

ELIANA LA FERRARA

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CURRENT POSITION

Bocconi University

- Fondazione Romeo ed Enrica Invernizzi Chair in Development Economics, 2011-current
- Scientific Director, Laboratory for Effective Anti-Poverty Policies (LEAP), 2016-current

PAST EMPLOYMENT

Bocconi University

- Dean of Research, 2014-2016
- Full Professor of Economics: 2006-2011
- Associate Professor of Economics (with tenure): 2002-2006
- Assistant Professor of Economics: 1999-2002

London School of Economics

BP Centennial Professor, 2017-18

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Visiting Professor, Department of Economics, 2012-2013

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Ph.D. in Economics. June 1999

Bocconi University, Dottorato in Economia Politica. July 1997

Bocconi University, Laurea in Discipline Economiche e Sociali. Cum laude and recommendation for publication. March 1993

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Development Economics
Political economics

PUBLICATIONS

Articles in international journals

- “Goals and Gaps: Educational Careers of Immigrant Children” (with M. Carlana and P. Pinotti), *Econometrica*, forthcoming.
- “Violence Against Women: A Cross-cultural Analysis for Africa” (with A. Alesina and B. Brioschi), *Economica*, forthcoming.
- “Learning Spillovers in Conditional Welfare Programs: Evidence from Brazil” (with F. Brollo and K. Kaufmann), *Economic Journal*, 130 (628), 853–879, 2020.
- “The Political Economy of Program Enforcement: Evidence from Brazil” (with F. Brollo and K. Kaufmann), *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 18(2), 750–791, 2020.
- “Aspirations, Social Norms and Development”, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 17(6), 1687–1722, 2019.
- “Entertainment, Education and Attitudes towards Domestic Violence” (with A. Banerjee and V. Orozco), *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 109, 133-37, 2019.
- “Conflict, Climate and Cells: A Disaggregated Analysis” (with M. Harari), *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 100(4), 594-608, 2018.

- “Customary Norms, Inheritance and Human Capital. Evidence from a Reform of the Matrilineal System in Ghana” (with A. Milazzo), *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 9(4), 166-85, 2017.
- “Mass Media and Social Change: Can We Use Television to Fight Poverty?”, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 14(4), 791-827, 2016.
- “Market-based Lobbying: Evidence from Advertising Spending in Italy” (with S. DellaVigna, R. Durante and B. Knight), *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 8(1), 224-56, 2016. Winner of 2017 Best Paper Prize for AEJ: Applied Economics.
- “A Test of Racial Bias in Capital Sentencing” (with A. Alesina), *American Economic Review*, 104(11), 3397-3433, 2014 (lead article).
- “Soap Operas and Fertility: Evidence from Brazil” (with A. Chong and S. Duryea), *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 4(4), 1-31, 2012 (lead article).
- “Self-Help Groups and Mutual Assistance: Evidence from Urban Kenya” (with M. Fafchamps), *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 60(4), 707-733, 2012.
- “A Generalized Index of Fractionalization” (with W. Bossert and C. D’Ambrosio), *Economica*, 78(312), 723-750, 2011.
- “Detecting Illegal Arms Trade” (with S. DellaVigna), *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 2(4), 26-57, 2010.
- “The Economic Effects of Violent Conflict: Evidence from Asset Markets Reactions” (with M. Guidolin), *Journal of Peace Research*, 47(6), 671-84, 2010.
- “Television and Divorce: Evidence from Brazilian Novelas”, (with A. Chong), *Journal of the European Economic Association Papers & Proceedings*, 7(2-3), 458-468, 2009.
- “Diamonds Are Forever, Wars Are Not. Is Conflict Bad for Private Firms?”, (with M. Guidolin), *American Economic Review*, 97(5), 1978-93, 2007.
- “Descent Rules and Strategic Transfers. Evidence from Matrilineal Groups in Ghana”, *Journal of Development Economics*, 83(2), 280-301, 2007.
- “Ethnic Diversity and Economic Performance” (with A. Alesina), *Journal of Economic Literature*, 43(3), 762-800, 2005.
- “Preferences for Redistribution in the Land of Opportunities” (with A. Alesina), *Journal of Public Economics*, 89 (5-6), 897-931, 2005.
- “Kin Groups and Reciprocity: A Model of Credit Transactions in Ghana”, *American Economic Review*, 93(5), 1730-1751, 2003.
- “Self-Help Groups and Income Generation in the Informal Settlements of Nairobi”, *Journal of African Economies*, 11(1), 61-89, 2002.
- “Inequality and Group Participation: Theory and Evidence from Rural Tanzania”, *Journal of Public Economics*, 85(2), 235-273, 2002.
- “Who Trusts Others?”, (with A. Alesina), *Journal of Public Economics*, 85(2), 207-234, 2002.
- “Political Competition in Weak States” (with R.H. Bates), *Economics and Politics*, 13(2), 159-84, 2001.
- “Participation in Heterogeneous Communities” (with A. Alesina), *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 115, 847-904, 2000.
- “A Political Equilibrium Approach to Trade Liberalization in Developing Countries”, *Journal of International Trade and Economic Development*, 5(3), 287-318, 1996.

Articles in Italian journals

- “L’economia dei conflitti nei paesi in via di sviluppo”, *Rivista Italiana degli Economisti*, 12(3), 39-53, 2007.
- “Public Capital and Economic Performance: Evidence from Italy” (with F. Bonaglia and M. Marcellino), *Giornale degli Economisti e Annali di Economia*, 60(2), 221-44, 2000.

Reviews and Chapters in books

- “The Media as a Tool for Institutional Change in Development”, in J.-M. Baland, F. Bourguignon, J.-P. Platteau and T. Verdier (eds), *The Handbook of Economic Development and Institutions*, Princeton University Press, January 2020.

- “Social and Economic Impacts of the Media” (with S. DellaVigna), in S. Anderson, D. Stromberg and J. Walfogel (eds.), *Handbook of Media Economics*, Elsevier, 2015.
- “Financial markets and conflict in the developing world”, in T. Besley and R. Jayaraman (eds.), *Institutional Microeconomics of Development*, MIT Press, 2010, ch. 3.
- “Family and kinship ties in development: An economist’s perspective”, in J.-P. Platteau (ed.), *Culture, Institutions and Development*, Routledge, 2010, ch. 5.
- “TFP, Costs, and Infrastructure: An Equivocal Relationship” (with M. Marcellino), in M. Artis, A. Banerjee and M. Marcellino (eds.), *The Central and Eastern European Countries and the European Union*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.
- “Solidarity in Heterogeneous Communities”, in Ph. Van Parijs (ed.), *Cultural Diversity versus Economic Solidarity*, Bruxelles: De Boeck, 2004.
- Book Review of “Income Distribution and High Quality Growth” (edited by V. Tanzi and K. Chu), *The Economic Journal*, 110(461), F234-6, 2000.
- “Exchange Allocation Mechanism Reform” (with G. Castillo and J. Nash), in J. Nash and F. Foroutan (eds), *Trade Policy and Exchange Rate Reform in Sub-Saharan Africa*, ch.4, National Centre for Development Studies, The Australian National University, 1997.
- “Public Debt”, in R.E. Hall e J.B. Taylor, *Macroeconomics*, Milan: Hoepli, ch.14, 1995

Books

Social norms, economic development and nutrition (with A. Milazzo), Egea publishing, 2015.

Working Papers

- “A Stepping Stone Approach to Understanding Harmful Norms. Theory and Evidence from Somalia” (with S. Gulesci, S. Jindani, D. Smerdon, M. Sulaiman and P. Young), mimeo Bocconi University, 2020.
- “Female Genital Cutting and the Slave Trade” (with L. Corno and A. Voena), mimeo, Bocconi University, 2020.
- “Apart but Connected: Online Tutoring Can Mitigate the Impact of COVID-19 on Education” (with M. Carlana), mimeo, Bocconi University, 2020.
- “The Entertaining Way to Behavioral Change: Fighting HIV with MTV” (with A. Banerjee and V. Orozco), NBER Working Paper 26096, 2019.
- “Enforcement of Program Conditions and Individual Compliance in Welfare Programs” (with. F. Brollo and K. Kaufmann), mimeo, Bocconi University, 2019
- “Interaction, Stereotypes and Performance. Evidence from South Africa” (with J. Burns and L. Corno), BREAD Working Paper 549, 2018.
- “Revealing Stereotypes: Evidence from Immigrants in Schools” (with A. Alesina, M. Carlana and P. Pinotti), NBER Working Paper 25333, 2018.
- “Understanding Human Trafficking Using Victim Level Data” (with E. Artadi, M. Bjorkman and M. Kuecken), BREAD Working Paper 545, 2018.
- “News vs. Novelas: Can Entertainment Media Undermine Dictatorships?” (with A. Chong, C. Ferraz, F. Finan and L. Meloni), mimeo, Bocconi University, 2016.

Archived Working Papers

“Racial Segregation and Public School Expenditure”, (with A. Mele), mimeo, Bocconi University, 2009.

Ongoing projects

- Designing and evaluating an intervention to reduce female genital cutting in Somalia, (with Se. Gulseci, D. Smerdon and M. Sulaiman).
- Designing and evaluating an intervention to reduce female genital cutting in Sierra Leone, (with L. Corno).
- Turkish Soap Operas and Women’s Empowerment in Egypt (with S. Gulesci and D. Ubfal).

Peer Education, Teenage Health and Aspirations in Brazilian Schools (with E. Breza, V. Orozco and P. Rosa-Dias).
Impact of the Land Tenure Regularization program in Rwanda (with D. Ali, K. Deininger and M. Goldstein).
Property Rights and Women's Empowerment in Côte d'Ivoire (with F. Cochinard, A. Donald, M. Goldstein and M. O'Sullivan).
Information and Migration in Guinea (with G. Battiston and L. Corno).

TEACHING

Bocconi University

Development Economics (graduate): Spring 1999-2012, Spring 2014-2020
International Development (graduate): Spring 2009, 2010, 2011
Political Economics (graduate): Spring 1999
Microeconomics (undergraduate): Fall 2013, Fall 2014

London School of Economics

Media, Political Economy and Development (graduate): Spring 2018

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

14.770 Collective Choice and Political Economy (graduate): Fall 2012
14.73 Challenges of Global Poverty (undergraduate): Spring 2013

University of Oslo

Development Economics and Political Economy (graduate): 2012, 2013, 2018

Université de Namur

Economie de la Population et Politiques Agricoles (undergraduate): 2006

Harvard University

Social Analysis 10 (undergraduate): 1997-1998

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Bocconi University

Representative of the Faculty in the Board, 2018-current
Dean of Research, 2014-2016
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Economics and Social Sciences (CLES): 2006-2008
Deputy-Director of the Ph.D. program in Economics, 2003-2006

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND AFFILIATIONS

President, Bureau for Research in Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), 2016-2019

President, European Economic Association, 2018

Program Director for Development Economics, Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), 2020-current

International Honorary Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2019-current

Fellow, Econometric Society, 2018-current

Affiliate, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), 2016-current

Research Program Director, State Program, International Growth Centre, 2008-current

Fellow, International Economic Association, current

Fellow, Innocenzo Gasparini Institute for Economic Research (IGIER), current

Full member, European Development Research Network (EUDN), current

Editorial Board/Associate Editor: *Econometrica*, *Economica*, *Journal of African Economies*, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, *Journal of Population Economics*, *World Development*

Refereed articles for: *American Economic Review*, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *American Political Science Review*, *B.E. Journals*, *Econometrica*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *Economic Journal*, *Economics Letters*, *European Economic Review*, *Games and Economic Behavior*, *Journal of*

Development Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Law Economics and Organization, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Public Economics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies, Science.

Econometric Society, 2019-2020

Member of the Scientific Program Committee for the 2020 World Congress

Paris School of Economics, 2020-current

Scientific Council Member

Toulouse School of Economics, 2018- current

Scientific Council Member

NHH FAIR, 2018- current

Scientific Advisory Board Member

Infosys, 2020

Member of the Selection Committee for 2020 Infosys Prize in Social Sciences

International Economic Association, 2011-2016

Executive Committee Member

European Development Research Network (EUDN), 2014-2018

Executive Committee Member

Econometric Society, 2014

Member of the Program Committee for the Winter Meetings of the Econometric Society

European Research Council, 2009-2010

Member of the SH1 Evaluation Panel for the ERC Starting Grants

Inter American Development Bank, 2005-06

External Coordinator of the Research Project “Does Society Win or Lose as a Result of Privatization? Provision of Public Services and Welfare of the Poor”

Econometric Society, 2005

Member of the Program Committee for the 9th World Congress of the Econometric Society

Global Development Network, 2004

Member of the Selection Committee for the Global Development Awards 2004

HONORS AND AWARDS

Birgit Grodal Award, 2020

Doctor Honoris Causa, University of Oslo, 2020

Jacob Marschak lecture, Econometric Society, November 2019

Walras-Bowley lecture, Econometric Society, June 2019

Economic Journal Lecture, Royal Economic Society, April 2019

Atkinson Lecture, LSE, November 2017

FBBVA Lecture, Madrid, May 2015

JEEA-FBBVA Lecture at the ASSA Meetings 2015, Boston

Prize “Indennità di eccellenza nella ricerca”, Bocconi University, 2001, 2004, 2012

Prize “Incentives to research”, Bocconi University, 2000

Harvard-MIT Research Training Group in Positive Political Economy Scholarship, 1996

Harvard University Scholarship, 1995 and 1997

D. Menichella Scholarship, Bank of Italy, 1994

I. Gasparini Award, Bocconi University, 1990

GRANTS

USAID-DIV Grant for “Testing and Information and Coordination Tool to Reduce Female Genital Cutting”, Principal Investigator, 2020-2022

JPAL PPE Grant for “TOP: Tutoring Online Project during the Coronavirus Emergency in Italy”, Principal Investigator, 2020-2021

European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant for “Aspirations, Social Norms and Development (ASNODEV)”, Principal Investigator, 2016-2021

Economic Development and Institutions (EDI) grant on “Oppressive Gender Norms”, Principal Investigator, 2017-2020
European Commission FP7 Initial Training Network grant for “Policy Design and Evaluation Research. (PODER)”, Network Coordinator, 2013-2017
European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant for “Conflict, Identity and Markets (CIDAM)”, Principal Investigator, 2008-2013
European Commission FP7 Initial Training Network grant for “Actors, Markets, and Institutions in Developing Countries: A micro-empirical approach. (AMID)”, Network Coordinator, 2008-2012
PRIN Grant for “The effects of poverty and information on human trafficking in developing countries”, 2008-2010.
COFIN Project “Institutions, social norms and income distribution in developing countries,” Italian Ministry of Education, 2004
European Commission FP6 grant for Specific Targeted Research or Innovation Project “Polarization and Conflict”, 2003

PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES in the last three years

ThReD Online Conference, October 2020
BREAD-CSAE Conference on Behavioral Economics and Development, Oxford, February 2020
LACEA-LAMES Conference, Puebla, November 2019 (Marschak lecture)
Econometric Society North American Meetings, June 2019 (Walras-Bowley lecture)
SSES Conference, Geneva, June 2019 (keynote)
Conference on Social Norms, Oxford, June 2019
EDI Conference, Paris, June 2019
Royal Economic Society Congress, Warwick University, April 2019 (Economic Journal Lecture)
CSAE Conference, March 2019 (keynote)
Economics of Media Bias Workshop, Berlin, February 2019 (keynote)
ASSA Meetings, Atlanta, January 2019
Y-RISE Inaugural Conference, December 2018
Social Interactions and Education Conference, University of Chicago, November 2018
European Economics Association Congress, Cologne, August 2018 (Presidential address)
Econometric Society Africa Meeting, Cotonou, July 2018 (keynote)
CIFAR Conference, LSE, June 2018
35th BREAD Conference on Development Economics, Columbia University, May 2018
GlaD Conference (keynote), University of Goettingen, May 2018
Cultural Transmission and the Economics of Cultural Change, Paris School of Economics, March 2018
Impact Evaluation and Development Policy, University of Manheim, November 2017
CEPR/TCD Conference on Development Economics, Trinity College Dublin, September 2017
SEEDEC Conference (keynote), University of East Anglia, April 2017
Royal Economic Society Conference, Bristol, April 2017

INVITED SEMINARS in the last three years

LuiSS University webinar, November 2020
Central European University webinar, October 2020
University of Bern webinar, October 2020
VDEV webinar, July 2020
CEPR Political Economics webinar, July 2020
Harvard Kennedy School, October 2019
Georgetown University, October 2019
The World Bank, October 2019
New York University, October 2019
University of Oslo, September 2019
Toulouse School of Economics, June 2019
The World Bank, May 2019
University of Copenhagen, April 2019

INSEAD, April 2019
NYU, March 2019
Columbia University, February 2019
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, November 2018
University of Vienna, October 2018
University of Uppsala, October 2018
Collegio Carlo Alberto, Turin, September 2018
Northwestern University, May 2018
Wharton, May 2018
WZB Berlin, May 2018
Northwestern University, May 2018
Wharton, May 2018
Universitat Pompeu Fabra, April 2018
University of Bonn, November 2017
London School of Economics, November 2017
UCLA, November 2017
University of Southern California, November 2017
UC San Diego, November 2017
Tinbergen Institute, October 2017
Yale University, October 2017
IIES Stockholm, September 2017
University of Oslo, June 2017
Université de Toulouse, March 2017
University of Bonn, February 2017

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION (*selected recent ones*)

BREAD-CEPR-TCD Development Economics Conference, October 2020
Econometric Society World Congress 2020, August 2020 (Scientific Program Co-Chair)
BREAD-CEPR-TCD Development Economics Conference, LSE, September 2018
ThReD Conference, Bocconi University, June 2018
CEPR-PODER Development Economics Symposium, LSE, June 2017
BREAD-CEPR-PODER Conference, Bocconi University, September 2016
NBER-BREAD Development Program Meeting, Cambridge MA, September 2015

LANGUAGES

Fluent in Italian and English. Fair knowledge of French.

PERSONAL

Italian citizen. Married with two children.
Piano diploma from Conservatorio “Dall’Abaco”, Verona, 1991.