

Giulia Ferrero

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Education and current position

Visiting Researcher *planned!* Spring 2026
Harvard Kennedy School Boston, USA
Sponsor: Eliana La Ferrara

Vilfredo Pareto PhD in Economics (UNITO/CCA) 2022 - Present
Doctoral Fellow at Collegio Carlo Alberto Torino, Italy
Supervisors: Professor Elena Esposito and Professor Giovanni Mastrobuoni

Second Cycle Master Degree in Economics (LMEC) 2018 – 2020
Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna Bologna, Italy
Supervisors: Professor Matteo Cervellati and Professor Paolo Vanin
Master Thesis: “Organized Violence in a global perspective: an empirical investigation, 1989-2019”
Final Grade: 110 cum laude

Bachelor in ‘Economics and trade’ 2015 - 2018
University di Torino - 110 cum laude

Research interests

Narratives, Gender, Media, Conflict, Economic History and Development

Teaching

Econometric Theory I - graduate 2023-2025
Collegio Carlo Alberto - TA to Professor Yagan Hazard
Microeconomics Spring 2024
SAA - School of Management TA to Professor Nadia Campaniello

Conferences and presentations

2025 2025 BAEM (Bristol Applied Economics Meetings) Workshop on Gender, Diversity and Human Capital, Fragile Lives 2025, VPDE 2025 internal PhD forum, Third Political Economy CCA-Cornell-Bocconi Winter Workshop (ooster)
2024 VPDE 2024 internal PhD forum

Working Papers

Wartime Narratives and Gender Norms (JMP) - 2025

Awarded the 2025 Mixtape Fellowship by Scott Cunningham

Sons of War: the Effect of Conflict on Son Preference with Jessica Mancuso - 2023

Awarded the Grigor Artsruni Award at the Armenian Economic Association Conference in Yerevan

Armenia and Azerbaijan, engaged in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, are known for their strong son preference and widespread use of abortion. In such a peculiar setting, we ask: does ethnic conflict affect son preference? By merging Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data with two different sources of conflict-related casualties, we investigate the effect of ethnic conflict on fertility decisions. To do so, we leverage variations in geographic and temporal exposure to conflict-related violence in the context of the First Nagorno-Karabakh War (1988–1994), alongside variation in the gender composition of children between families. We find that families with only daughters exposed to conflict increase their fertility in the very short term. Furthermore, our analysis of births by gender reveals that this result is driven by the birth of sons. Conflict intensifies son preference, manifesting in son-targeted fertility behavior and sex-selective abortions. Lastly, we identify child replacement as a mechanism contributing to the increase in fertility, driven primarily by the replacement of male children.

Work in Progress

Narratives and Movies with Elena Esposito and Alessandro Saia - 2024

Professional Experience

Research Assistant for Prof. Esposito (*CCA/UNITO*) 2023

Research area: narrative economics and economic history

Research Assistant for Prof. Fort and Prof. Carlana (*UNIBO*) 2022

RCT project “Gender Differences in STEM: Can Teaching Girls to Code Close the Gaps?”.

Main tasks: data collection (field work) using Qualtrics; data cleaning and analysis using Stata and R.

Trainee in DGI - External Developments (DG-I/EXT) 2021-2022

European central bank (ECB)

Research Assistant for Prof. Cervellati (*UNIBO*) 2020

Research Assistant for Prof. Lambertini (*UNIBO*) 2019

Workshops and conferences organized

17th VPDE PhD workshop in Economics November 21-22, 2024

Schools and Post-graduate Courses

Complex Network Analysis: Tools for Economic Development

July 2023

Barcelona School of Economics (BSE)

Barcelona, Spain

Teacher: Professor Pau Milan

IT knowledge

Python, STATA, R, Latex, Qualtrics, QGIS, text analysis and web scraping techniques

References

Professor Giovanni Mastrobuoni

Collegio Carlo Alberto, Carlo Alberto Chair

Full professor in Economics at ESOMAS, Department of Economics, University of Torino

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Professor Elena Esposito

Collegio Carlo Alberto, Junior Chair

Rita Levi Montalcini Researcher at ESOMAS, Department of Economics, University of Torino

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Professor Juan Vargas

Collegio Carlo Alberto, Carlo Alberto Chair

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