

Isabella Germinario

isabella.germinario@mail.mcgill.ca
isabella-germinario.github.io

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, McGill University <i>Montreal, QC, Canada</i>	Expected 2026
M.A. in Economics (PhD-Stream), Western University <i>London, ON, Canada</i>	2020
Master of Management, University of British Columbia (UBC) <i>Vancouver, BC, Canada</i>	2019
B.A. in Economics, University of British Columbia (UBC) <i>Vancouver, BC, Canada</i>	2018

Research Interests

Development Economics, Applied Microeconometrics, Structural Transformation and Economic Growth

Job Market Paper

Staying or Switching? The Role of Sector Choice in Indonesia's Agricultural Productivity Gap

Abstract. This paper examines how individual sorting into sectors contributes to sectoral productivity gaps in Indonesia between 1993 and 2000, using data from the Indonesian Family Life Survey (IFLS). I find that sector-wide efficiency differences, not sorting based on unobserved comparative advantage, account for most of the gap. This result contrasts sharply with prior literature and stems from an empirical strategy that separates fixed effects unrelated to sectoral choice from latent sector-specific abilities, uses information from both switchers and stayers, and avoids strong distributional assumptions on comparative advantage. The paper makes two key contributions. Methodologically, it provides a novel application of a correlated random coefficients (CRC) framework to sectoral productivity gaps, with modifications that offer a more flexible characterization of how unobserved comparative advantage influences sectoral choice. Conceptually, it links the aggregate selection effects from this framework to the classic Roy model, allowing direct comparison with standard selection-correction approaches. The limited role for selection implies that sectoral productivity gaps largely reflect barriers or frictions that restrict efficient labour reallocation, pointing to substantial scope for policy to enhance aggregate productivity.

Research in Progress

Selection Effect on Sectoral Productivity: Evidence from Indonesia after Decentralization

Teaching Experience

Lecturer, McGill University <i>ECON 313: Economic Development I</i>	Summer 2023
Teaching Assistant, McGill University	2020–2025
Teaching Assistant, Western University	2019–2020

Research Experience

Research Assistant, University of British Columbia	2018–2019
<i>For Prof. Il-Myoung Hwang. Validated and cleaned large-scale economic survey data; built diagnostic checks and summary tables; prepared weekly research memos and progress updates.</i>	
Research Consultant, Sauder School of Business, University of British Columbia	2018
<i>Designed and conducted primary research for SWOVA (Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse), a non-profit organization. Led focus groups and market surveys to evaluate brand awareness; analyzed qualitative and quantitative data to identify strategic gaps; developed a data-driven rebranding and outreach plan presented to the organization and the school's consulting panel.</i>	
Peer Mentor, University of British Columbia	2016
<i>Guided undergraduate teams on microeconomic policy projects; advised on data cleaning, empirical design, and presentation of results.</i>	

Awards & Fellowships

PhD Fellowship, Fonds de Recherche Société et Culture Québec (FRQSC)	2024–2026
Graduate Excellence Awards, McGill University	2020–2025
Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS), Ontario Provincial Government	2019
PhD-Stream MA Entrance Scholarship, Western University	2019–2020
First Prize in Student Essay Contest (Graduate Category), Fraser Institute	2019
Highly Commended Entrant (Three Essays), Undergraduate Awards (Ireland)	2017–2018

Conference Presentations & Publications

1. "Reassessing Selection Effects on Sectoral Productivity Gaps: Evidence from Indonesia," CIREQ PhD Interuniversity Workshop, Montreal, 2025
2. "Revealing Selection Effect on Agricultural Productivity Gap in Indonesia," Canadian Economic Association (CEA), Montreal, 2025
3. "Unemployment, Externalities, and Retaliation: An Analysis of the U.S. Steel Tariffs against Canada," Canadian Economics Association (CEA), Banff, 2019.
4. "Future of Automation in Workplace," published in Canadian Student Review: Fall 2019.

Technical Skills

Stata; R; \LaTeX ; Git

Languages

English (fluent); Mandarin (native)

Citizenship

Canadian

Professional Memberships

Canadian Economics Association	2016–Present
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References

Franque Grimard

Associate Professor
Department of Economics
McGill University
franque.grimard@mcgill.ca

Markus Poschke

Professor & William Dawson Scholar
Department of Economics
McGill University
markus.poschke@mcgill.ca

Francesco Amodio

Associate Professor
Department of Economics
McGill University
francesco.amodio@mcgill.ca