

Virginia Fidenti

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1 Personal information

Citizenship: Italian Born: June 1998, Genoa (Italy)

2 Current Position

- **PhD Candidate in Public Governance, Management and Policy**, University of Bologna, Department of Economics, 11/2024 –
 - Preliminary Title: *Income Support and Poverty Alleviation: Evidence from Togo, France, and Brazil*
 - Supervisor: Prof. Paolo Verme
- **Visiting at Chaire Économie Sociale, Protection et Société**, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, 01/2026 –
 - Research topic: *Children's Aspirations and the Role of Welfare Support in France*
- **Member of the International PhD College**, University of Bologna, Collegio Superiore, 11/2024 –
 - Honors program for academic excellence – full rent coverage
 - Dissemination project: *Explain it Like I'm AI: Decoding AI – Without Panic, Beyond Hype*
- **Teaching Assistant**, University of Bologna
 - *Crash Course in Principles of Economics* [88611], since 2023/2024

3 Academic & Professional Service

- **PhD Representative**, Public Governance, Management and Policy PhD Programme, University of Bologna, 11/2025 – present
- **Spokesperson**, "Explain it Like I'm AI: Decoding AI – Without Panic, Beyond Hype", Collegio Superiore, University of Bologna, 03/2025 – present

4 Education

- **Honours Programme Talete**, University of Trento and Centre for International Cooperation, 2024.
 - Workshops on Qualitative Interview Methodologies (Preparation, Conduct and Analysis) and GIS
 - Eurodesign for International Cooperation: Advanced Course of Project Cycle Management
 - Basic Monitoring and Evaluation Course (PCM)
 - Seminar "Help & Safety: Security in International Cooperation Contexts"
 - Soft Skills Workshops on: 1) Team-Work 2) Intercultural Soft Skills 3) Interpersonal Soft Skills
- **M.Sc. in European and International Studies** (110/110 cum laude), University of Trento, 2023.
 - Courses in economics, history, law, political science and sociology
 - Thesis in Development Economics: "*Bolsa Família Programme and its Impact on Female Recipients: a Qualitative Meta-Analysis*". Supervisor: Prof. Stefano Schiavo.
 - Final grade: 110 cum laude with a weighted average of 28.92 over 30.
- **B.A. in Development and International Cooperation** (110/110 cum laude), Department of Statistical Sciences "Paolo Fortunati", University of Bologna, 2020.
 - Curriculum covering economic, political-institutional, and social development
 - Thesis in Economic Sociology: "*Society and Mental Health: The Phenomenon of Modern Type Depression and the Figure of Hikikomori*". Supervisor: Prof. Federico Chicchi.
 - Final grade: 110 cum laude with a weighted average of 28.64 over 30.

5 Previous Positions

- **Research Fellow**, University of Bologna, Department of Economics, 3/2024 – 10/2024
 - Inequality of Educational Opportunities (PRIN 2022 Prot. P2022C572P), 1 year (pre-doc experience)
 - Analysis of educational inequality using survey and administrative data
- **Project Management Intern**, Fondazione WeWorld in Dar es Salam, Tanzania, 08/2023 – 11/2023
“PAMOJA TUDUMISHE ELIMU”
 - Collection, evaluation of data reliability and consistency, and data analysis for needs assessments
 - Activity planning and implementation, focusing on budget allocation and monitoring of expenditure
 - Monitoring project activities and developing/updating monitoring tools
 - Reporting of information about the project’s progress
 - Preparation of narrative annual reports about the implemented activities and past projectsNoteworthy: Awarded a 2100€ scholarship for the postgraduate internship abroad.
- **MAECI CRUI Intern**, Italian Embassy in Brasilia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, 10/2022 – 12/2022.
 - Conducted research, studies, analysis, and fact-checking on Brazil’s political and electoral context
 - Monitored and processed original text and multimedia content for the Embassy’s social channels
 - Revised the Embassy’s website, focusing on (inclusive) language, functioning, layout, and content.
- **Graduate Visiting Researcher**, Centro de Estudos em Administração Pública e Governo (CEAPG), Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV), São Paulo, Brazil, 09/2022 – 12/2022.
 - Three-month research project for Master’s thesis at the Centro de Estudos em Administração Pública e Governo (CEAPG), aligning with the centre’s focus on the “Vulnerabilities” strand.
 - Qualitative meta-analysis and informal interviews, applying a feminist lens to scrutinize the impact of the Brazilian Conditional Cash Transfer “Bolsa Família” on female empowerment
 - Reference Professor: Lauro Emilio Gonzalez FariasNoteworthy: Awarded a 2100€ scholarship for research thesis abroad.

6 Further Education

- BREAD-IGC *PhD Course on Social Protection*, International Growth Centre, 16/09/2025 – 02/12/2026
- Masterclass *Il diritto alla Cura: un approccio interdisciplinare*, Collegio Superiore Bologna, Bertinoro, 13–15/11/2025
- Summer School in *Microeconometrics and Policy Evaluation - Modern estimation methods and machine learning*, Paris School of Economics (PSE), 16-20/06/2025.
- Summer School in *Development Economics*, Italian Development Economist Association, Prato – University of Verona and Centre for Development Economics and Sustainability of Monash University, 10-11/06/2024.
- SUXR: studenti universitari/e per i/le rifugiati/e, University of Trento, 04/03/2022 – 06/05/2022.
- ERASMUS+ Programme, Metropolitan University of Prague, 09/2021 – 02/2022.
- Diploma Ingenious Cross Disciplinary Project 799G52, Linköping University (in the European Consortium of Innovative Universities ECIU), 07/2021 – 12/2021.
 - App design for the security system ‘Natalia Project’ – Civil Rights Defenders NGO
 - Final grade: Pass with distinction
- Summer School In Psychological Humanities And Cognitive Science, University of Trento, 05-16/07/2021.
 - Seminars on mental disorders, well-being and empathy, trauma management and promoting inclusion
 - Selected for one of the two free places for students at the University of Trento
- ERASMUS+ Programme, Maastricht University, 07/2019 – 02/2020.

7 Research Interests

Inequality and Poverty, Public Policies Evaluation, Development and Gender Studies.

8 Working in progress

1. "Disasters and Grades: How Nature's Fury Impacts High School Performance and Future Prospects", 2024, with Giuseppe Pignataro and Luca Bonacini
2. "Average and Distributional Impacts of Novissi in Togo: Evidence on Wealth, Per Capita Consumption and Subjective Poverty", 2026

9 Seminars, Workshops and Conferences

Seminars

- "Income Support and Poverty Alleviation: Evidence from Togo, France, and Brazil", Chaire ESoPS (Économie Sociale, Protection et Société), Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, 30/01/2026.

Conferences and Workshops (by application)

- *Workshop on "Poverty, Inequality and Intergenerational Mobility: Measurement Issues, Empirical Evidence and Policies"* to present the working in progress "Disasters and Grades: How Nature's Fury Impacts High School Performance and Future Prospects"; University of Sapienza, Rome, 5-6/09/2024
- Selected (not participating) with the paper "Non-State Child Welfare Provision and Associated Burden on Women in Brazil: A Qualitative Meta-Analysis of Bolsa Família Programme" at the *World Congress for Social Economics "Social Economics in a Time of Interlocking Crises"*; Association for Social Economics, University of Massachusetts Boston, 5-6/06/2024.

10 Professional In-Kind and Data Sharing Agreements using Administrative Data

- Investigator in the Research Team:
 - We World Tanzania: "Equality of Opportunity: Remedial Interventions in Tanzania", 5/2024 – present

Supported by the University of Bologna through the Global South Grant 2024, promoting international cooperation initiatives in development.

11 Scholarships and Grants

- Collegio Superiore Mobility Grant, University of Bologna Funded research mobility at Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris), 6 months (€3,500), a.y. 2025/2026
- Marco Polo Mobility Grant, University of Bologna Funded research mobility at Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris), 6 months (€6,900), a.y. 2025/2026
- Pre-doc Fellowship "Inequality of Educational Opportunities" (PRIN 2022 Prot. P2022C572P, University of Bologna, 03/2024 – 02/2025
- Postgraduation Internship Scholarship at WeWorld Tanzania, University of Trento, 08–11/2023 (€2100)
- Research Thesis Abroad Scholarship at Fundação Getulio Vargas, University of Trento, 09 – 12/2022 (€2100)
- Erasmus+ Metropolitan University of Prague, University of Trento, 10/2021 – 02/2022
- Erasmus+ Maastricht University, University of Bologna, 09/2019 – 01/2020

12 Teaching Activities

Lecturer (Postgraduate – University of Bologna)

- Since A.y. 2023/2024: *Crash Course in Principles of Economics*, Master in Law, Economics and Governance (20 hrs per year)

Teaching Assistance (Graduate – University of Bologna)

- A.y. 2024/2025: *Social Statistics*, Bachelor in Social Work (20 hrs)
- A.y. 2024/2025: *Qualitative and Quantitative Methods II*, Bachelor in European Studies (30 hrs)

13 Dissemination

Media Coverage

- Lavoce.info: *Una questione di opportunità: così la povertà nega il futuro ai bambini*;
- MENABÒ DI ETICA ED ECONOMIA: *Fidenti V. and Pignataro G. (2024). Uguaglianza di Opportunità: la Complessità delle Aspirazioni nel Contesto della Povertà Minorile, Menabò di Etica ed Economia, vol. 218, ISSN: 1594-7599**;

Outreach Activities

- Spokesperson and co-host of two podcast episodes of *Explain it Like I'm AI*, Bologna University Press, 2025.
- *LaBo2030* project: Delivered 4-hour lectures on social justice and economic opportunities at a local high school, University of Bologna, 01/2025.

14 Memberships

- ADI Member – *Doctoral Students and Graduates Association in Italy*
- IAFFE Member – *International Association for Feminist*

15 Languages

Italian (native speaker). Fluent in English. Fair knowledge of Portuguese and Spanish.

16 Technical Skills

- **Data Analysis and Programming:** Stata (advanced), R and Positron, Python (intermediate), QGIS (basic)
- **Document Preparation:** L^AT_EX, Microsoft Office, Google Workspace
- **Research Tools:** Zotero, Kobo Toolbox, Adobe Acrobat
- **Collaboration Platforms:** Zoom, Microsoft Teams
- **AI Tools:** Claude, Perplexity, Manus, LitMaps, and other AI-assisted research tools