

# MEND THE GAP IN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

**ROME, MAY 14-15**

**EIEF Premises  
via Sallustiana, 62 Rome  
(Italy)**



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

***Professor Kjell Gunnar  
Salvanes,***

Norwegian School of Economics



# **MEND THE GAP IN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA**

Rome, Italy—May 14-15, 2026

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# MEND THE GAP IN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

MAY 14, 2026 – 10:00AM-6:30PM | MAY 15, 2026 – 9:30AM-12:30PM

## **Objectives**

Over the past decades, progress has been made, yet substantial gender disparities remain across Europe and Central Asia in labor force participation, entrepreneurship, and access to economic opportunities. Women still encounter structural constraints, such as limited access to productive resources, persistent discriminatory norms, and an unequal share of caregiving responsibilities. Tackling them calls for solutions that are both evidence-based and tailored to specific contexts. To advance this agenda, this second edition of the workshop aims to serve as a platform for evidence-based policy dialogue on strategies to foster women's economic empowerment.

The event is organized by the World Bank Europe and Central Asia Gender Innovation Lab (ECAGIL), the Institute for Economic Development and the Center for Research on Women and Jobs (CRWJ) in collaboration with the AXA Gender Lab at Bocconi University, the Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance (EIEF) and LABOUR: Review of Labor Economics and Industrial Relations.

## **Scientific Committee**

Manuel Bagues	Professor, University of Warwick
Kathleen Beegle	Lead Economist, World Bank
Gaia Dossi	Assistant Professor, EIEF
Markus Eberhardt	Associate Professor, University of Nottingham
Anna Fruttero	Senior Economist, World Bank
Nancy Lozano	Program Manager, World Bank
Joao Monteiro	Assistant Professor, EIEF
Lucia Rizzica	Economist, Bank of Italy
Almudena Sevilla	Professor, London School of Economics
Franco Peracchi	Professor, EIEF
Paola Profeta	Professor, Bocconi University

## **Organizing Committee**

Chiara Broccolini	Consultant, World Bank
Gero Carletto	Senior Manager, World Bank
Maria Chiara De Sando	Program Analyst, World Bank
Anna Fruttero	Senior Economist, World Bank
Susana Palomar	Event Organizer, EIEF
Franco Peracchi	Professor, EIEF
Paola Profeta	Professor, Bocconi University

## Keynote Speaker

### Kjell Gunnar Salvanes

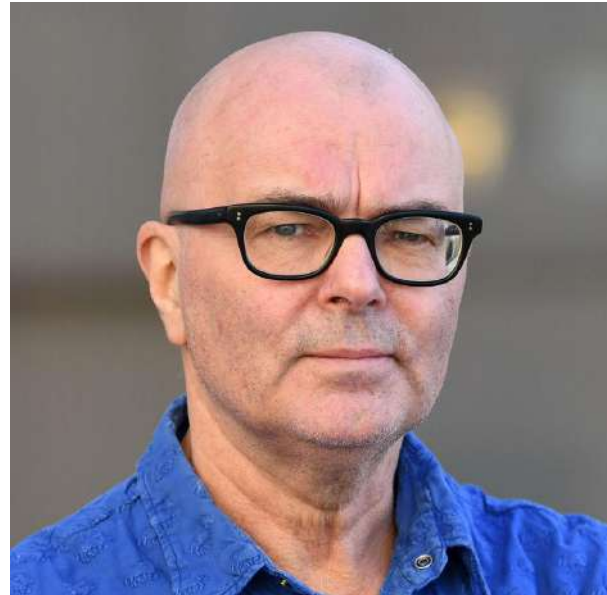
*Professor, Norwegian School of Economics*

Kjell G. Salvanes is a professor in labor economics at NHH, research director at CELE since 2012, and deputy director of the Centre of Excellence FAIR (Centre for Experimental Research on Fairness, Inequality and Rationality) since 2017.

Salvanes conducts research on a wide range of education, labor and health policy issues from returns to schooling, early investment in children and long term outcomes, inequality in income, health and education and intergenerational mobility. His current research projects involve studying the interrelationship between health and education, and the role of educational and health institutions on human capital formation and health outcomes. He received his PhD from the Norwegian School of Economics.

Salvanes' work has been published in numerous leading journals, including the *American Economic Review*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Economic Journal*, *Journal of Public Economics* and *The Journal of the European Economic Association*. From 2012 he has been a Managing Editor of the *Economic Journal*.

He is a research fellow at CEPR, IZA, CEEP (LSE), CES-ifo and HCEO (university of Chicago). He received the Prize for Excellent Research at NHH in 2006. He is a member of the Norwegian Productivity Commission (2014-2016), and has been a board member of Norwegian and Danish Research Council in Education



## Policy Roundtable

### From Evidence to Impact: Innovating Policies and Programs that Enable Firm Growth and Job Creation

Constraints on access to finance and market opportunities on women-led firms remain a significant barrier to firm dynamism and aggregate productivity. There is growing evidence on the challenges these firms face, not only in accessing finance, but across the entire firm lifecycle, from startup to growth, productivity, and job creation. Yet translating this evidence into effective, scalable policies and programs remains challenging. This panel focuses on innovations—in policy design, firm support ecosystems, financing, and partnerships—that help move from diagnostics and research to concrete action. Drawing on experiences from international organizations and the private sector, the discussion will explore how to strengthen implementation, bridge policy and delivery gaps, and support women-led firms to grow, formalize, and create jobs.

### Panelists



**Valeria Giaccari**  
*Cofounder of Orienta*

Valeria Giaccari is Co-Founder and Managing Director of Orienta S.p.A., a leading Italian employment and outsourcing agency, a role she has held since 1999. She also serves as Vice President of Assolavoro and sits on the advisory board of STEAMiamoci. Throughout her career, she has promoted women's entrepreneurship, professional training, and innovation across Italy's labor market and business sectors.



**Paolo Masi**  
*Director of Africa, WTS Energy Netherlands*

Paolo Masi is Director of Africa at WTS Energy, where he leads strategic operations and growth across the continent. With over 15 years of experience in the energy sector, he specializes in operations, stakeholder engagement, and market expansion. He has helped expand WTS Energy's presence in Africa, supporting workforce development, technical training, and partnerships advancing both conventional and renewable energy initiatives.



**Martin Melecky**

*Lead Economist, World Bank Group*

Martin Melecky is a Lead Economist in the Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice at the World Bank. He has led financial sector assessments and operations across South Asia, Emerging Europe, and Central Asia. He co-authored key regional reports and contributed to the 2014 *World Development Report* on financial systems and risk management. His research has been published in leading journals, including the *World Bank Economic Review* and the *Journal of Financial Stability*.



**Clara Park**

*Senior Gender Officer, FAO*

Clara Mi Young Park is a Senior Gender Officer and Team Leader at FAO, with over two decades of experience advancing gender equality, women's empowerment, and social inclusion across Africa, Asia, and the Near East. A feminist practitioner and researcher with a PhD in Development Studies, she has led regional programs, policy research, and multi-stakeholder initiatives on gender, land rights, rural development, and inclusive governance.



**Ali Shahbaz**

*Editor, World Bank Group*

Ali is a writer and entrepreneur with a passion for storytelling. He currently works in Development Economics at the World Bank, after previously serving as Project Manager at Georgetown University and Analyst at the World Bank during the Covid-19 pandemic. A graduate of Georgetown's Walsh School of Foreign Service, he combines experience in international development, diplomacy, and impact finance with a strong interest in narrative and social impact.

## Program

### DAY 1 - Thursday, May 14

10:00 – 10:30 *Registration and Welcome coffee*

10:30 – 10:40 **Openings**

#### SESSION 1

10:40 – 11:10 ***What Shapes Disadvantaged Women's Labor Market Choices? Evidence from Discrete Choice Experiments in Eastern Europe***

Tomasz Gajderowicz, University of Warsaw (with V. Morrica and C. Ferre)

11:10 – 11:40 ***Self-Confidence of Job Market Candidates: Is there a Gender Gap?***

Patricia Funk, U. della Svizzera Italiana (with A. Marchese and R. Intinghero)

11:40 – 12:00 *Small Coffee break*

12:00 – 13:00 **Keynote Speech by Prof. Kjell Gunnar Salvanes, Norwegian School of Economics**

13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch break*

#### SESSION 2

14:00 – 14:30 ***Who Runs the Business? Gender Bias in SME Lending and Beliefs about Female Ownership***

Anna Fruttero, World Bank (with A. Donald and C. Broccolini)

14:30 – 15:00 ***Start-up Visas Around the Baltics***

Helena Schweiger, EBRD (with T. Deisemann)

15:00 – 15:30 ***Board Gender Quotas and Female Borrowing: Evidence from Loan-Level Data***

Fabrizio Core, LUISS

15:30 – 16:00 *Coffee break*

### **SESSION 3**

16:00 – 16:30 ***Family Planning and Ethnic Heritage***  
Graziella Bertocchi, University of Modena (with A. Dimico and C. Falco)

16:30 – 17:00 ***Agricultural Income Growth and Gender Inequality in Education:  
Evidence from a Cotton Price Shock in Tajikistan***  
Angelina Nazarova, University of Essex

17:00 – 18:15 **Policy Discussion Roundtable**

18:15 – 18:30 *Group Photo*

18:30 – 20:00 *Cocktail Dinner (Apericena)*

**Poster Session 1 throughout the day**

## DAY 2 - Friday, May 15

9:30-10:00 **Women Business and The Law 2026 - Benchmarking Laws for Jobs and Inclusive Growth**

Ana Maria Tribin Uribe, World Bank

### SESSION 4

10:00-10:30 **Stay Home, Return to Work, or Go for Another Baby? Working From Home Availability and Decisions After Childbearing**

Dzsamila Vonnák, ELTE KRTK (with R. Peto and A. Szabo-Morvai)

10:30-11:00 **Expanding Paternity Leave: Effects on Beliefs, Norms, and Gender Gaps**

Philip Rosenbaum, Copenhagen Business School (with H. Kleven, C. Landais, A. S. Lassen, H. Steingrimsdottir and J. Sogaard)

11:00-11:30 *Coffee break*

### SESSION 5

11:30-12:00 **Mapping the Gender Dimension in Taxation and Budgeting: A Cross-Country Study of Laws, Policies and Practices**

Hannelore M. L. Niesten, World Bank (with A. Sakhonchik and L. Ferraz di Ricco)

12:00-12:30 **Beyond Time: Unveiling the Invisible Burden of Mental Load**

F. Barigozzi, University of Bologna (with P. Biroli, N. Molinari, S. Vitellozzi and E. Pisanelli)

12:30-15:00 *Closing lunch*

**Poster Session 2 throughout the day**

## POSTER SESSION 1 – MAY 14

- 1. *Fast-Track to Family? Evidence from the G8 High School Reform in Germany***  
Olivia Masi, Bocconi University (with H. Alm and M. Stockburger)
- 2. *Who Cares? Parental Leave Benefits and Household Division of Childcare***  
Federica Meluzzi, Bocconi University (with P. Molitor and J. Wegmann)
- 3. *Subjective Survival Beliefs, Cognitive Skills and Investments in Risky Assets***  
Francesco Maura, Bocconi University (with C. Dal Bianco, F. Parodi, and G. Weber)
- 4. *Gender Norms, Family, and Career: A Survey Study in Italy***  
Natalia Montinari, University of Bologna (with F. Barigozzi and G. Righetto)
- 5. *Intergenerational Mobility in Welfare: Wages and Amenities***  
Natalia Khorunzhina, Copenhagen Business School (with J. Wedewer and R. Wu)
- 6. *Dissatisfied and Gone? Gendered Patterns in Job Satisfaction and Employment Histories***  
Monika Oczkowska, Warsaw School of Economics
- 7. *Joint Taxation and Intra-Household Inequality: Evidence from Same-Sex Couples in Germany***  
Elena Herold, LMU Munich (with L. Koch and C. Neisser)
- 8. *FINGROW: Evidence to Action***  
Martin Melecky, World Bank

## POSTER SESSION 2 – MAY 15

**1. Parental Leave Uptake in Denmark: Fathers and Workplace Constraints**

Sina Johanna Smid, Bocconi University (with S. A. Koob)

**2. The Forgotten NEETs**

Pietro Galeone, Bocconi University (with T. Boeri and E. Cattaneo)

**3. Gender Identities and Relative Income in Polish Households: Implications for Marriage, Labor Supply and Marital Stability**

Aleksandra Sojka, University of Warsaw (with K. Goraus-Tanska and Z. B. Liberda)

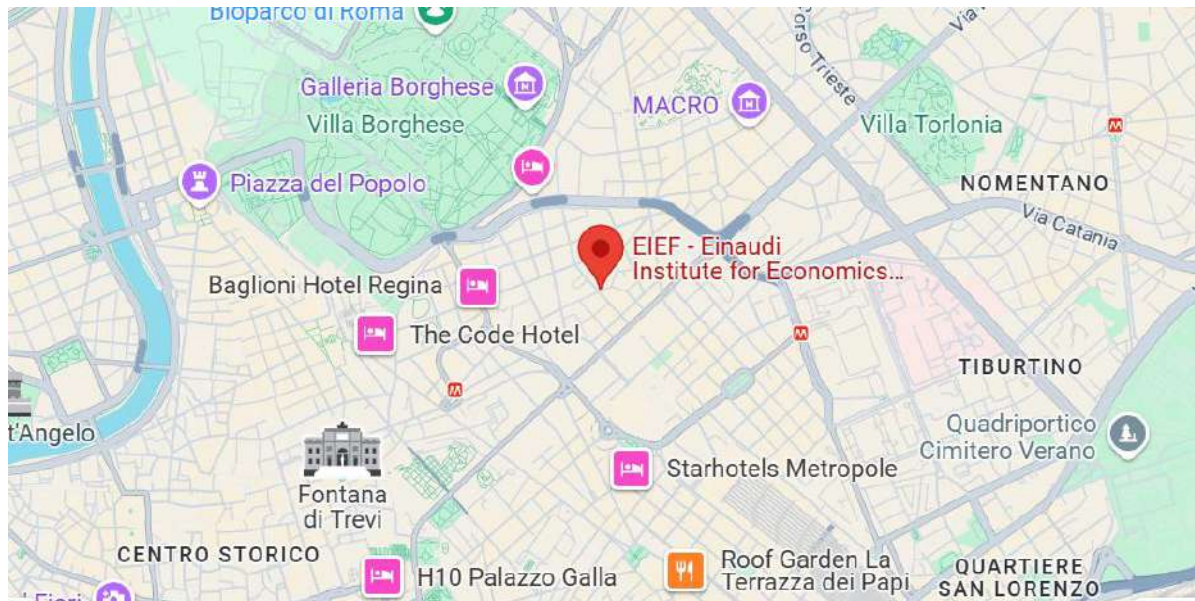
**4. Firms, Sorting, and the Gender Pay Gap in Morocco's Formal Sector**

Federica Marzo, World Bank (with L.R. Paul-Delvaux and M. Fregoni)

## Settings and Logistics

**Conference Venue:** The workshop will take place at the [EIEF](#) premises.

The address is [via Sallustiana 62, Rome, Italy](#)



### **To reach the conference venue:**

From “Leonardo da Vinci” (Fiumicino) Airport

- **By taxi:** the fare for a run to the centre of Rome is € 55,00 flat; supplements might be asked for luggage, night-time runs and public holidays. We recommend you use only authorized taxis (white cars with a taximeter) available at the arrival's areas of each terminal.
- **By public transportation:**
  - take the direct train “Leonardo Express” to Stazione Termini (every day, every 30 minutes, from 6:37 to 23:37; route time: 35 minutes; the train makes no mid-journey stops);
  - then head towards the Termini Bus Station (in front of the metro/train Termini Station). Take Line No. 910 (MANCINI) and get off at the 3<sup>rd</sup> stop (PIEMONTE/CARDUCCI).
  - With the bus stop at your back turn right and head north on Via Piemonte for 55 meters and then turn right at Via Sallustiana and walk for another 200 meters to No. 62, where EIEF is located.

- The train ticket fare is € 14,00. The ticket fare is € 1.50, and it is valid for 100 minutes from validation, for metro (for one journey only, using both lines but without going out from the turnstiles), buses, trams.

### From Ciampino Airport

- **By taxi:** the fare for a run to the center of Rome is € 40,00 flat; supplements might be asked for luggage, night-time runs and public holidays. We recommend you to use only authorized taxis (white cars with a taximeter) available outside the airport.
- **By public transportation:**
  - take the Cotral bus to Anagnina station; then take the Underground (METRO A, direction BATTISTINI) and get off at TERMINI (the 15<sup>th</sup> stops);
  - then head towards the Termini Bus Station (in front of the metro/train Termini Station). Take Line No. 910 (MANCINI) and get off at the 3<sup>rd</sup> stop (PIEMONTE/CARDUCCI).
  - With the bus stop at your back turn right and head north on Via Piemonte for 55 meters and then turn right at Via Sallustiana and walk for another 200 meters to No. 62, where EIEF is located.
  - The bus ticket fare is € 1.20. The ticket fare is € 1.50, and it is valid for 100 minutes from validation, for metro (for one journey only, using both lines but without going out from the turnstiles), buses, trams.

### From the Stazione Termini:

- Head towards the Termini Bus Station (in front of the metro/train Termini Station).
- Take Line No. 910 (MANCINI) and get off at the 3<sup>rd</sup> stop (PIEMONTE/CARDUCCI).
- With the bus stop at your back turn right and head north on Via Piemonte for 55 meters and then turn right at Via Sallustiana and walk for another 200 meters to No. 62, where EIEF is located.
- The ticket fare is € 1.50, and it is valid for 100 minutes from validation, for metro (for one journey only, using both lines but without going out from the turnstiles), buses, trams.

### **Contact numbers**

Your main points of contact with any questions will be:

- Susana Palomar: [susana.palomar@eief.it](mailto:susana.palomar@eief.it)
- EIEF: +39 06 6797105; +39 06 4792 3089

## PHOTO AND BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS (alphabetical order)



### **Francesca Barigozzi**

*Professor of Economics, University of Bologna*

Francesca Barigozzi is an applied economist. Her research spans family, public, information, health, and behavioral economics, with a current focus on gender and personnel economics. She holds a PhD from Toulouse School of Economics and has been a visiting professor at Boston University, Ecole Centrale Marseille, and Toulouse School of Economics. Her work is widely published, and she serves as Editor of *The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy* and Associate Editor of the *Journal of Public Economic Theory*.



### **Kathleen Beegle**

*Lead Economist, World Bank Group*

Kathleen is a Lead Economist in the People Research Program of the World Bank's Development Research Group. Her work focuses on poverty, labor, economic shocks, and survey methods in developing countries. She co-leads the Center for Research on Women and Jobs and has contributed to flagship reports and academic publications. She previously served as Human Development Program Leader in West Africa and worked with the Gender Group. She holds a PhD from Michigan State University.



### **Graziella Bertocchi**

*Professor of Economics, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia and President of the EIEF*

Graziella received her PhD in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania and held positions at Brown University, Royal Holloway-University of London, Université Catholique de Louvain, European University Institute, and IGER-Bocconi. She is a Fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research and IZA. Her research interests include macroeconomics, political economy, comparative development, and the economics of growth, culture, and institutions.



**Calogero (Gero) Carletto**

*Senior Manager, World Bank Group*

Gero Carletto is Senior Manager in the World Bank's Development Data Group and Interim Director of the Institute for Economic Development. He led the Living Standards Measurement Study for over 15 years and founded the Center for Development Data in Rome. Chair of the ISI Committee on Agricultural Statistics, he publishes widely on poverty, food security, and data methods. Gero holds a PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics from UC Berkeley.



**Fabrizio Core**

*Assistant Professor, LUISS*

Fabrizio Core is Assistant Professor of Corporate Finance (tenure track) at LUISS. Prior to joining LUISS, he was Assistant Professor of Finance at Erasmus School of Economics, Erasmus University. He holds a PhD in Finance from the London School of Economics and he specializes in issues of gender in entrepreneurship and financial intermediation.



**Céline Ferré**

*Senior Development Economist, World Bank Group*

Céline Ferré is a development economist with over twenty years of experience in research, technical assistance, and project management. She specializes in translating complex data into actionable insights to inform policy and highlight impact. Her work focuses on social protection, jobs, and the green transition. She has collaborated extensively with UN agencies and governments, and holds a PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of California, Berkeley.



**Patricia Funk**

*Full Professor, Università della Svizzera italiana*

Patricia Funk is Full Professor at Università della Svizzera italiana (USI). Her main research fields are Gender Economics and Political Economics. Her work has been published in various international journals such as the Quarterly Journal of Economics, Econometrica, the Review of Economics and Statistics etc. Patricia Funk is Associate Editor at the *Economic Journal*, and a CEPR fellow.



**Anna Fruttero**

*Senior Economist, World Bank Group*

Anna Fruttero is a Senior Economist in the ECA Poverty team, leading work in Albania and Kosovo and co-leading the ECA Gender Innovation Lab. Previously at the IMF, she contributed to the Fund Gender Strategy and worked on gender, fiscal policy, and inequality. At the World Bank, she has led operations and analysis across multiple regions. Her expertise includes poverty, social protection, behavioral economics, and gender. Anna holds a PhD from NYU.



**Tomasz Gajderowicz**

*Professor, University of Warsaw*

Tomasz Gajderowicz is a policy advisor specializing in education and labor markets, with expertise in data science and microeconomic methods to analyze educational and career decisions. He holds a PhD in economics and serves as a European Commission expert, World Bank and ETEC consultant. He is Research Director at the Educational Research Institute and Professor at the University of Warsaw, with extensive experience in international projects and publications on education-to-work transitions.



**Pietro Galeone**

*Head of the Labor and Social Policy Unit, Bocconi University*

Pietro Galeone is Head of the Labor and Social Policy Unit at Bocconi University, where he also teaches economic theory. His research focuses on education and labor economics, youth policies, and social inclusion. He holds a BA from Harvard University and a PhD in Economics from Bocconi. In 2021–2022, he served as economic advisor to the Italian Minister for Labor and Social Policies, representing Italy in EU and G20 employment forums. He is currently an advisor to the Italian Senate and a board member of Afol Milano.



**Elena Herold**

*PhD candidate, LMU Munich*

Elena Herold is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at LMU Munich and a Junior Economist at the ifo Center for Public Economics. She will join the University of Mannheim as an Assistant Professor of Public Economics in summer 2026. In 2024, she was a visiting Ph.D. student at the University of Toronto. Her research focuses on public and gender economics, examining how taxation, social norms, and household decision-making shape labor supply and inequality within couples.



**Natalia Khorunzhina**

*Associate Professor, Copenhagen Business School*

Natalia Khorunzhina works at the intersection of household finance, applied macroeconomics, and labor economics, focusing on housing markets and how household balance sheets shape consumption and life-cycle decisions. Her research has been published in leading journals such as the *International Economic Review*, *Journal of Monetary Economics*, and *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics*. She leads a Danish-funded project on how house-price and income shocks affect spending and consumption inequality, and has held visiting positions at Duke, TSE, and UCL.



**Federica Marzo**

*Senior Economist, World Bank Group*

Federica Marzo is a Senior Economist at the World Bank, where she co-leads the MFG and engagement in Morocco. She specializes in poverty, inequality, and gender, with experience across Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and MENA. Her work includes national surveys, multidimensional poverty analysis, and labor market and migration studies, as well as statistical capacity and reform operations. She previously worked at the OECD Development Centre.



**Olivia Masi**

*Postdoc, Aalto University; Research Fellow, Bocconi University*

Olivia Masi holds a PhD in Economics from the European University Institute, where she was advised by Sule Alan and Andrea Ichino. Her research uses administrative data and quasi-experimental methods to study the economics of gender, family, and intimate partner violence. Her current projects examine the economic precursors of domestic violence perpetration in Finland, the effects of sentencing severity on intimate partner violence in Brazil, the impact of compressed schooling on women's fertility timing using Germany's G8 reform, and gender stereotypes in the Italian workplace.



**Francesco Maura**

*Post-Doc Researcher, Bocconi University*

Francesco Maura is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the DONDENA Research Center, Bocconi University, and the AXA Research Lab on Gender Equality. His research interests lie in household finance, the economics of ageing, and gender, with a particular focus on household decision-making, its implications for choices under uncertainty and individual well-being, and the potential inequalities such dynamics may generate within households over time.



**Martin Melecky**

*Lead Economist, World Bank Group*

Martin Melecky is a Lead Economist in the Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice at the World Bank. He has led financial sector assessments and operations across South Asia, Emerging Europe, and Central Asia. He co-authored key regional reports and contributed to the 2014 *World Development Report* on financial systems and risk management. His research has been published in leading journals, including the *World Bank Economic Review* and the *Journal of Financial Stability*.



**Federica Meluzzi**

*Postdoctoral Fellow, Bocconi University*

Federica Meluzzi is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Economics and IGIER at Bocconi University and will join LMU Munich as Assistant Professor in 2026. She holds a PhD in Economics from CREST (Paris) and is affiliated with the Rockwool Foundation Berlin. Her research focuses on labor and public economics. She studies how firms, peers, and public policies shape gender norms, as well as social insurance design and firm wage setting, including the role of pay transparency.



**Natalia Montinari**

*Associate Professor, University of Bologna*

Natalia earned her PhD in Economics and Management from the University of Padua in 2011. She was a postdoctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute of Economics (2011–2013) and later Assistant Professor at Lund University (2013–2016). Her research focuses on the gender wage gap, social norms in career choices, and affirmative action, using experimental economics methods, with publications in leading journals such as *European Economic Review* and *Experimental Economics*.



**Angelina Nazarova**

*Senior Research Officer, University of Essex*

Angelina Nazarova is an applied economist and Senior Research Officer at the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER), University of Essex, and a researcher with NIHR ARC East of England. Her work focuses on gender, health, and family economics, examining how early-life and institutional factors shape maternal labor market outcomes and child well-being. Her research includes studies on mothers' earnings, antenatal interventions, and children's health policies. She holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Bologna.



**Hannelore M. L. Niesten**

*Consultant, World Bank Group*

Hannelore is an international expert consultant on taxation and social inclusion/gender with the World Bank's Women, Business and the Law team, and contributes to reform projects for the Asian Development Bank and the International Centre for Tax and Development. She previously worked as a tax associate at the Brussels Bar. She holds a PhD in Law from Maastricht University and advanced degrees in tax and business law and was a Fulbright Postdoctoral Scholar specializing in international tax law.



**Monika Oczkowska**

*Research Assistant, Warsaw School of Economics SGH*

Monika Oczkowska is a Research Economist whose work focuses on gender, ageing, and labor markets. Since 2018, she has held a Research Assistant position at the Warsaw School of Economics (SGH). She has been involved in managing the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) in Poland since 2012, and more recently joined the Polish team coordinating the Gender and Generations Survey (GGS).



**Franco Peracchi**

*Professor Emeritus, Tor Vergata University*

Franco Peracchi is Professor Emeritus at Tor Vergata University of Rome, Fellow of EIEF, IAAE, and the Journal of Econometrics. He holds degrees from LSE and Princeton, and has taught at institutions including UCLA, NYU, Bocconi, and Princeton. His research spans econometric theory, labor and health economics, and social security. Current work explores wartime effects, cognitive decline, distribution regression, and model uncertainty.



**Paola Profeta**

*Dean for Diversity, Inclusion and Sustainability and Professor, Bocconi University*

Paola Profeta is Dean for Diversity, Inclusion and Sustainability and is a full professor of public economics at Bocconi, where she also directs the AXA Research Lab on Gender Equality. She holds a PhD from Universitat Pompeu Fabra and a BA from Bocconi. She was previously assistant professor at University of Pavia and post-doc at CORE (Université Catholique de Louvain), and has held research positions at Columbia, Oxford, Trinity Dublin, CESifo, Edinburgh, and USI Lugano.



**Philip Rosenbaum**

*Associate Professor, Copenhagen Business School*

Philip Rosenbaum is an Associate Professor of Economics at Copenhagen Business School. His research focuses on labor economics, gender inequality, and household behavior, with a particular emphasis on how parenthood, institutions, and social norms shape economic outcomes. His work uses rich administrative data to study issues such as child penalties, parental leave policies, and gender gaps in labor markets. His recent research examines how policies like paternity leave influence beliefs, norms, and gender inequality.



**Helena Schweiger**

*Associate Director and Lead Research Economist, EBRD*

Helena Schweiger is Associate Director and Lead Research Economist at the EBRD. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Maryland, College Park. She has published in *AEJ: Economic Policy*, *Management Science*, and *Labour Economics*, with research focused on firm productivity, management practices, innovation, and climate change impacts.



**Sina Johanna Smid**

*EU-MSCA Fellow, Bocconi University*

Sina Smid received a EU-MSCA Fellowship in 2025 with the AXA Research Lab on Gender Equality at Bocconi University. Her project, GAPP, explores the effectiveness of gender equality policies. She earned a PhD in Political Economy from Copenhagen Business School in 2023 and worked as a Postdoctoral Researcher at Uppsala University on climate and social protection policies. Sina has extensive international development experience with the OECD, World Bank, and UN agencies, focusing on governance, trust in public institutions, forced displacement and education.



**Aleksandra Sojka**

*PhD Candidate, University of Warsaw*

*Aleksandra Sojka is completing her PhD in Economics at the SGH Warsaw School of Economics, with a dissertation on labour market policies in Poland. Within this broader focus, her research increasingly examines gender dimensions of labour market outcomes, household economics and trade. She currently works as a trade economist at a public economic think tank, dealing with FTAs and their impact on specific households.*



**Ana Maria Tribin Uribe**

*Senior Economist, World Bank Group*

Ana Tribin is a Senior Economist at Women, Business, and the Law at the World Bank. She previously led the gender team at UNDP for Latin America and the Caribbean and served as a Senior Research Economist at Colombia's Central Bank and as National Advisor for Women's Equality to the President of Colombia. She co-founded Digna and holds a PhD in Economics from Brown University, with research on gender, migration, and development.



**Dzsamila Vonnák**

*Research Fellow, ELTE KRTK*

Dzsamila Vonnák has been a research fellow at the Institute of Economics of ELTE KRTK since 2013. Her research lies in labour economics and the economics of the family, alongside work on banking regulation. She obtained her degree in finance from Corvinus University of Budapest in 2007 and earned her PhD from Central European University in 2016. Before entering academia, she worked as a consultant in banking risk management and was a visiting researcher at the Central Bank of Hungary in 2012–2013.