

Virginia Fidenti

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Current Position

- **PhD Candidate in Public Governance, Management and Policy**, University of Bologna, Department of Economics, since 11/2024
 - Preliminary title: *Income Support and Poverty Alleviation: Evidence from Togo, France, and Brazil*
 - Supervisor: Prof. Paolo Verme
- **Visiting Researcher, Chaire ESoPS (Économie Sociale, Protection et Société)**, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, since 01/2026
 - Project: *Welfare, Stigma, and the Subjective Persistence of Poverty: Intergenerational Evidence from France*
- **Research and Policy Intern**, OECD, Directorate for Education and Skills, Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI), since 07/2026
 - Project: Evidence Web for Education. Supervisor: Alvaro Ferrer-Blanco
- **Member of the International PhD College**, University of Bologna, Collegio Superiore, since 11/2024
 - Honours programme for academic excellence – full rent coverage
 - Dissemination project: *Explain it Like I'm AI: Decoding AI – Without Panic, Beyond Hype*
- **Instructor**, University of Bologna – *Crash Course in Principles of Economics*, LEGO Master, since A.Y. 2023/2024

Education

- **TALETE Honours Programme**, University of Trento and Centre for International Cooperation, 2024
 - Selective honours programme in international cooperation and development (24 additional ECTS)
- **M.Sc. in European and International Studies** (110/110 *cum laude*), University of Trento, 2023
 - Thesis in Development Economics: *“Bolsa Família Programme and its Impact on Female Recipients: A Qualitative Meta-Analysis”*. Supervisor: Prof. Stefano Schiavo
 - Exchange semester: Metropolitan University of Prague (Erasmus+), 10/2021 – 02/2022
- **B.A. in Development and International Cooperation** (110/110 *cum laude*), Department of Statistical Sciences “Paolo Fortunati”, University of Bologna, 2020
 - Exchange semester: Maastricht University (Erasmus+), 09/2019 – 01/2020

Research Interests

Poverty and inequality; social protection and cash transfers; subjective wellbeing and non-monetary measures of poverty; public policy evaluation.

Work in Progress

1. *“Beyond Material Poverty: Revenu de Solidarité Active and Subjective Wellbeing in France”*, 2026
2. *“Average and Distributional Impacts of Novissi in Togo: Evidence on Wealth, Per Capita Consumption and Subjective Poverty”*, 2026
3. *“Disasters and Grades: How Nature’s Fury Impacts High School Performance and Future Prospects”*, 2024, with Giuseppe Pignataro and Luca Bonacini – dormant

Presentations

Seminars

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

Conferences and Workshops (by application)

- *“Inequality and the Future” Conference and Summer School on Socioeconomic Opportunity and Inequality*, presenting *“Beyond Material Poverty: Revenu de Solidarité Active and Subjective Wellbeing in France”*; University of Chicago Stone Center for Research on Wealth Inequality and Mobility, Dondena Centre (Bocconi University) and ISPI, Milan, 29/06–03/07/2026
- *COMPIE 2026 Conference (Counterfactual Methods for Policy Impact Evaluation)*, presenting *“Average and Distributional Impacts of Novissi in Togo: Evidence on Wealth, Per Capita Consumption and Subjective Poverty”*; European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) and IÉSEG School of Management, Paris, 24–26/06/2026
- *Workshop on “Poverty, Inequality and Intergenerational Mobility: Measurement Issues, Empirical Evidence and Policies”*, presenting *“Disasters and Grades: How Nature’s Fury Impacts High School Performance and Future Prospects”*; Sapienza University of Rome, 05–06/09/2024
- *World Congress for Social Economics: “Social Economics in a Time of Interlocking Crises”*, accepted with *“Non-State Child Welfare Provision and Associated Burden on Women in Brazil: A Qualitative Meta-Analysis of the Bolsa Família Programme”*; declined due to funding constraints. Association for Social Economics, University of Massachusetts Boston, 05–06/06/2024

Research Experience

- **Research Fellow**, University of Bologna, Department of Economics, 03/2024 – 02/2025
 - Inequality of Educational Opportunities (PRIN 2022, Prot. P2022C572P) – pre-doctoral position
 - Analysis of educational inequality using survey and administrative data
- **Graduate Visiting Researcher**, CEAPG, Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV), São Paulo, Brazil, 09/2022 – 12/2022
 - Qualitative meta-analysis and interviews on the gendered effects of the conditional cash transfer *Bolsa Família*, within the centre’s “Vulnerabilities” strand
 - Reference professor: Lauro Emilio Gonzalez Farias

Data Access Agreements

- **Investigator**, WeWorld Tanzania: *“Equality of Opportunity: Remedial Interventions in Tanzania”*, 05/2024 – present. Supported by the University of Bologna Global South Grant 2024.

Other Professional Experience

- **Project Management Intern**, Fondazione WeWorld, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 08/2023 – 11/2023
 - *“Pamoja Tudumishe Elimu”* – education retention for students at risk of dropping out
- **MAECI-CRUI Intern**, Italian Embassy in Brasília, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, 10/2022 – 12/2022

Teaching

Instructor (Postgraduate – University of Bologna)

- *Crash Course in Principles of Economics* [88611], LEGO Master, since A.Y. 2023/2024 (20 hrs per year)

Teaching Assistant (Undergraduate – University of Bologna)

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

Scholarships and Grants

- Collegio Superiore and Marco Polo Mobility Grants, University of Bologna – 6-month research mobility at Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (€10,400 combined), A.Y. 2025/2026
- Pre-doctoral Fellowship, *Inequality of Educational Opportunities* (PRIN 2022), University of Bologna, 03/2024 – 02/2025
- Post-graduation Internship Scholarship, University of Trento, A.Y. 2022/2023 (€2,100)
- Research Thesis Abroad Scholarship, University of Trento, A.Y. 2022/2023 (€2,100)

Further Training

- BREAD-IGC *PhD Course on Social Protection*, International Growth Centre, 16/09/2025 – 02/12/2025
- Summer School in *Microeconometrics and Policy Evaluation: Modern Estimation Methods and Machine Learning*, Paris School of Economics, 16–20/06/2025
- Summer School in *Development Economics*, Italian Development Economists Association, Prato – University of Verona and Centre for Development Economics and Sustainability, Monash University, 10–11/06/2024

Academic Service and Outreach

Academic and Professional Service

- **PhD Representative**, PhD Programme in Public Governance, Management and Policy, 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

Outreach and Dissemination

- 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
- *Una questione di opportunità: così la povertà nega il futuro ai bambini*, *lavoce.info*
- Co-host of two podcast episodes of *Explain it Like I'm AI*, Bologna University Press, 2025
- *LaBo2030* project: 4-hour lectures on social justice and economic opportunity at a local high school, University of Bologna, 01/2025

Skills, Languages and Memberships

- **Languages:** Italian (native); English (fluent); Portuguese and Spanish (intermediate); French (beginner)
- **Data analysis and programming:** Stata (advanced); R and Positron, Python (intermediate); QGIS (basic)
- **Other tools:** $\text{\LaTeX}$, Zotero, KoBoToolbox, Microsoft Office, Google Workspace
- **Memberships:** ADI – *Associazione Dottorandi e Dottori di Ricerca in Italia*; IAFFE – *International Association for Feminist Economics*

References

- Prof. Paolo Verme, University of Bologna – PhD supervisor
- Prof. Camile Chaserant, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne – Visiting Supervisor