Isabella Germinario

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Education

Ph.D. in Economics, **McGill University** — Expected 2026
Montreal, QC, Canada

M.A. in Economics (PhD-Stream), **Western University** — 2020
London, ON, Canada

Master of Management, **University of British Columbia** (UBC) — 2019
Vancouver, BC, Canada

B.A. in Economics, **University of British Columbia** (UBC) — 2018
Vancouver, BC, Canada

Research in Progress

Selection Effect on Sectoral Productivity: Evidence from Indonesia after Decentralization

Job Market Paper

Reassessing Selection Effects on Sectoral Productivity Gaps: Evidence from Indonesia

Abstract. This paper examines the role of individual sorting in sectoral productivity gaps in Indonesia between 1993 and 2000, using the Indonesia Family Life Survey (IFLS). The analysis reveals that sector-wide technology differences account for the majority of the observed gap, while individual sorting based on unobserved comparative advantages plays only a minor role, in contrast to prior studies that report large selection effects. Three contributions follow: (i) the aggregate effect of sorting consists of two components—the extra return to unobserved comparative advantage and the difference in mean latent abilities across sectors; (ii) a correlated random coefficient framework is applied to study productivity gaps, estimating the return component without distributional assumptions; (iii) the resulting selection terms are mapped to the classical Roy model. The findings suggest that improving agricultural technology and infrastructure, rather than labour reallocation policies such as vocational training, is key to narrowing productivity gaps in 1990s Indonesia.

Research in Progress

Selection Effect on Sectoral Productivity: Evidence from Indonesia after Decentralization

Teaching Experience

Lecturer, McGill University — Summer 2023
ECON 313: Economic Development I

Teaching Assistant, McGill University — 2020–2025
Teaching Assistant, Western University — 2019–2020

Research Experience

Research Assistant, University of British Columbia — 2018–2019
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.

Research Consultant, Sauder School of Business, University of British Columbia   2018

Designed and conducted primary research for SWOVA (Saltspring 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.

Peer Mentor, University of British Columbia   2016

Guided undergraduate teams on microeconomic policy projects; advised on data cleaning, empirical design, and presentation of results.

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 Economuc 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)

Professional Memberships

Canadian Economics Association   2016–Present