

ALESSANDRO FERRARA

European University Institute
Department of Social and Political Sciences
Via dei Rocchetini 9, Fiesole, Italy.

E-mail: alessandro.ferrara@eui.eu
Google Scholar: [Alessandro Ferrara](#)
Web: [Personal page](#)

EDUCATION

European University Institute, Doctoral school **Fiesole, Italy**
Doctoral Program in Political and Social Sciences *Sep 2019 - Present*
Supervisor: Fabrizio Bernardi
Thesis: *Migrant advantage or Optimism trap?*
Causes and consequences of positive ethnic choice effects

Bocconi University, Graduate school **Milan, Italy**
Master of Science in Economics and Social Sciences *Sep 2015 - Mar 2018*
Obtained with final grade 110/110 Cum Laude

Bocconi University, Undergraduate school **Milan, Italy**
Bachelor of International Economics, Management and Finance *Sep 2012 - Sep 2015*
Obtained with final grade 110/110 Cum Laude (class valedictorian)

RESEARCH VISITS AND EXCHANGES

WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Visiting Scholar **Berlin, Germany**
Health and Social Inequality Research Unit *Feb 2023 - Jun 2023*

Humboldt University, Visiting Scholar **Berlin, Germany**
DYNAMICS Research Training Group *Sep 2022 - Mar 2023*

Sciences Po (PSIA), Graduate Exchange Program **Paris, France**
Focus on Political Economy and Development *Sep 2016 - Dec 2016*

UC Berkeley, Undergraduate Exchange Program **Berkeley, California**
Focus on Mathematical and Development Economics *Sep 2014 - Dec 2014*

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Borgonovi, F., **Ferrara, A.** & Piacentini, M. (2023) From asking to observing. Behavioural measures of socio-emotional and motivational skills in large-scale assessments, *Social Science Research* (accepted for publication). Working paper available [here](#).

Borgonovi, F. & **Ferrara, A.** (2023) [COVID-19 and inequalities in educational achievement in Italy](#), *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, 83.

Ferrara, A. (2020) [Aiming too high or scoring too low? Heterogeneous immigrant-native gaps in upper secondary enrollment and outcomes beyond the transition in France](#), *European Sociological Review*, jcac050.

Recchi, E., **Ferrara, A.**, Rodriguez Sanchez, A., Deutschmann, A., Gabrielli, L., Iacus, S., Bastiani, L., Spyrtos, S., & Vespe, M. (2022) [The impact of air travel on the precocity and severity of COVID 19 deaths in sub national areas across 45 countries](#), *Scientific Reports*, 12(1).

Borgonovi, F., **Ferrara, A.** & Piacentini, M. (2021) [Performance decline in a low-stakes test at age 15 and educational attainment at age 25: Cross-country longitudinal evidence](#), *Journal of Adolescence*, 92, 114-125.

Borgonovi, F. & **Ferrara, A.** (2020) [Academic achievement and sense of belonging among non-native-speaking immigrant students: The role of linguistic distance](#), *Learning and Individual Differences*, 81.

WORKING PAPERS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Borgonovi, F. & **Ferrara, A.** (2022) [Exposure to mathematics in secondary school and mathematics achievement, attitudes and self-beliefs](#) in Alvaro Choi (2022), *Economic Foundations of Education*, Bloomsbury Academic: London.

Borgonovi, F., **Ferrara, A.** & Piacentini, M. (2020) [From asking to observing. Behavioural measures of socio-emotional and motivational skills in large-scale assessments](#), *DoQSS Working Papers*, No. 20-19, Quantitative Social Science - UCL Social Research Institute, University College London.

Borgonovi, F., **Ferrara, A.** & Maghnoouj, S. (2018) [The gender gap in educational outcomes in Norway](#), *OECD Education Working Papers*, No. 183, OECD Publishing, Paris.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Immigrant generation, gender, and citizenship: Evidence on educational track choices from Italy” (with Claudia Brunori).

“Intergenerational Consequences of Immigrant Selectivity: when does contextual attainment matter?” (with Renee Luthra), currently in revision.

“From the Streets to the Voting Booth: The Electoral Effect of Grassroots Mobilization Against the Far-Right” (with Francesco Colombo, Foteini Vassou, Fabrizio Bernardi and Elias Dinas), currently in revision - draft available [here](#).

“From asking to observing. Validating behavioural measures of socio-emotional and motivational skills in large-scale assessments” (with Francesca Borgonovi and Mario Piacentini) – currently in revision, draft available [here](#).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Humboldt University, Teacher Assistant
Course: Microsociology and Family Demography

Berlin, Germany
Oct 2022 - Mar 2023

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant
Migration Policy Center: Global Mobilities Project
Project: [The Airport Factor: Assessing the Impact of International and National Aviation Mobility on the Spread of Covid-19](#)

Fiesole, Italy
Oct 2020 - Aug 2021

Consultant
Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Project: [Strength Through Diversity](#) (Education and Skills Directorate)
Main responsibilities: Analyses and drafting chapters for the

Paris, France
Feb 2017 - Apr 2019

Research Assistant

Essex Department of Economics (with Prof. Michel Serafinelli)
Project: The mobility of inventors and knowledge transfer

Essex, UK

Aug 2018 - Apr 2019

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND OFFICIAL TALKS

2022 *European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) Annual Conference*. University of Amsterdam. “The effects of COVID-19 on inequalities in achievement in Italy: Did they increase?” (with Francesca Borgonovi)

2022 *European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) Annual Conference*. University of Amsterdam. “Intergenerational Consequences of Immigrant Selectivity: when does contextual attainment matter?” (Poster with Renee Luthra)

2022 *VI Convegno della Società Italiana di Sociologia Economica (SISEC)*. University of Bologna. “The effects of COVID-19 on inequalities in achievement in Italy: Did they increase?” (with Francesca Borgonovi)

2022 *Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28) Annual Conference*. London School of Economics (LSE). “Intergenerational Consequences of Immigrant Selectivity: when does contextual attainment matter?” (with Renee Luthra)

2022 *Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Conference*. Atlanta, Georgia. “Aiming too high or scoring too low? Heterogeneous immigrant-native gaps in upper secondary enrollment and outcomes beyond the transition in France”.

2021 *European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) Annual Conference*. Online conference. “Aiming too high or scoring too low? Heterogeneous immigrant-native gaps in upper secondary enrollment and outcomes beyond the transition in France”.

2021 *ESRC Research Centre on Micro-Social Change (MiSoC) Colloquium on Racial and Ethnic Inequalities*. University of Essex. “Aiming too high or scoring too low? Heterogeneous immigrant-native gaps in upper secondary enrollment and outcomes beyond the transition in France”.

2018 *GIZ Ankara Roundtable on Education and Migration*. Ankara, Turkey. “Experiences from Selected OECD Countries” (keynote speaker)

2018 *American Education Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting*. New York, USA. “Academic achievement and sense of belonging among non-native-speaking immigrant students: The role of linguistic distance” (with Francesca Borgonovi)

GRANTS

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Full PhD Scholarship	<i>Sep 2019 - Present</i>
Vittorio Bertazzoni Graduate Honorary Scholarship	<i>Apr 2016 - Mar 2018</i>
Bocconi Graduate Full Merit Based Scholarship	<i>Sep 2015 - Mar 2018</i>
Bocconi Undergraduate Full Merit Based Scholarship	<i>Sep 2012 - Sep 2015</i>

COMPUTER AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

STATA:Advanced knowledge
R: Intermediate knowledge
L^AT_EX: Advanced knowledge
UCINET: Basic knowledge

Italian: Native
English: Proficient
French: Advanced
Spanish: Intermediate

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION

Teacher Training Summer School
Offered by the European University Institute

Florence, ITA
Sep 2021

**Summer Institute in Computational Social Science
(SICSS)**

Rotterdam, NLD
Jun 2020

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Co-organiser: EUI Inequality Working Group

Sep 2020 - Jun 2022

The [Inequality working group](#) facilitates the exchange of research among EUI researchers and professors on various aspects of social inequality sponsored by prof. Fabrizio Bernardi and prof. Juho Harkonnen.

Co-organiser: Bottom-up workshop on Agent-based modelling

Jun 2021

Taught by prof. Gianluca Manzo and sponsored by prof. Arnout van de Rijt.

Co-manager: Fiasco Social Club

Nov 2019 - Sep 2021

Non-profit student-managed common space for informal events and aimed at enhancing the EUI sense of community