

# Maddalena Totarelli

✉ m.totarelli@uva.nl  
☎ +39 328 550 8739  
in [LinkedIn](#)  
💻 [Personal Website](#)

University of Amsterdam  
Department of Economics  
Roetersstraat 11, 1001 NJ  
Amsterdam, Netherlands

*Updated November 10, 2024*

<b>Education</b>	<b>University of Amsterdam</b> , Netherlands <i>Ph.D. in Economics</i> Advisors: Erik Plug and Giuseppe Sorrenti	Sept 2021 -
	<b>Tinbergen Institute</b> , Netherlands <i>M.Phil. in Economics</i>	Sept 2019 - Aug 2021
	<b>Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna</b> , Italy <i>M. Sc. in Economics (Summa cum Laude)</i>	Sept 2017 - July 2019
	<b>University of Rome Tor Vergata</b> , Italy <i>B. Sc. in Business and Economics (Summa cum Laude)</i>	Sept 2014 - July 2017
	<b>University Carlos III</b> , Spain <i>Erasmus+ Programme</i>	Sept 2016 - Jan 2017
<b>Fields of Interest</b>	Labour Economics, Economics of Education, Economics of Crime	
<b>Seminars and Conferences</b>	<b>2024</b> Transatlantic Workshop on the Economics of Crime (Zurich), FAIR (Bergen), EALE (Bergen), EEA (Rotterdam), ESPE (Rotterdam), Counterfactual Methods for Policy Impact Evaluation (Amsterdam), BSE Summer Forum (Barcelona), Tinbergen Institute Jamboree (Amsterdam)	
	<b>2023</b> Center for the Economics of Human Development (Chicago), AFE (Chicago), Workshop on Field Experiments in Economics and Business (Düsseldorf), Field Days - Experiment Outside the Lab (Stavanger), WiP Microeconomics (Amsterdam)	
	<b>2022</b> GEEZ Seminars (Online), PhD FEB Lunch Seminar (Amsterdam), IWAE (Catanzaro), CAGE (Warwick), ESA (Bologna)	
<b>Research Visits</b>	<b>FAIR</b> , Norwegian School of Economics Host: Professor Katrine V. Løken	Sept 2024 - Oct 2024
	<b>CEHD</b> , University of Chicago Host: Professor James Heckman	Sept 2023 - Oct 2023
<b>Working Papers</b>	<b>Prison Rehabilitation Programs, Recidivism, and Labour Market Outcomes</b> <i>Job Market Paper</i> <a href="#">Download paper</a> .  <i>Abstract:</i> This paper examines the impact of the Rehabilitation & Reintegration initiative, a prison-based job training and skills development program, on recidivism and labor market outcomes. I use a difference-in-differences strategy to assess the causal impact of the program, which was introduced in the Netherlands in 2007. Drawing on unique administrative data from Statistics Netherlands and the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security, I find that prisoners participating in the program are 4.5 percentage points less likely to reoffend over a period of three years. The program also improves	

outcomes related to stable housing and relationships. Native and older prisoners particularly benefit from the program, showing an increase in average annual earnings three years after release. My results highlight the potential of rehabilitation programs in facilitating the successful reintegration of former prisoners into society.

**Talent is Everywhere, Opportunity is Not: Online Role Model Mentoring and Students' Aspirations**

(with Pietro Biroli, Amalia di Girolamo and Giuseppe Sorrenti) [Download paper](#).

*Abstract:* This paper examines the impact of ORME, a cost-effective and easily scalable online mentoring program for middle school students. By connecting students with successful role models who share similar socio-economic backgrounds, ORME aims to enhance students' aspirations, beliefs about the returns to education, and ultimately, their educational outcomes. Through a randomized controlled trial involving five middle schools and over 600 students in Campania, Italy, we find that participation in ORME significantly improves students' perceptions of effort-related success, increases the alignment between their aspirations and expectations, and enhances school effort. Additionally, students in the treatment group are more likely to prefer and enroll in the academically-oriented school tracks and perform better on standardized tests, particularly in language.

**Mass Reproducibility and Replicability: A New Hope, 2024.**

(with Abel Brodeur et al.) [Download paper](#).

**Work in Progress Children and Divorce**

(with Petter Lundborg, Erik Plug, and Astrid Würtz Rasmussen)

**Grants and Awards**

A Sustainable Future research grant (PI) 2023, 10,000€

University of Amsterdam

Project: Prison Rehabilitation Programs, Recidivism, and Labour Market Outcomes

A Sustainable Future research grant (co-PI) 2023, 10,000€

University of Amsterdam

Project: From the Field to the Classroom: The Role of Sport in Fostering Children's Development and Well-being

Full Graduate Scholarships

Tinbergen Institute

2019-2021

Scholarship awarded to the top 5% of students

University of Bologna

2018-2019

Scholarship awarded to the top 5% of students

University of Rome Tor Vergata

2015-2017

**Teaching Experiences**

**University of Amsterdam**

Teaching assistant, Research Laboratory: Economics (undergraduate)

2022-

Teaching assistant, Natural Resources (undergraduate)

2022-

**Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam**

Teaching assistant, Economics for the Global Era (undergraduate)

2020-2021

Teaching assistant, Quantitative Research Method (undergraduate)

2020-2021

**Tinbergen Institute**

Teaching assistant, Microeconomics I (graduate)

2020-2021

**University of Bologna**

Teaching assistant, Microeconomics (undergraduate)

2019-2020

**Referee Activities** Journal of Population Economics**Skills**  
**Programming:** Stata, R, Python, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, ArcGis  
**Language:** Italian (native), English (fluent), Spanish (conversational), French (basic), Dutch (basic)**Professional Service**  
Chair of the PhD Council, University of Amsterdam 2022-  
Works Council, University of Amsterdam 2023-  
(Member of the Research, HRM, and Equal Treatment & Inclusivity Committees)**References**  
**Prof. Dr. Erik Plug**  
Professor of Economics  
University of Amsterdam  
Department of Economics  
Roetersstraat 11, 1018 WB  
Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Email: [e.plug@uva.nl](mailto:e.plug@uva.nl)  
**Dr. Giuseppe Sorrenti**  
Assistant Professor of Public Economics  
University of Lausanne - HEC  
Department of Economics  
Quartier de Chambronne, Internef, 1015  
Lausanne, Switzerland  
Email: [giuseppe.sorrenti@unil.ch](mailto:giuseppe.sorrenti@unil.ch)**Prof. Dr. Olivier Marie**  
Professor of Economics  
Erasmus University Rotterdam  
Department of Economics  
Burgemeester Oudlaan 50, 3062 PA  
Rotterdam, Netherlands  
Email: [marie@ese.eur.nl](mailto:marie@ese.eur.nl)**Prof. Dr. Eric Bartelsman**  
Placement Director  
Tinbergen Institute  
Professor of Economics  
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam  
De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV  
Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Email: [e.j.bartelsman@vu.nl](mailto:e.j.bartelsman@vu.nl)