

ELENA PERRA

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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

University of Turin March 2023 -
Post-doctoral Research Fellow

UNU-MERIT Maastricht January 2022 -
Affiliated Researcher

EDUCATION

University of Florence February 2022 - February 2023
Post-doctoral Research Fellow

University of Florence and University of Trento September 2018 - July 2022
PhD in Development Economics
Department of Economics and Management and School of Social Sciences
Thesis title: "Empirical Essays on the Impact of Infrastructural Investments in Ethiopia"
2022-23 Andrea Vaona award for the best doctoral dissertation in Economics

UNU-MERIT Maastricht October 2021 - January 2022
Visiting Period

University of Passau April 2017 - September 2017
Erasmus + Programme
Evaluation of Development Policies, Rural Development, Health, Public Policy

University of Florence December 2015 - April 2018
MSc in Economics and Development 110/110 cum laude

University of Florence September 2011 - October 2015
BA in Economics and Trade

PUBLICATIONS

Perra, E., Sanfilippo, M. and Sundaram, A. (2024) "Roads, Competition, and the Informal Sector". *Journal of Development Economics*, 2024, 103339, ISSN 0304-3878.

WORKING PAPERS

Sanfilippo, M., Perra, E. and Sileci, L. (2024) "Crude Chain Reaction: From Oil to Soil, the Nigerian Case"

Hiluf Abay, Mehari, Tiberti, L. and Perra, E. (2024) "The Fertility Highway: How Road Investments Shape Childbearing in Ethiopia"

Martorano, B., Perra, E., Tiberti, M., (2023). "Beyond Data Gaps: Tracking Spatial Inequality in Africa via Nighttime Lights" MERIT Working Papers 2023-032, United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (MERIT) (Under Review)

Perra, E. (2022). "Road to Division: Ethnic Favouritism in the Provision of Road Infrastructure in Ethiopia", DISEI Working Papers - Economics, Working Paper N.01/2022. (Under Review)

Giovanetti, G. and Perra, E. (2020). "Syria in the Dark: Estimating the economic consequences of the civil war through satellite-derived night lights". DISEI Working Papers - Economics, Working Paper N.05/2019.

POLICY PUBLICATIONS

Perra, E., Sanfilippo, M., & Sundaram, A. (2024). "Road infrastructure boosts competition, which affects formal and informal sector firms differently." *VoxDev*.

Giovanetti, G., Bigi, V. and Perra, E. (2020) "Estimates of GDP loss using night-time light satellite imagery". In: "Compounding Crises: Will Covid-19 and Lower Oil Prices Lead to a New Development Paradigm in the Arab Region?". United Nations Development Programme.

Giovanetti, G., Bigi, V. and Perra, E. (2021) "The Impact of Covid-19 on Arab Countries: What can we 'See'?" United Nations Development Programme, RBAS WORKING PAPERS SERIES.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Development Economics *January 2023 - June 2023*
University of Turin

- Teaching Assistant

Political Economy of Development *January 2022 - June 2023*
University of Florence

- Adjunct Lecturer

Sustainable Management for Local Development *October 2021*
University of Florence

- Guest Lecturer

International Trade *September 2015 - April 2018*
University of Florence

- Academic Tutor

Microeconomics *September 2015 - April 2018*
University of Florence

- Academic Tutor

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Florence *February 2022 - February 2023*
Post-doctoral Research Fellow

- Principal researcher on EUniWell project, analyzing and reporting the educational performance of the 8 partner universities in the consortium.

European University Institute
Research Assistant

November 2022 - December 2022

- Harmonizing and Geolocalizing DHS survey data covering all African countries, combining with geolocalized animal diseases information from FAO. Preparing a technical appendix for the project, and ensuring full replicability.

World Bank
Consultant

February 2022 - June 2022

- Analytical support to the LSMS-ISA program. Conducting empirical analysis based on remotely sensed nighttime light data to proxy for spatial inequality.

European University Institute
Research Assistant

September 2020 - January 2021

- Data processing and construction of market access indicators for the paper "Trade Liberalization, Roads and Firm Productivity" (Fiorini et al. (2021), Journal of Development Economics).

United Nations Development Programme
External Consultant

April 2020 - December 2020

- Report on the impact of COVID-19 on MENA countries.

Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES)
Research Fellow

June 2019 - Present

- EMNES Annual Conference 2019 (presenter)
- Working Paper: "Syria in the Dark" (2020)

EDI Economic Development Initiatives (UK)
Intern, Research Team

September 2017 - March 2018

- Data Cleaning for Development Projects at the Household Level.
- Academic Literature Reviews on Issues of Data Quality.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistical Analysis	R, STATA, Minitab, Python
Mapping	QGIS, ArcGIS, Google Earth Engine
Software and Tools	Quarto, Markdown, MS Office, L ^A T _E X

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

2022-23 Andrea Vaona Award for **the best doctoral dissertation in Economics**.

Winner, Associazione Villa Favard's Annual Prize for **the Most Original Dissertation, 2018**.

University of Florence - Productivity and Merit Scholarships 2015/2016 and 2016/2017.

SUMMER SCHOOLS

- FEEM (Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei) 7,8,14,15,22 Oct., 2021.
Autumn School in Spatial Analysis and Policy Evaluation
- UEA (Urban Economic Association) 1-3, 2021 Sept., 2021.
PhD Student Workshop
- Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano 29-1 Sept., 2021.
XX Summer School in International and Development Economics "Investment Choices in Developing Economies"
- IRVAPP 14-19 Dec., 2020
Advanced Methods For Impact Evaluation, "Survey sampling methods and applications"
- University of Essex August 2019
52nd Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis. Courses in Quantitative Text Analysis.
- SITES June 2019
X Summer School in Development Economics

CONFERENCES

- 2022-23 Andrea Vaona Award on September 18, 2023, Verona, Italy
Award Reception Lecture
- XXXV SIEP Conference 2023 on September 14-15, 2023, Verona, Italy
- NCDE 2023 on June 13-15, Gothenburg, Sweden.
Nordic Conference in Development Economics
- Jobs and Development on December 14-15, 2022, Capetown, South Africa
World Bank, IZA, UNU-WIDER, and the Network on Jobs and Development
- UNU-Merit Internal Conference on September 29-30, 2022, Maastricht, Netherlands
- The Bank Al-Maghrib on June 23-24, 2022, Rabat, Morocco
The International Monetary Fund "Transformational Recovery: Seizing Opportunities from the Crisis"
- EUDN on November 25-26, 2022, Wageningen, Netherlands
PhD Workshop on Development Economics
- 15th North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association on October 14-16, 2021
- DevEconMeet 2021 on October 1, 2021, University of Florence
- SasCa PhD Conference in Economics 2021 on September 16-17, 2021 Alghero, Italy
University of Sassari and Ca' Foscari University of Venice
- Urban Economic Association (UEA) PhD Student Workshop on September 1-3, online
University of Sassari and Ca' Foscari University of Venice
- EMNES Annual Conference on June 2019, Brussels, Belgium
Towards a Regional Integration and Employment Driven Socio-Economic Model in the Mediterranean: A Comprehensive Policy Road map

LANGUAGES

Italian - Mother tongue

English - Fluent

French - Fluent

REFERENCES

Prof. Giorgia Giovannetti

Professor of Economics
Department of Economics and Management
University of Florence
Via delle Pandette, 32
50127 Firenze (Italy)
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Prof. Bruno Martorano

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Prof. Marco Sanfilippo

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University of Turin, Room 15 3.D1
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Prof. Asha Sundaram

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