

Cristina Specchi

PhD Candidate in Economics (PhD: Public Governance, Management and Policy)
Department of Economics, University of Bologna

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Applied Microeconomics | Economics of Education | Gender Economics

Research Fields

Primary: Applied Econometrics; Economics of Education; Gender Economics.

Secondary: Policy Evaluation; Household Economics; Public Policy.

Current Position

University of Bologna

Bologna (IT)

PhD in Public Governance, Management, and Policy – Expected: March 2027

2023 - Ongoing

Research topics: Education Economics; Applied Economics; Gender Economics

Supervisors: Prof. Natalia Montinari; Prof. Veronica Rattini

Education

Sciences Po

Paris (FR)

Visiting Researcher – Centre for Research on Social Inequalities (CRIS - Sciences Po)

Fall 2025 - Spring 2026

Research topics: Education Economics and Sociology; Social Inequalities

Host: Prof. Carlo Barone

University of Bologna

Bologna (IT)

Master's Degree in Economics and Political Economy

2018 - 2022

Dissertation: Right to Study and Educational Opportunities: Empirical Evidence on ER.GO's scholarship holders

University of Bologna

Bologna (IT)

Bachelor's Degree in Social, Political and International Sciences

2015 - 2018

Dissertation: Public University Funding and the Effects on the Student Component

Maastricht University

Maastricht (NL)

Erasmus+

Fall 2017

Exchange student in the bachelor program *European Studies* at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Work in Progress

Work in Progress

- [1] “*Driving Integration and Influence: Policy Diffusion, Entrepreneurship, and Europe's Soft Power through European University Alliances*” (with Cino Pagliarello, M., and Gunn, A.) – **Revise & Resubmit European Policy Analysis**
- [2] “*How Gender Norms Shape Educational Achievement: A Causal Analysis Through Peer Influence*” (**JMP**, with Rattini, V.).
- [3] “*The Effect of Anticipating Performance Requirements in Need-based Grants: A Natural Experiment.*” (**ongoing**, with Bonacini, L., and G. Pignataro).
- [4] “*University Students in Pandemic Times*” (**ongoing**, with Bonacini, L., and G. Pignataro).
- [5] “*On the Impact of High School on Academic Performance*” (**ongoing**, with Bonacini, L., and G. Pignataro).

Completed projects

- [1] “*Gender differences in motivation and academic performance*” AEA RCT Registry AEARCTR-0011431 (**2023**, with Bernhofer, J., Bonacini, L., and G. Pignataro).

References

- Prof. Natalia Montinari
Department of Economics, University of Bologna
✉ natalia.montinari2[at]unibo.it
- Prof. Veronica Rattini
Department of Economics, University of Bologna
✉ veronica.rattini2[at]unibo.it
- Dr. Marina Cino Pagliarello
European University Institute
✉ marina.cinopagliarello[at]eui.eu

Experience

Research Assistant

European University Institute

Bologna (IT)

02/2024 - 05/2025

- Project: HEIDI - Higher Education Informal Diplomacy: the case of the European Universities Initiative (Horizon Europe Grant Agreement no. 101109231)
- Tutor: Dr. Marina Cino Pagliarello
- Participation in the design of a survey; Implementation and management of the survey in Qualtrics; Participation in the analysis of responses; Collaboration in the production of an internal report and a policy brief; Support in the design and conducting of qualitative interviews; Liaising with university leaders and alliance managers; Analysis of qualitative interviews using MAXQDA.

Research Assistant

University of Bologna

Bologna (IT)

10/2022 - 10/2023

- Project: Inequality of educational opportunities in *Unibo* (AlmaIda 2022 Project no J33C22001420001).
- Tutor: Prof. Giuseppe Pignataro
- Participation in dataset construction, data analysis, and description of administrative datasets on university students; Participation in meetings with right-to-study managers to conduct surveys; Participation in the design, implementation, and management of a Qualtrics survey (RCT), and analysis of responses using Stata and RStudio. Drafting of internal reports and academic papers.

Teaching

Teaching Assistant

University of Bologna

Bologna (IT)

2025

- Econometric Models (undergraduate)
- Current Public Policy Issues (graduate)
- Crash Course in Economics (graduate)

Publications

Articles in scientific journals

- [1] “*Diritto allo studio, scadenze e requisiti accademici. Un’analisi sperimentale*” (with Pignataro, G.). Focus, in Menabò di Etica ed Economia, February 13, 2024. ISSN: 1594-7599
- [2] “*Istruzione terziaria e finanziamenti pubblici: un’opportunità di crescita?*” (with Bonacini, L., and G. Pignataro). Focus, in Menabò di Etica ed Economia, July 3, 2023. ISSN: 1594-7599

Book Chapters, Briefs & Reports

Book Chapters

- [1] “*Uguaglianza delle opportunità educative*” (with Mele, F., and Pignataro, G.). Book chapter, in Gentili, A. and G. Pignataro (edited by), *Disuguaglianze e Istruzione in Italia: dalla Scuola Primaria all’Università*, pp. 71-98, 2020, Bologna: Carocci Editore S.p.a. ISBN: 978-88-290-0454-6
- [2] “*Diseguaglianza e Accesso all’Istruzione universitaria: il Caso dell’Università di Bologna*” (with Pignataro, G.). Book chapter, in Gentili, A. e G. Pignataro (edited by), *Disuguaglianze e Istruzione in Italia: dalla Scuola Primaria all’Università*, pp. 99-129, 2020, Bologna: Carocci Editore S.p.a. ISBN: 978-88-290-0454-6
- [3] “*Introducing a European Education Income for a Cross-Class Education*”. Book chapter, in Noorda, S., Scott, P., e M. Vukasovic (edited by), *Bologna Process Beyond 2020: Fundamental values of the EHEA*, Proceedings, pp. 291-296, 2020, Bologna: Bononia University Press. ISBN: 978-88-6923-493-4

Policy Articles

- [1] “*Un’agenda comune sulla formazione professionale in Europa*”. Contribution, in *lavoce.info*, March 19, 2024.
- [2] “*Sul diritto allo studio un anticipo da sfruttare*” (with Pignataro, G.). Contribution, in *lavoce.info*, December 5, 2023.
- [3] “*Più digitalizzazione per contrastare il lavoro nero*” (with Bonacini, L., and G. Pignataro). Contribution, in *lavoce.info*, April 18, 2023.
- [4] “*Contrastare il lavoro nero avvantaggia anche i contribuenti*” (with Bonacini, L., and G. Pignataro). Contribution, in *lavoce.info*, February 14, 2023.
- [5] “*Con la riforma cresce il ruolo degli Its*” (with Bonacini, L., and G. Pignataro). Contribution, in *lavoce.info*, July 21, 2022.
- [6] “*Studentificazione*”. Contribution, in *Glossario delle Diseguaglianze Sociali*, July 19, 2022.
- [7] “*Per gli studenti fuori sede una casa dal Pnrr*” (with Bonacini, L., and G. Pignataro). Contribution, in *lavoce.info*, June 28, 2022.
- [8] “*“Nuove” borse per il diritto allo studio nelle università*” (with Bonacini, L., and G. Pignataro). Contribution, in *lavoce.info*, June 24, 2022.

Public Reports

- [1] *“Rapporto sulla Condizione Studentesca nell’Ambito Universitario 2018-2022”*. Contribution to the drafting of the Biennial Report on Student Conditions, edited by the National Council of University Students (CNSU), 2022.
- [2] *“Università”* (with Vallaro, D.). Contribution, in *Sbilanciamoci!* (edited by), *Rapporto Sbilanciamoci! Come Usare la Spesa Pubblica per i Diritti, la Pace, l’Ambiente*, 2022.
- [3] *“Università e Ricerca”* (with Dubbioso, R., Baldoni, D. and F. Sciolette). Contribution, in *Sbilanciamoci!* (edited by), *Rapporto Sbilanciamoci! Come Usare la Spesa Pubblica per i Diritti, la Pace, l’Ambiente*, 2021.

Conferences & Workshops

2026 – CRIS Doctoral Workshop (Paris); 16th Workshop of the fRDB Fellows and Affiliates (Poster Session – Bologna); CesIfo Venice Summer Institute (Auditor – Venice); Accepted: 14th SIdE Workshop for PhD students in Econometrics and Empirical Economics (Perugia); Accepted: Annual Scientific Meeting of the Italian Society of Economics (Cagliari); Accepted: LIVES International Research Days 2026 (Lausanne).

2025 – 2nd Welfare & Policy Conference (Bordeaux).

2024 – Equality of Opportunity and Intergenerational Mobility: A Global Perspective (Bari); Workshop on Poverty, Inequality, and Intergenerational Mobility: Measurement Issues, Empirical Evidence, and Policies (Rome); IX INVALSI Seminar Data from and for the Education System: Tools for Research and Teaching (Rome).

Policy Workshops

2023 – *Working Group on Education in 2124* – Tavolo di lavoro per la scuola del 2124 (Milan).

2022 – *Right to Education and Educational Opportunities at Unibo* – Diritto allo studio e opportunità educative in Unibo (Bologna).

2021 – *Right to University Education: Guidance and Information* – Diritto allo Studio Universitario: Orientamento e Informazione (Online); *Applied research and innovation, basic research, and the right to education in Rome and the Lazio region* – Ricerca applicata e innovazione, ricerca di base, diritto allo studio a Roma e nel Lazio (Online).

Summer Schools and Training

Venice Summer School on Inequality and Vulnerability

Department of Economics of Ca’ Foscari University, and Max Planck Institute for Behavioral Economics

Venice (IT)

07/2026

6-days Summer School on inequality and vulnerability, and behavioral economics.

Summer School on Socioeconomic Opportunity and Inequality

Milan (IT)

Stone Center for Research on Wealth Inequality, and Bocconi University’s Dondena Centre for Research on Social Dynamics and Public Policy

07/2026

5-days Summer School on inequality dynamics; (Expected) presentation of my JMP.

Training on Counterfactual Impact Evaluation

Ispra (IT)

European Commission, Joint Research Centre

06/2025

Training on counterfactual impact evaluation.

Replication Games

Padova (IT)

University of Padova, and Institute for Replication

05/2025

Interactive training on replication and pre-registration.

Summer School in Development Economics

Prato (IT)

University of Verona, and the Centre for Development Economics and Sustainability of Monash University

06/2024

Summer school in Development Economics.

Data Analysis and Visualization – DataLab

Online

Regione Emilia-Romagna

06/2022 - 07/2022

60-hour course on data analysis and visualization using Google Colab.

Awards and Honors

2025-2026	Grant: “Marco Polo Mobility Grant” – Funded by the University of Bologna	<i>Paris</i>
2023-2026	Grant: “PhD Grant” – Funded by the Italian Ministry for University and Research	<i>Bologna</i>
2017-2018	Grant: “Erasmus+ Mobility Grant” – Funded by the European Commission	<i>Maastricht</i>
2022	Scholarship: “Scholarship for the continuation of the training of young graduates” – Funded by AlmaIdea	<i>Bologna</i>
2021	Grant: “Tutoring grant at ER.GO” – Funded by the University of Bologna	<i>Bologna</i>
2015-2022	Scholarship: “ER.GO Scholarship” – Funded by ER.GO	<i>Bologna</i>

Refereeing Activity

Referee for: European Sociological Review.

Committees

National Association for the Right to University Education (ANDISU)	<i>Genoa (IT)</i>
Delegate of the National Council of University Students (CNSU)	2020-2022
National Council of University Students	<i>Rome (IT)</i>
Council Member	2019-2022
Department Council of Political and Social Sciences	<i>Bologna (IT)</i>
Council Member	2017-2019

Languages & IT

Programming	Stata (Proficient), R, Qgis, ArcGIS, PowerBI
Professional softwares	Qualtrics, Datawrapper, MAXQDA
Editor & Typesetting	GIMP, L ^A T _E X
Languages	Italian (Native), English (IELTS: CEFR C1), French (Intermediate)

Processing of personal data. I authorize the processing of my personal data included in the CV, in accordance with Article 13 of Legislative Decree No. 196 of June 30, 2003 - “Code regarding the protection of personal data” and Article 13 of GDPR 679/16 - “European Regulation on the protection of personal data”. **Substitutive declaration.** Pursuant to and for the purposes of Articles 46 and 47, and aware of the criminal penalties provided for in Article 76 of Presidential Decree No. 445 of December 28, 2000, in cases of false statements and mendacious declarations, I declare that the information provided in this curriculum vitae is truthful.
