

MEND THE GAP IN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

MAY 15-16, ROME

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



PROGRAM



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Professor Claudia Olivetti, George J. Records
1956 Professor of Economics, Dartmouth
University, USA



MEND THE GAP IN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Rome, Italy—May 15-16, 2025

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EVENT DETAILS

MEND THE GAP IN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

MAY 15, 2025 – 9:30AM-6:30PM

MAY 16, 2025 – 9:30AM-3:30PM

Objectives

Despite progress over the past decades, significant gender gaps in labor force participation, entrepreneurship, and access to economic opportunities persist across Europe and Central Asia. Women continue to face structural barriers, including unequal access to productive resources, discriminatory social norms, and unequal caregiving responsibilities. These disparities not only limit individual potential but also hinder broader economic growth and resilience. Addressing them requires evidence-based, context-specific solutions.

To advance this agenda, this workshop aims to serve as a platform for evidence-based policy dialogue on strategies to foster women's economic empowerment, labor force participation, and entrepreneurship

The event is organized by the World Bank, in collaboration with Bocconi University, EIEF and LABOUR: Review of Labor Economics and Industrial Relations.

Scientific Committee

Kathleen Beegle
Gero Carletto
Pedro Carneiro
Paul Devereux

Anna Fruttero
Michael Lokshin
Juna Miluka
Franco Peracchi
Paola Profeta

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Senior Manager, World Bank
Professor, Department of Economics, UCL
Professor, School of Economics and Geary
Institute, UCD
Senior Economist, World Bank
Lead Economist, World Bank
Professor, University of New York Tirana
Professor, EIEF
Professor, Bocconi University

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Senior Manager, World Bank
Senior Economist, World Bank
Event Organizer, EIEF
Professor, EIEF
Professor, Bocconi University

Keynote Speaker

Claudia Olivetti

George J. Records 1956 Professor of Economics, Dartmouth College

Claudia Olivetti is the George J. Records 1956 Professor of Economics at Dartmouth College, Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), and CESifo Fellow. She also co-directs the NBER's Gender in the Economy Working Group. Her research spans labor economics, gender economics, and economic history, with a focus on women's roles in the labor market, intergenerational mobility, family and marriage institutions, maternal health, and historical patterns in gender gaps.

Her work explores the evolution and drivers of gender disparities in wages, hours worked, career progression, and labor force participation, as well as the impact of family policies and social norms on women's economic outcomes. She has examined topics such as the motherhood penalty, the gender earnings gap over the family cycle, paid parental leave, and the long-term influence of maternal health on women's labor market participation.



Claudia has published extensively in leading journals including the *Journal of Political Economy*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, and *Annual Review of Economics*. She is also Associate Editor of the *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* and has previously served on the editorial boards of *European Economic Review* and *Labour*.

Her research has been supported by major funders such as the National Science Foundation, the Russell Sage Foundation, and the Research Council of Norway. She has held appointments at Boston College, Boston University, and has been a Fellow at Harvard's Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

In addition to her research and teaching, Olivetti plays an active role in professional service. She organizes the NBER Gender in the Economy Summer Institute and has served on numerous program committees and editorial boards. Her contributions to the field have been recognized with awards such as the AER: Insights Excellence in Refereeing Award and invited lectures including the COSME Plenary Lecture and Al Rees Lecture.

Policy Roundtable

Objective

The economic empowerment of women remains a significant challenge in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region, despite growing awareness and concerted policy efforts. Persistent gender gaps in economic opportunities hinder not only the advancement of women but also the broader economic development of the region. This policy roundtable aims to address these disparities through multi-stakeholder dialogue and the exploration of effective, actionable strategies.

Panelists



Arup Banerji (Chair)

Director, Knowledge and Learning, World Bank

Arup Banerji is the World Bank Group's Global Director for Knowledge, championing knowledge and learning through initiatives like the WBG Academy. He previously directed operations in Eastern Europe, mobilizing \$50 billion for Ukraine, and led work in the EU and Social Protection sectors. He has written extensively on growth, labor, and poverty, and holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania.



Kathleen Beegle (Moderator)

Lead Economist, World Bank

Kathleen Beegle is a Lead Economist at the World Bank's Development Research Group, focusing on poverty, labor, and survey methods. She co-leads the Center for Research on Women and Jobs. Previously, she served as Human Development Program Leader in West Africa and with the Gender Group. She holds a PhD from Michigan State, completed a post-doc at RAND, and is an IZA Research Fellow and advisory board member.



Francesca Bettio

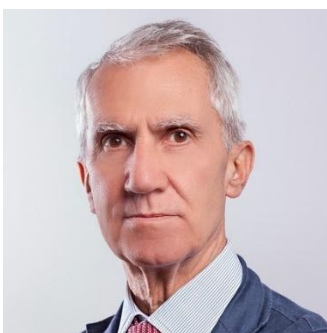
Professor of Economics, University of Siena

Francesca Bettio is Adjunct Professor of Economics at the University of Siena, where she has taught since 1991. She holds degrees from the University of Bologna, LSE, and a Ph.D. from Cambridge. Her work spans labor, population, and gender economics, with over seventy publications. She has advised the European Commission for many years, including as lead coordinator of expert networks on gender equality and female labor market issues across Europe.

**Benjamin Davis**

Director, Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division, FAO

Benjamin Davis is Director of the Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division at FAO, with over 20 years of experience in rural development, social protection, and poverty reduction. He led FAO's Strategic Programme on Rural Poverty and co-directed major impact evaluations of cash transfer programs in Sub-Saharan Africa. Previously with UNICEF and IFPRI, he has published extensively on poverty, food security, and gender, and collaborated with global development institutions.

**Luigi Guiso**

Professor, EIEF

Luigi Guiso is the Axa Professor of Household Finance at the Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance in Rome. He is a fellow of the Econometric Society and honorary foreign member of the American Economic Association. He has contributed research in the field of household finance, labor economics, firm investments and financial decisions, entrepreneurship and banking, political economy and institutions, and in the field of culture and economics.

**Kori Udovički**

President of the Governing Board and Chief Economist

Kori Udovički is founder and head of the Center for Advanced Economic Studies (CEVES) in Belgrade and a member of the UN High-Level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs. She previously served as Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy, and Governor of the National Bank of Serbia. She also held senior roles at the UNDP and IMF. She holds a PhD in economics from Yale and a BA from the University of Belgrade.

Program

DAY 1 - Thursday, May 15

9:30-10:00	<i>Registration and welcome coffee</i>
10:00-10:10	Opening – Anna Fruttero
10:10-10:30	<i>Changing the Board Game: Horizontal Spillovers of Gender Quotas</i> Luigi Guiso, EIEF (with F. Schivardi and L. Zaccaria)
10:30-10:50	<i>Gender Norms and Inefficient Reallocation of Resources</i> Martina Uccioli, Nottingham U.
10:50-11:10	<i>Sons of War: The Interplay between Conflict and Gender Norms</i> Jessica Mancuso, Collegio Carlo Alberto (with G. Ferrero)
11:10-11:20	<i>Small Coffee break</i>
11:20-11:40	<i>Working for Yourself or for Your Kids? Childcare Expansion Policy in Uzbekistan</i> Dilnovo Abdurazzakova, Central European U. (with C. Niu and A. Purevjav)
11:40-12:00	<i>Preparatory School Years and Maternal Employment in Romania</i> Monica Robayo-Abril, World Bank (with B. Rude)
12:00-13:00	Keynote Speech by Prof. Claudia Olivetti
13:00-14:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:30-14:50	<i>Closing the Gender Gap in Pensions? Pension Accrual for Unpaid Care Work and Household Behavior after Retirement</i> Qquillaccori Garcia Lopez, NHH
14:50-15:10	<i>Breaking the Divide: Can Public Spending on Social Infrastructure Boost Female Employment in Italy?</i> Jelena Reljic, Sapienza U. (with F. Zezza)
15:10-15:30	<i>The Origins of the Gender Pay Gap: Education and Job Characteristics</i> Lucia Rizzica, Banca d'Italia (with G. Bovini and M. De Philippis)
15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>

16:00-16:20	<i>Do Investments in Digital Infrastructure Advance Gender Parity: Evidence from Türkiye</i> Banu Demir, Oxford U. and Bilkent U. (with A. Grover)
16.20-16:40	<i>Intra-Household Decisions and Labor Market Outcomes – Evidence from Shared Parental Leave</i> Joao Monteiro, EIEF (with A. Ferrara and M. V. Hampole)
17:00-18:15	Policy Discussion Roundtable
18:15-18:30	<i>Group Photo</i>
18:30-20:00	<i>Cocktail Dinner (Apericena)</i>

Poster session 1 throughout the entire day

DAY 2 - Friday, May 16

09:30-09:50	<i>How Far Can Inclusion Go? The Long-Term Impacts of Preferential College Admissions</i> Enrico Miglino, Banca d'Italia (with M. Carlana and M. M. Tincani)
09:50-10:10	<i>The Aging Parent Penalty Across Countries</i> Noa De La Vega, EUI (with S. Federman)
10:10-10:30	<i>The Gender Gap in Employment Protection: The Role of Fertility and Statistical Discrimination</i> Bernardo Fanfani, Turin U. (with Y. Brilli and D. Piazzalunga)
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00-11:20	<i>Closing the Gender Gap in Entrepreneurship: Overcoming Challenges in Law and Practice for Female Entrepreneurs</i> Daniela Behr, World Bank (with Y. Xi)
11:20-11:40	<i>Breaking Barriers: Cultural Transmission and Women's Economic Empowerment</i> Murat Guray Kirdar, Koç U. (with M. Akbulut-Yuksel, A. B. Aydemir, and B. Turan)
11:40-12:00	<i>Motherhood and Women's Labor Market Trajectories in Türkiye</i> Elizaveta Perova, World Bank (with J. Baez, S. Garriga, and M. Tyurkileri)
12:00-13:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:30-13:50	<i>The Evolution of Hours Worked and the Gender Wage Gap: Theory and Evidence from Four Countries</i> Daniele Checchi, Milan U. (with D. Kreisman and C. Garcia-Penalosa)
13:50-14:10	<i>Gender Differences in the Determinants of Young NEETs: Evidence from Albania</i> Juna Miluka, UNYT (with M. Meurs)
14:10-14:30	<i>Countercyclical Fiscal Policy, Women, and the Poor</i> Zeljiko Bogetic and Shiyun Hu, World Bank (with D. Naehler, L. Zhao, and Y. Zhao)
14:30-15:00	<i>Coffee break</i>

15:00-15:20 ***Gendered Impacts of Military Conflicts on Labor Migration from Central Asia***
Britta Rude, World Bank (with L. L. Y. Bossavie, C. Ozden, and L. Zhou)

15:20-15:30 **Closing Remarks – Paola Profeta**

Poster session 2 throughout the entire day

Poster Session 1

1. ***Self-Employed Mothers: Child Penalties, Maternity Benefits, and Family Health***
Fabrizio Core, LUISS (with D. Karpati)
2. ***Daddy's Home? Paternity Leave and Female Labor Market Outcomes***
Jenny Peters, Edinburgh U.
3. ***The Tied-Mover Penalty and the Gender Earnings Gap***
Francesca Verga, DIW Berlin/FU Berlin (with C. Schluter and C. Schroder)
4. ***Gender Norms and Parental Leave***
Luisa Carrer, ESCP Business School and Lorenzo De Masi, Bank of Italy
5. ***The Geography of Jobs and Couple Migration***
Olatz Román Blanco, EUI
6. ***Does Earlier Return to Work Help Mothers' Career? Evidence via the Substitution Effect of Parental Leave***
Lili Mark, Central European U. (with A. Bíró, T. L. Molnar, and Z. Pálvölgyi)
7. ***When Schools Close: The Gendered Impact on Parental Labor Supply***
Mariana Esteves, Nova U. (with B. Carvalho, I. Duarte and S. Peralta)
8. ***Invisibility of Uzbek Migrant Women in Turkey***
Shoirakhon Nurdinova, Tashkent U. for Applied Sciences
9. ***Cultural Gender Norms and Occupational Choice***
Natalie Irmert, Lund U.
10. ***Gender Gap in the Choice of Economics: Content, Information, and Stereotypes***
Marta Martínez-Matute, U. Autónoma de Madrid

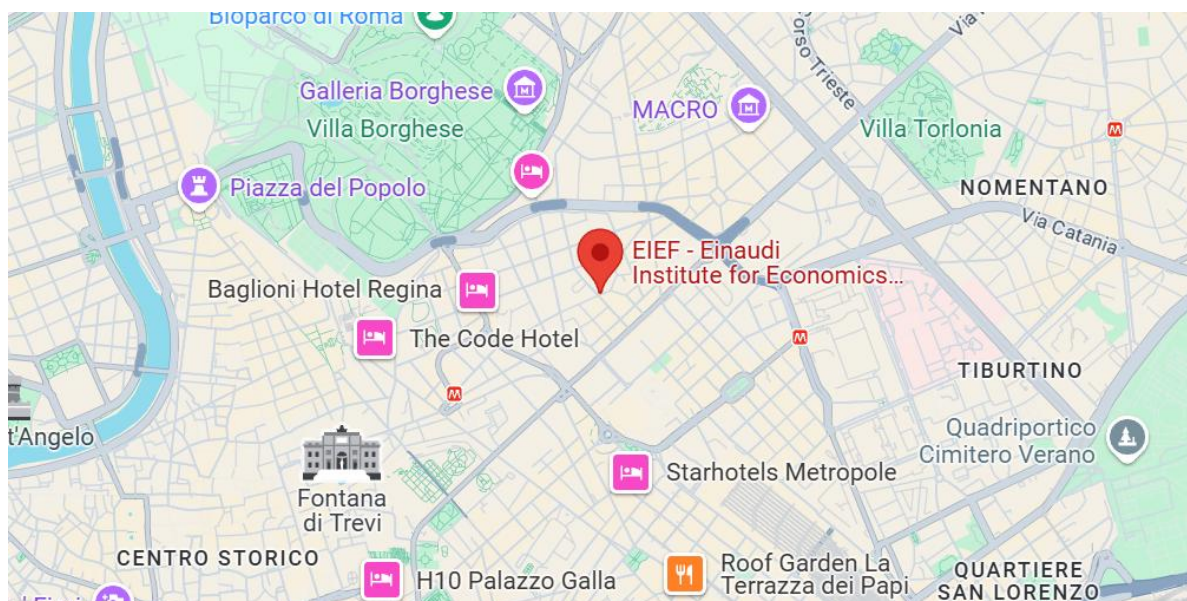
Poster Session 2

11. ***Financial Aspects Count As Well: the Relationship Between Social Desirability of Women's Entrepreneurship and Their Motivation and Business Success***
Danijela Stošić Panić, Niš U. and Aleksandra Janeska-Iliev, Ss.Cyril and Methodius U.
12. ***Female Representation in Entrepreneurship: Role of Early Exposure***
Viola Salvestrini, Bocconi U. (with M. Mertz and M. Ronchi)
13. ***The Entrepreneurial Gender Gap: The Role of Motherhood***
Ashley Wong, Tilburg U. (with M. Ferrando, F. Truffa and T. Tsankova)
14. ***Can Female Directors Shrink the Gender Gap? Evidence from France***
Louise Paul-Delvaux, World Bank (with F. X. Ladant)
15. ***Does Exposure to Female STEM Professionals Reduce the Gender Gap?***
Bamert Justus, ETH
16. ***Beyond Social Mobility – The Gender-Class Pay Gap***
David Wittekopf, EUI (with R. Kind)
17. ***The Hidden Half of Success: How Including Family Life in Career Narratives Shapes Students' Aspirations***
Dilnovoz Abdurazzakova, Central European U.
18. ***Bella Ciao! The Political Legacy of Women in the Italian Resistance***
Carmela Accettura, Carlos III Madrid U.
19. ***The Intersection of Gender Data Gaps and AI: Redefining Future Workplace***
Azra Bećirović, Agency for Statistics of BiH

Settings and Logistics

Conference Venue: The workshop will take place at the [IEF](#) 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 € 48,00 flat; supplements might be asked for 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 3rd 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 € 30,00 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 15th 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 3rd 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 3rd 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.

Internet Access:

Contact numbers

Your main points of contact with any questions will be:

- Chiara Broccolini: cbroccolini@worldbank.org +39 349 71 66 980
- Susana Palomar: susana.palomar@eief.it
- EIEF: +39 06 6797105; +39 06 4792 3089

PHOTO AND BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS (alphabetical order)



Dilnovoz Abdurazzakova

PhD Candidate, Central European University

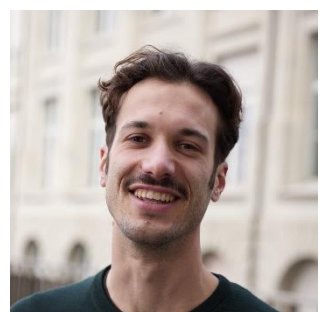
Dilnovoz Abdurazzakova is a PhD candidate in Economics at Central European University and a consultant at the World Bank. Her research uses experimental methods to examine how education, childcare, and labor policies impact women's economic empowerment in developing countries, with a focus on Central Asia. She previously served as a PhD research fellow at the Center for International Development at Harvard University.



Carmela Accettura

PhD Candidate, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

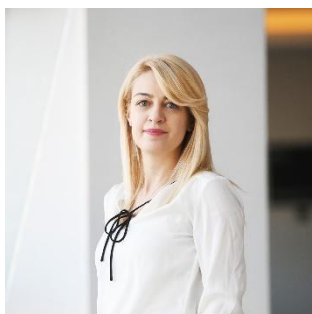
Carmela Accettura is a PhD candidate in Economics at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid and will soon be on the job market. She recently completed a visiting stay at the University of British Columbia. Her research spans gender economics, political economy, and economic history. At her poster session "Bella Ciao!", she examines how women's participation in the Italian Resistance influenced lasting gender norms and political representation.



Justus Bamert

PhD Candidate, ETH Zurich

Justus Bamert is a PhD candidate in Economics at ETH Zurich. He works on topics in labor and education economics. His research focuses on understanding gender disparities in the labor market, particularly gaps between women and men in career choices and on the causes for the motherhood penalty in the labor market.



Azra Bećirović

Junior Officer, BiH Agency for Statistics

Azra Bećirović is a Junior Officer at Bosnia and Herzegovina's Agency for Statistics, focusing on SDGs, R&D, and data dissemination. Her work emphasizes sustainability, human rights, and corporate accountability. Active in civil society, she is President of UCDEF and Secretary of Horizont 2024. Azra is pursuing a PhD in Civil and Commercial Law and holds degrees in Law from the University of Travnik and Harvard's Certificate in Sustainable Business Strategy.



Daniela Behr

Economist, World Bank

Daniela Behr is an Economist at the World Bank's Women, Business and the Law project, where she leads research on women's property rights, financial inclusion, and entrepreneurship. Since 2018, she has worked on housing, agribusiness regulations, and IFC impact assessments. Daniela holds a PhD in political economy and previously worked with GIZ and as a research fellow in Germany and the U.S.



Olatz Román Blanco

Olatz Roman Blanco is a PhD researcher in Economics at the European University Institute in Florence. His research explores how gendered behaviors, and geographic factors shape labor market and family decisions of individuals and couples. The first strand of his work focuses on family decisions, studying the determinants and dynamics of relationship quality and its interaction with household specialization. The second examines the consequences of gender differences in occupational choices.



Željko Bogetic

Lead Economist, World Bank

Željko Bogetic is Lead Economist for Economic Policy in the MENA Region at the World Bank, overseeing work on Egypt, Yemen, Djibouti, and macro-climate policy. He has held senior roles across regions, including in the IMF and World Bank's Independent Evaluation Group. With over 30 years of experience, he has published widely on macroeconomic policy, climate change, and public finance. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Connecticut.



Luisa Carrer

Assistant Professor, ESCP Business School

Luisa Carrer is an Assistant Professor of Economics at ESCP Business School. She received my Ph.D. from the Toulouse School of Economics and was previously a postdoc at Bocconi and a visiting researcher at Stanford. Her research focuses on diversity and discrimination in corporate governance and policymaking, particularly concerning gender issues.



Daniele Checchi

Professor, University of Milano

Daniele Checchi is professor of economics at the University of Milan (Italy). He is the former Director of the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) and of the Research Department at INPS, Italy's national social security agency. His work focuses on income distribution, labor markets, and the design and impact of welfare systems across countries.



Fabrizio Core

Assistant Professor, LUISS

Fabrizio Core is tenure-track Assistant Professor of Corporate Finance at LUISS "Guido Carli". His interests span entrepreneurship, financial intermediation, and empirical corporate finance. Prior to joining LUISS, he was Assistant Professor of Finance at the Erasmus School of Economics, Erasmus University Rotterdam, from 2020 to 2024. He holds a PhD in Finance from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences.

**Noa De La Vega**

Max Weber Fellow and Part-Time Assistant Professor, EUI

Noa De La Vega is a Max Weber Fellow and part-time Assistant Professor at the European University Institute. She holds a PhD from Tel Aviv University and specializes in labor, gender, and health economics. Her research explores how individuals balance work and family, focusing on gender differences in the labor market and informal caregiving.

**Lorenzo De Masi**

Economist, Bank of Italy

Lorenzo De Masi is currently working as an economist at the Directorate General for Economics, Statistics and Research of the Bank of Italy, within the Statistical Analysis Division. He is also a PhD candidate at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, where he is about to defend his dissertation on the role of gender norms in shaping political decisions and the effectiveness of public policies. His main research interests lie in gender economics, political economy, and labor economics.

**Banu Demir**

Associate Professor of Economics, University of Oxford

Banu Demir is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Oxford. She was a Visiting Assistant Professor at Princeton (2016–2017) and a Visiting Fellow at LSE's Centre for Economic Performance (2022). She is a Research Affiliate at CEPR and CESifo. She earned her DPhil from Oxford in 2012. Her research explores international trade, firm dynamics, and environmental economics, focusing on trade policy, productivity, and sustainability using micro-level data.

**Mariana Esteves**

PhD Candidate, Nova SBE

Mariana Esteves is a PhD candidate in Economics and Finance at Nova SBE, specializing in labor market and gender economics. She has extensive experience working with administrative and survey microdata. In addition to her academic research, she has co-authored several policy reports on poverty, inequality, and social exclusion, contributing to discussions on evidence-based policy design.

**Bernardo Fanfani**

Assistant Professor, University of Torino

Bernardo Fanfani is an Assistant Professor at the University of Torino. He is Research Fellow at CRILDA, IZA and LABORatorio R. Revelli. He received his PhD from the University of Torino and Collegio Carlo Alberto. His research focuses on the determinants and dynamics of wage inequality, labor market discrimination, impact evaluation of labor market policies, industrial relations, and collective bargaining.

Anna Fruttero**Quillaccori García López**

PhD student, Norwegian School of Economics (NHH)

Quillaccori García López is a third-year PhD student at the Norwegian School of Economics (NHH) and affiliated with the Center for Empirical Labor Economics at FAIR. Her main research interests lie within labor and public economics. In her current projects, she studies how policy design can influence whether social insurance mitigates or magnifies inequalities that arise earlier in life but have important consequences for individual welfare during old age.

**Luigi Guiso**

Professor, EIEF

Luigi Guiso is the Axa Professor of Household Finance at the Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance in Rome. He is a fellow of the Econometric Society and honorary foreign member of the American Economic Association. He has contributed research in the field of household finance, labor economics, firm investments and financial decisions, entrepreneurship and banking, political economy and institutions, and in the field of culture and economics.

**Shiyun Hu**

Consultant, World Bank

Shiyun Hu is a consultant at the World Bank and a PhD candidate in Finance at Peking University. He previously worked at China's Development Research Center, focusing on business environments. His research interests include the economics of AI, digital economy, and applied econometrics, with publications in *Economics Letters*, *Academy of Management Proceedings*, and Chinese academic journals.

**Natalie Irmert**

PhD Candidate, Lund University

Natalie Irmert is a PhD student in Economics at Lund University, specializing in labor economics and education. Her main research examines the drivers of gender segregation in occupational choice, focusing on men's reluctance to enter female-dominated fields. She also studies how educational inputs—such as teachers and technology—can enhance student learning and reduce inequalities.

**Murat Kirdar**

Professor, Koç University

Murat Kirdar is a professor of economics at Koç University, Istanbul. He holds a BA degree from the University of Michigan (1998) and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania (2004). His research spans the fields of economics, demography, and development. He works primarily in the areas of immigration and education. He has served as an Associate Editor of the *European Economic Review* since January 2018.

**Lili Márk**

PhD Candidate, Central European University

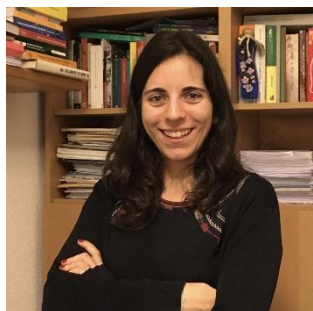
Lili Márk is a PhD candidate in Economics at Central European University, specializing in labor economics. Her research covers parental leave, payroll tax cuts, and sickness insurance. She is part of the "Health and Population" research group at HUN-REN and previously worked as a policy analyst at the Budapest Institute and as a researcher at the Government Transparency Institute.



Jessica Mancuso

PhD Candidate, University of Turin

Jessica Mancuso is a PhD candidate in Economics at the University of Turin and a Doctoral Fellow at the Collegio Carlo Alberto. Her research focuses on development and gender economics, with a particular interest in social norms, son preference, and health. She has conducted fieldwork and managed an impact evaluation in India and has collaborated with international organizations including the OECD Development Centre.



Marta Martínez-Matute

Associate Professor, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

Marta Martínez-Matute is Associate Professor at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, teaches at Syracuse University (Madrid Campus), and is Research Affiliate at IZA. She previously worked at the Banco de España. Her research focuses on labor economics, education, and public policy, emphasizing gender disparities. She has led national and international projects and published in top journals, including Journal of Public Economics, Review of Economics of the Household, and LABOUR.



Enrico Miglino

Economist, Bank of Italy

Enrico Miglino is an Economist at the DG for Economics, Statistics and Research of the Bank of Italy, Law and Economics Division. His research interests lie at the intersection of public economics, labor economics, education and political economy. In particular he studies the optimal design of public policies and public organizations, with a particular focus on incentives, mismatch and misallocation.



Juna Miluka

Associate Professor and Dean, University of New York, Tirana

Juna Miluka is Associate Professor and Dean at the Faculty of Economy and Business, University of New York, Tirana. She holds a PhD from American University, Washington, DC. Her work focuses on labor markets, poverty, gender inequality, and impact evaluation. She has collaborated with international organizations and co-authored Albania's first Gender Equality Index report.



Joao Monteiro

Assistant Professor at EIEF

Joao Monteiro is an Assistant Professor at EIEF. He holds a PhD in Finance from Northwestern University. His research interests include corporate finance, macroeconomics, and international economics.



Shoirakhon Nurdinova

Associate Professor, Tashkent University

Shoirakhon Nurdinova is an Associate Professor at Tashkent University of Applied Sciences with a PhD in Economics. Her research focuses on happiness economics, gender, and labor migration in Central Asia. She has held positions at Erasmus Happiness Economics Research Organization and Indiana University. With over 15 years of experience, she has led projects for the Aga Khan Foundation, USAID, UNDP, IOM, and others, supporting entrepreneurship, skills development, and labor policies.



Danijela Stošić Panić

Associate Professor, Nis University, Serbia

Danijela Stošić Panić, PhD, is Associate Professor of Business Management at the Faculty of Economics in Niš, Serbia. Her research focuses on entrepreneurship, strategic, and operations management. She leads a Serbian Science Fund project on women's entrepreneurship and serves as a reviewer for national accreditation bodies. An Open Society alumna and Austrian Academy of Science fellow, she has held academic positions in Austria, Cyprus, and the USA.



Louise Paul-Delvaux

Research Economist, World Bank

Louise Paul-Delvaux is a Research Economist in the World Bank's Development Research Group. Her work focuses on labor markets in low-income settings and gender disparities in employment and income. Recent projects examine minimum wages and gender gaps in Morocco, board gender quotas in France, and managers' roles in parental leave. She holds a PhD in Economics from Harvard University.

**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.

**Elisaveta Perova**

Senior Economist, World Bank

Dr. Elizaveta Perova is a Senior Economist at the Poverty and Equity Group in the Europe and Central Asia region. Previously, she led East Asia and Pacific Gender Innovation Lab (EAPGIL), which focuses on generating evidence on what works to advance gender equality. She is a micro-economist by training, and has worked on poverty measurement, labor, migration and gender equality. She received her MPP and Ph.D. from UC Berkeley.

**Jenny Peters**

PhD Candidate, University of Edinburgh

Jenny is a PhD candidate in Economics at the University of Edinburgh, specializing in macro family, household, and gender economics. Her research focuses on paternity leave, fertility, and labor market gender gaps. She combines empirical analysis with structural modeling and is currently a visiting researcher at CUNEF Universidad. She will be on the academic job market in 2026/27.

Paola Profeta



Jelena Reljic

Assistant Professor of Economic Policy, Sapienza University

Jelena Reljic is an Assistant Professor of Economic Policy at Sapienza University of Rome, where she teaches Economics of Innovation. Her research interests centre on the impact of technological progress on employment and job quality, as well as the role of fiscal policies in fostering inclusive labour markets. Beyond academia, she has provided expertise to various national and international institutions, including the European Commission and the International Labour Organization.



Lucia Rizzica

Economist, Bank of Italy

Lucia Rizzica is an economist at the Bank of Italy, where she works in the Economic Structure Directorate. She joined the institution in 2013. She holds a PhD in Economics from University College London. Her research focuses primarily on labor economics, with particular interest in issues related to gender, education, and crime..



Monica Robayo-Abril

Senior Economist, Poverty & Equity Global Practice, World Bank

Monica Robayo-Abril focuses on poverty, inequality, labor markets, and the distributional impacts of policy reforms, with a strong emphasis on gender equity. She has led analytical work across Europe, Central Asia, and Latin America on issues such as energy subsidy reforms, fiscal policy, and inclusive labor markets. Monica holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Georgetown University and has published extensively on gender-sensitive and evidence-based policy design.

Britta Rude (photo and picture to come)



Viola Salvestrini

Research Fellow, Bocconi University

Viola Salvestrini is a Research Fellow at the AXA Research Lab on Gender Equality at Bocconi University, and a Research Affiliate at IZA Institute of Labor Economics. She received a PhD in Economics from Queen Mary University of London. Her research interests lie in applied microeconomics, with a focus on gender economics, personnel economics, and labor economics.

**Francesca Verga**

PhD Candidate, DIW Berlin and Free University Berlin

Francesca Verga is a PhD candidate at DIW Berlin and Free University Berlin. She holds a MSc in Economics from the Catholic University of Milan. Before starting the PhD, she worked as a trainee at the Joint Research Centre in Ispra and at the ECB. Her research interests lie in labour, gender and family economics.

**Martina Uccioli**

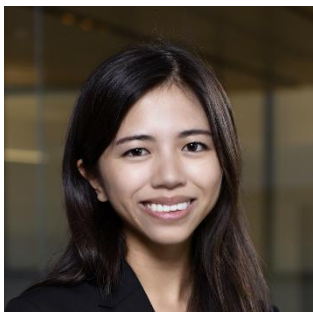
Assistant Professor, University of Nottingham

Martina Uccioli is an Assistant Professor at the University of Nottingham and an IZA research affiliate. Her research investigates the causes and consequences of gender gaps in the labor market and in the household. In particular, she studies how work arrangements can disproportionately affect maternal labor supply, and how gender norms can hinder an efficient reallocation of resources following economic shocks.

**David Wittekopf**

PhD Candidate, European University Institute

David Wittekopf is a PhD candidate in Economics at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence. His research focuses on labor economics, with a particular interest in how socio-economic background affects labor market outcomes. He currently studies topics such as skilled worker shortages, and class-based inequality, combining empirical and theoretical approaches. Previously, he worked as a Research Analyst in the Prices and Costs Division of the European Central Bank.

**Ashley Wong**

Assistant Professor, Tilburg University

Ashley Wong is Assistant Professor of Economics at Tilburg University. Her research focuses on labor and gender economics, especially diversity and innovation. She is an invited researcher at J-PAL's Science for Progress Initiative and a CESifo Affiliate. Previously a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford's SIEPR, she received the 2024 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowship.