

Sara Spaziani

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sara_spaziani@brown.edu

PhD Candidate, Brown University

Personal Information: Female, Italian Citizen

Education

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, Brown University, *Expected Completion Date: May 2024*

MA in Economics, Brown University, 2019

MSc in Economics and Social Sciences, Bocconi University (Summa cum Laude), 2018

BSc in Economics and Social Sciences, Bocconi University (Summa cum Laude), 2015

Visiting Student, Northwestern University, Fall 2014

Research Fields: Public Economics, Gender Economics, Development Economics, Political Economics

Teaching Experience:

Fall, 2022	Mathematical Econometrics I, undergraduate level, Brown University, Teaching Assistant for Professor Peter Hull
Fall, 2021	Mathematical Econometrics I, undergraduate level, Brown University, Teaching Assistant for Professor Peter Hull
Spring, 2020	Microeconomics II, graduate level, Brown University, Teaching Assistant for Professors Kareen Rozen and Glenn Loury
Fall, 2019	Designing Internet Marketplace, undergraduate level, Brown University, Teaching Assistant for Professor Bobby Pakzad-Hurson

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2017-2018	Bocconi University, Research Assistant for Professor Eliana La Ferrara
Summer, 2016	BRAC Uganda Research and Evaluation Unit, Intern
Summer, 2015	Sei Consulting, Intern

Professional Activities:

Presentations

2023	Applied Microeconomics Lunch Seminar, Brown University; Annual Congress of the IIPF (August 2023), SIEP Conference (September 2023)
2022	Applied Microeconomics Lunch Seminar, Brown University.
2021	Bocconi University, LEAP Virtual Alumni Reunion; NEUDC; Applied Microeconomics Lunch Seminar, Brown University.

Affiliations

Summer, 2022	Visiting Student, AXA Research Lab on Gender Equality, Bocconi University
2019-Present	Graduate Program in Development Fellow, Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University
2018-Present	Affiliate, Population Studies and Training Center
2015-Present	Affiliate, Laboratory for Effective Anti-Poverty Policies, Bocconi University
2016-2018	Visiting Student, Innocenzo Gasparini Institute for Economic Research (IGIER), Bocconi University

Referee for: American Economic Journal: Economic Policy

Other

2022, 2023	Organizer of the Applied Microeconomics Breakfast at Brown University
2022	Participant to the NBER Boot Camp in Behavioral Public Economics

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2023	Graduate Students Teaching Award, Economics Department, Brown University
Spring, 2023	Merit Dissertation Fellowship
Spring, 2022	James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Wealth and Income Inequality Project Fellowship
2020-2021	Watson Institute Graduate Program in Development Fellowship
2020	Graduate Students Teaching Award, Economics Department, Brown University
2014	Exams passed with Distinction, Northwestern University

Research Grants:

2023	Orlando Bravo Center for Economic Research Award (\$700)
2022	Orlando Bravo Center for Economic Research Award (\$2,000)
2022	Watson Institute Graduate Program in Development Summer funds (\$1,000)
2022	Brown University Economics Department Award (\$1,000)
2021	Orlando Bravo Center for Economic Research Award (\$800)
2021	Brown University Economics Department Award (\$1,200)
2021	Watson Institute Graduate Program in Development Summer funds (\$2,000)
2020	As Co-PI: IZA: Gender, Growth & Labour Markets in LICs Programme (£9,149)
2020	As Co-PI: JPAL Post Primary Initiative (\$49,178)

Skills

Stata, Survey Solutions, MS Office, LaTeX (proficient)
 Italian (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate), Spanish (intermediate)

Publications:

[“Can Gender Quotas Break the Glass Ceiling? Evidence from Italian Municipal Elections”](#) *European Journal of Political Economy*, Volume 75, December 2022, pages 102-171

“Gender Gaps: Back and Here to Stay? Evidence from Skilled Ugandan Workers during COVID-19” (with Livia Alfonsi and Mary Namubiru). *Accepted, Review of Economic of the Household*.

Research Papers:

“Meet Your Future: Experimental Evidence on the Labor Market Effects of Mentors” (with Livia Alfonsi and Mary Namubiru). *Accepted based on pre-results review. Journal of Development Economics (2021)*

Can personalized mentorship by experienced workers improve young job seekers’ labor market trajectories? To answer this question, we designed and randomized “Meet Your Future”, a mentorship program which assisted a subset of 1,112 vocational students during their school-to-work transitions in urban Uganda, where youth unemployment is high. The program improved participants labor market outcomes. Relative to the control, mentored students were 27% more likely to work three months after graduation; after one year, they earned 18% more. Call transcripts from mentorship sessions and survey data reveal that mentorship primarily improved outcomes through information about entry level jobs and labor market dynamics, and not through job referrals, information about specific vacancies, or through building search capital. Consistent with this finding, mentored students revise downward their overly optimistic beliefs about starting wages and revise upward beliefs about the returns to experience. As a result, they lower their reservation wages and turn down fewer job offers. The results emphasize the role of distorted beliefs among job seekers in prolonging youth unemployment and proposes a cost effective and scalable policy with an estimated internal rate of return of 300%.

Research Papers in Progress

“Optimal Unemployment Insurance with Interindustry Subsidies and Labor Reallocation”