

# Virginia Fidenti

Department of Economics, University of Bologna  
Piazza Scaravilli, 2, 40122 Bologna  
E-mail: virginia.fidenti2@unibo.it  
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## 1 Personal information

Citizenship: Italian

Born: June 1998, Genoa

## 2 Current Position

- **PhD Candidate in Public Governance, Management and Policy**, University of Bologna, Department of Economics, 11/2024 – present
  - Preliminary Title: *Children's Aspirations and the Role of Welfare Support*
  - Supervisor: Professor Paolo Verme
- **Member of the International PhD College (3rd cycle)**, University of Bologna, Collegio Superiore, 11/2024 – present
  - Honors program aimed at knowledge dissemination to civil society.
  - Selected for academic excellence, earning one of 5 places in social sciences and humanities.
  - Awarded rent reimbursement for the full duration of the PhD program.
- **Teaching tutor**, University of Bologna
  - *Crash Course in Principles of Economics* [code: 88611] – Department of Sociology and Business Law, a.y. 2023/2024–2024/2025
    - \* Creation of teaching materials
    - \* Organization and delivery of 20 hours of lectures
    - \* Topics: microeconomics fundamentals and macroeconomic overview.
  - *Social Statistics* [code: 03383] – Department of Political and Social Sciences, 1st semester, a.y. 2024/2025
    - \* Exam proctoring and student support
  - *Qualitative and Quantitative Methods II* [code: B7166] – Department of Political and Social Sciences, 2nd semester, a.y. 2024/2025
    - \* Classroom supervision during course sessions
    - \* Exam proctoring and student support
    - \* Liaison between students and foreign faculty

## 3 Education

- **Honours Programme Talete "Talenti E Territori"**, University of Trento and Centre for International Cooperation, 2024.
  - The TALETE program is a professionally qualifying course that runs parallel and complements the Master's curriculum, focusing on the international dimension and the field of cooperation.
    - \* Workshops on Qualitative Interview Methodologies (Preparation, Conduct and Analysis) and GIS
    - \* PCM Basic Course and International Cooperation Project Planning
    - \* Basic Monitoring and Evaluation Course (PCM)
    - \* Eurodesign for International Cooperation: Advanced Course of Project Cycle Management
    - \* 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.

## 4 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 – Promotion of quality and inclusive education for the retention and engagement of students at risk of dropping-out”*
  - 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 projects

Noteworthy: 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.
  - Conducted a 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 and addressing concerns of instrumentalization and maternalistic tendencies
  - Reference Professor: Lauro Emilio Gonzalez Farias

Noteworthy: Awarded a 2100€ scholarship for research thesis abroad.

## 5 Further Education

- 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 (IDEAS), 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.
  - Training meetings on the phenomenon of forced migration and integration processes.
- ERASMUS+ Programme, Metropolitan University of Prague, 09/2021 – 02/2022.

- Five-month scholarship period within the Master's in International Relations and European Studies
- Elective courses: The Americas, Transnational Migration, World Politics and Religion.
- Diploma Ingenious Cross Disciplinary Project 799G52, Linköping University (in the European Consortium of Innovative Universities ECIU), 07/2021 – 12/2021.
  - Contributed to the design of an app for the 'Natalia Project', a security system for activists' emergencies
  - Received pitch training to effectively communicate solutions to stakeholders within time constraints of 1-3-5 minutes
  - Delivered a final 5-minute pitch to the NGO Civil Rights Defenders during the 'Graduation Event'
  - Final grade: Pass with distinction
- Summer School In Psychological Humanities And Cognitive Science, University of Trento, 05/07/2021 – 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.
  - Five-month scholarship period in the 'Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences (FASoS)' European Studies
  - Completed coursework encompassing various aspects of European politics, society, and culture

## 6 Research Interests

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

## 7 Working papers/in progress

1. *"Disasters and Grades: How Nature's Fury Impacts High School Performance and Future Prospects"*, 2024, with Giuseppe Pignataro and Luca Bonacini

## 8 Seminars, Workshops and Conferences

- **Conferences and Workshops** (by application)
  - 2024:
    - \* *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, September 5-6, 2024
    - \* Selected (not participating) to present 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, June 5-6, 2024.

## 9 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.*

## 10 Scholarships

- Pre-doc Scholarship, University of Bologna, 03/2024 – 02/2025
- Erasmus+ Metropolitan University of Prague, University of Trento, 10/2021 – 02/2022
- Erasmus+ Maastricht University, University of Bologna, 09/2019 – 01/2020

## 11 Study Grants

- Study Grant for Research Thesis Abroad at Fundação Getulio Vargas, University of Trento, 09/2022 – 12/2022 (€2100)
- Study Grant for Postgraduation Internship at WeWorld Tanzania, University of Trento, 08/2023 – 11/2023 (€2100)

## 12 Teaching Activities

- **Lecturer**
  - **Postgraduate – University of Bologna**
    - \* A.y. 2023/2024: *Principles of Economics*, Second Cycle Degree/Master in Law, Economics and Governance, Bologna, University of Bologna, 20 hrs.
    - \* A.y. 2024/2025: *Principles of Economics*, Second Cycle Degree/Master in Law, Economics and Governance, Bologna, University of Bologna, 20 hrs.
- **Teaching Assistance**
  - **Graduate – University of Bologna**
    - \* A.y. 2024/2025: *Social Statistics*, First cycle degree/Bachelor in Social Work, Bologna, University of Bologna, 20 hrs.
    - \* A.y. 2024/2025: *Qualitative and Quantitative Methods II*, First cycle degree/Bachelor in European Studies, Bologna, University of Bologna, 30 hrs.

## 13 Dissemination (terza missione)

- **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**
  - Podcast series, “*Explain it Like I’m AI: Decoding AI – Without Panic, Beyond Hype*”, in collaboration with Bologna University Press (BUP), 2025
    - \* Spokesperson
    - \* Co-host of two episodes on AI fundamentals and societal impact (to be released in 2026).
  - Project *LaBo2030 “Engage, Design, Debate”*, University of Bologna, 01/2025
    - \* Delivered lectures on social justice and economic opportunities at a local high school.

## 14 Memberships

- Member ADI – **Doctoral Students and Graduates Association in Italy**.
- Member IAFPE – **International Association for Feminist Economics**.

## 15 Languages

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

## 16 Technical Skills

- **Data Analysis and Programming:** Stata (advanced), R, Python (intermediate), QGIS (basic)
- **Document Preparation:** L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Microsoft Office, Google Workspace
- **Research Tools:** Zotero, Kobo Toolbox, Adobe Acrobat
- **Collaboration Platforms:** Zoom, Microsoft Teams
- **AI Tools:** ChatGPT, Perplexity, Manus, LitMaps, and other AI-assisted research tools