modelling* OnlineFirst (2022).
- [2] C. Fritz, G. De Nicola, F. Günther, D. Rügamer, M. Rave, M. Schneble, A. Bender, M. Weigert, R. Brinks, A. Hoyer, U. Berger, H. Küchenhoff, and G. Kauermann. “Challenges in Interpreting Epidemiological Surveillance Data – Experiences from Germany”. *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics* (to appear) (2022).
- [3] G. De Nicola and G. Kauermann. “An update on excess mortality in the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic in Germany”. *AStA Wirtschafts-und Sozialstatistisches Archiv* 16 (2022), 21–24.
- [4] G. De Nicola, M. Schneble, G. Kauermann, and U. Berger. “Regional now- and forecasting for data reported with delay: Towards surveillance of COVID-19 infections”. *AStA Advances in Statistical Analysis* 106 (2022), 407–426.
- [5] G. De Nicola, G. Kauermann, and M. Höhle. “On assessing excess mortality in Germany during the COVID-19 pandemic”. *AStA Wirtschafts-und Sozialstatistisches Archiv* 16 (2022), 5–20. Discussed in interviews and featured in **Nature** and **The New York Times**.
- [6] G. De Nicola, B. Sischka, and G. Kauermann. “Mixture models and networks: The stochastic block-model”. *Statistical Modelling* 22.1-2 (2022), 67–94.
- [7] G. De Nicola. “On the Intraday Behavior of Bitcoin”. *Ledger* 6 (2021), 58–80.
- [8] M. Schneble, G. De Nicola, G. Kauermann, and U. Berger. “A statistical model for the dynamics of COVID-19 infections and their case detection ratio in 2020”. *Biometrical Journal* 63.8 (2021), 1623–1632.
- [9] M. Schneble, G. De Nicola, G. Kauermann, and U. Berger. “Nowcasting fatal COVID-19 infections on a regional level in Germany”. *Biometrical Journal* 63.3 (2021), 471–489.
- [10] E. Conti, G. Sgandurra, G. De Nicola, T. Biagioni, S. Boldrini, E. Bonaventura, B. Buchignani, S. Della Vecchia, F. Falcone, C. Fedi, et al. “Behavioural and emotional changes during COVID-19 lockdown in an Italian paediatric population with neurologic and psychiatric disorders”. *Brain Sciences* 10.12 (2020), 918.

Under Review

- [11] C. Fritz, G. De Nicola, S. Kevork, D. Harhoff, and G. Kauermann. “Modelling the large and dynamically growing bipartite network of German patents and inventors”. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2201.09744* (2022).

- [12] G. De Nicola, V. H. Tuekam Mambou, and G. Kauermann. “Exploring the latent social space of COVID-19 Twitter elites”. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2207.13352* (2022).

Talks

- **20.09.2022** Exploring the latent social space of COVID-19 Twitter elites. *Statistical Week 2022, Münster, Germany*
- **19.09.2022** Estimating excess mortality in high income countries during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Young Statisticians Workshop 2022, Münster, Germany*
- **14.09.2022** Exploring the latent social space of COVID-19 Twitter elites. *EUSN Conference 2022, London, United Kingdom*
- **30.03.2022** Modelling large and dynamically growing bipartite networks - A case study in patent data (poster presentation). *DAGSTAT Conference 2022, Hamburg, Germany*
- **10.07.2020** Nowcasting Fatalities and Surveillance of COVID-19 Infections on a Regional Level in Germany. *COSTNET COVID-19 Conference (Online), Munich, Germany*