

ELIANA LA FERRARA

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CURRENT POSITION

Harvard University

- Professor of Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School, current

PAST EMPLOYMENT

Bocconi University

- Fondazione Romeo ed Enrica Invernizzi Chair in Development Economics, 2011-2022
- 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

- “Interaction, Stereotypes and Performance. Evidence from South Africa” (with J. Burns and L. Corno), *American Economic Review*, 112(12), 3848-3875, 2022.
- “Implicit Stereotypes in Teachers’ Track Recommendations” (with M. Carlana and P. Pinotti), *AEA Papers & Proceedings*, 112, 409-14, 2022.
- “Goals and Gaps: Educational Careers of Immigrant Children” (with M. Carlana and P. Pinotti), *Econometrica*, 90(1), 1-29, 2022.
- “Violence Against Women: A Cross-cultural Analysis for Africa” (with A. Alesina and B. Brioschi), *Economica*, 88, 70-104, 2021.
- “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

- “Informing Risky Migration: Evidence from a Randomized Control Trial in Guinea” (with G. Battiston and L. Corno), mimeo, Bocconi University, 2022.
- “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), CEPR Discussion Paper 15776, 2021.
- “Apart but Connected: Online Tutoring and Student Outcomes during the COVID-19 Pandemic” (with M. Carlana), CEPR Discussion Paper 15761, 2021.
- “Female Genital Cutting and the Slave Trade” (with L. Corno and A. Voena), BREAD Working Paper 582; CEPR Discussion Paper 15577; 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.
- “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

Changing Harmful Norms through Information and Coordination: Experimental Evidence from Somalia, (with S. Gulseci, D. Smerdon and M. Sulaiman).
Norms Replacement: A Field Experiment on ending Female Genital Cutting, (with L. Corno).
Turkish Soap Operas and Women's Empowerment in Egypt (with S. Gulesci and D. Ubfal).
The nerds, the cool and the central: Peer education and teen pregnancy in Brazil (with E. Baumgartner, 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 A. Donald, M. Goldstein, A. Hartmann, M. O'Sullivan and A. Voena).

TEACHING

Harvard Kennedy School

DEV 101 – Economic Development: Theory and Evidence, Fall 2022

Bocconi University

Development Economics (graduate): Spring 1999-2012, Spring 2014-2022

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, 2018-2022

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

2nd Vice-President, Econometric Society, elected 2021

Scientific Director, Laboratory for Effective Anti-Poverty Policies (LEAP), 2016-current

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

Foreign Honorary Member, American Economic Association, 2021-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

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

President, European Economic Association, 2018

Research Program Director, State Program, International Growth Centre, 2008-2021

Fellow, International Economic Association, 2018-current

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

Full member, European Development Research Network (EUDN), current
Expert, World Bank-IMF High-Level Advisory Group on Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery and Growth, 2021-current
Executive Committee Member, European Development Research Network (EUDN), 2017-20
Executive Committee Member, European Economic Association, 2016-19

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

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

Manchott Lecture, University of Bonn, 2022

AEA Foreign Honorary Member, 2021

Birgit Grodal Award, EEA, 2020

Doctor Honoris Causa, University of Oslo, 2020

Bocconi Research Excellence Award, 2020

AAAS International Honorary Member, 2019

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

LACEA BRAIN Conference (keynote), May 2022
Workshop on Networks and Development (keynote), Naples, April 2022
JADE Conference on Development Economics (keynote), April 2022
CESifo Conference on Behavioral Economics (keynote), Munich, October 2021
CEPR Symposium in Labor Economics (keynote), June 2021
CEPR-ENS workshop on Political Economy, Cultural Economics and Gender, June 2021
MWIEDC Conference Northwestern (keynote), May 2021
Field Days Conference (keynote), December 2020
ThReD Online Conference, October 2020
BREAD-CSAE Conference on Behavioral Economics and Development, Oxford, February 2020

INVITED SEMINARS in the last three years

Harvard University, September 2022
University of Bonn, July 2022
University of Oslo, May 2022
UC San Diego, April 2022
UC Berkeley, April 2022
University of Chicago, April 2022
University College London, webinar, March 2022
Sciences Po, October 2021
Yale NUS, webinar, September 2021
University of Sao Paulo, webinar, September 2021
University of British Columbia, webinar, September 2021
Princeton University, webinar, September 2021

FAO WeES webinar, September 2021
DIME-LACGIL webinar, June 2021
MIT IDSS, May 2021
University of Houston, April 2021
University of Zurich, March 2021
UNICEF/J-PAL webinar on Social Norms and Gender, March 2021
Field Days Conference (keynote), December 2020
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

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION (*selected recent ones*)

LEAP Development Conference, June 2022
CEPR-SITE-SSE Conference in Development Economics, May 2022
CEPR-TCD Workshop in Development Economics, November 2021
CEPR-LEAP Workshop in Development Economics, May 2021
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

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.