

Francesca Delfini



Contact

Tel: (+39) 3892420593

Email: francesca.delfini2@unibo.it / francesca.delfini@learlab.com

Institutional webpage: [Francesca Delfini — Università di Bologna — Home Page](#)

About Me

I am a PhD Candidate at the University of Bologna, Department of Economics. My research interests are competition policy, public policy evaluation, and industrial organization.

I earned a Master of Science in Economics from the Tor Vergata University of Rome. I have worked as a Research Assistant at Lear and at the Tor Vergata University of Rome. I have collaborated with Lear as part of my PhD Programme on policy evaluation projects.

Education

PhD in Public Governance, Management and Policy *University of Bologna - Department of Economics*

November 2024 – Present

Supervisor: *Professor Elena Argentesi*

Co-Supervisor: *Dott. Salvatore Nava (Lear)*

The research project is in the field of competition policy. In particular, my doctoral research aims to assess the effectiveness of State Aid in the European aviation sector and its impact on market dynamics and competition.

My current research project focuses on the effectiveness of Start-Up aid granted to airlines, a specific form of State aid aimed at supporting the opening of new routes from European airports, with the objective of increasing passenger traffic and regional connectivity. My work seeks to assess their impact on passenger volumes and on a connectivity index that I am developing, and to evaluate the measure's potential cost in terms of distortions of competition in the airline market. To this end, I work with a proprietary dataset on flights to and from European airports, as well as with a dataset on State aid granted to airports and airlines, which I have constructed using data from the European Commission's Transparency Award Module and National State Aid Transparency Registers.

Extra-curricular courses attended: Econometric Methods for Policy Evaluation (G. Barone), Python for Economists (P. Rossi), Microeconometrics (C. Monfardini), Causal Inference (M. Fort), Industrial Organization (V. Denicolò)

Master of Science in Economics *Tor Vergata University of Rome*

September 2022 – October 2024

110/110 cum laude

Thesis: *A two-sided market analysis for the fair remuneration of EETS: principles and estimation of environmental effects*, **Supervisor:** *Professor Paolo Buccirossi*

The European Electronic Toll Service (EETS) market configures a two-sided market, where the two-sides, the Toll Charger and the road user, are connected by a platform, i.e. the EETS Provider. Economic literature

finds that multi-sided markets' pricing rules differ significantly from those of one-sided ones. The aim of this work is to identify criteria on which the fair remuneration of EETS Providers should be based, and provide an empirical estimate, considering also the significant positive externalities generated by the service.

Modules: Advanced Econometrics, Time Series, Advanced Statistics, Mathematics, Industrial Organization, Competition Economics and Policy, Advanced Microeconomics, Macroeconomics

Bachelor's Degree in Economics *University of Roma Tre*

October 2019 – July 2022

110/110 cum laude

Thesis: *The GE-Honeywell Case*, **Supervisor:** *Professor Eleonora Pierucci*

Modules: Statistics for Economic Applications, Applied Economics, Industrial Organization

Experience

External Consultant - Lear

November 2024 – November 2025

As part of the GOMAP PhD Programme of the University of Bologna, I have worked with Lear on Policy Evaluation Projects, being mainly involved in data collection, quantitative analysis and collection and review of existing relevant evidence. I have worked as a member of the **Project Team** for the **Evaluation Support Study for the Revision of the Guidelines on State Aid to Airports and Airlines**. As part of the Data Team, I conducted analyses based on a comprehensive panel dataset covering all flights from EU airports for the period 2014-2023, as well as data collected through stakeholder surveys and State Aid data from EC Competition Case Search Tool and EC Transparency Register. I have focused on studying EU airline market dynamics and entry and exit trends, investigating closures of regional airports and their underlying drivers, mapping State aid measures granted to airports and airlines, and analyzing the environmental impact of distributing flights between hub and regional airports.

Research Assistant - Lear

March 2024 – September 2024

I have worked on practices including litigation, competition economics and policy assessment, being mainly involved in data collection and analysis, as well as desk research and report drafting. Through this experience, I had the opportunity to work within a team of economists applying microeconomic modelling and econometric tools to competition and regulatory issues. It allowed me to apply the theoretical and quantitative tools acquired during my studies to real-world competition policy cases and to strengthen my analytical skills.

Relevant projects: Assessment of the fair remuneration of EETS Providers, Evaluation of the anti-competitive effects of a new regulation in the payment and settlement sector, Damage quantification for bid rigging in the watering meters market, Damages actions in the corrugated cardboard industry.

Software: Stata, Python, and Microsoft Office.

Academic Internship: Competition in Auctions *Tor Vergata University of Rome*

January 2024 -February 2024

Under the guidance of Professor Eloisa Campioni, I have studied the basic models and results of competition in auctions, making a comparison among them, especially focusing on the drivers of different results, analyzing all the main works and producing a critical synthesis of them. The internship has allowed me to develop methodological skills related to the analysis of incomplete information games and knowledge about auction mechanisms both theoretically and empirically grounded, with a special focus on competitive mechanisms.

Languages

Italian *Mother tongue*

English *Fluent*

Spanish *Basic*

Computer programming

Stata *Advanced*

Microsoft Office *Advanced*

Python *Intermediate*

R *Basic*

MATLAB *Basic*

