

General information

Address Department of Economics and Business Studies (DiSEI),
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Date of birth September 25, 1994

Place of birth Distretto di Berat (EE), Albania

Nationality Albanian

Citizenship Italian

Gender Female

Research interests

Composite indicator; Education; Inequality and poverty; Labour market; Multidimensional well-being; Social investment; Travel behaviour.

Present positions

May 2024 – today

Post-Doc Research Associate at the Department of Economics and Business Studies - DISEI
University of Piemonte Orientale, Novara, Italy.

Research topic: *The impact of schools in reducing educational inequalities.*

Funding: Cariplo Foundation, ID: 2022-1548. Total grant: 187,200€

P.I. and Tutor: Prof. Giorgia Casalone.

Cod. SSD: ECON-03/A Scienza delle Finanze - ECON-02/A Politica Economica

February 2024 – today

Teaching assistant in Microeconomics (18 hours) at the Department of Economics
University of Insubria, Varese, Italy

December 2023 – today

Teaching expert (*culture della materia*) in Macroeconomics at the Department of Economics
University of Insubria, Varese, Italy

November 2023 – today

Teaching assistant in Macroeconomics (18 hours) at the Department of Economics
University of Insubria, Varese, Italy

Past positions

1st of May 2023 30th of April 2024

Research Associate at the Department of Sociology and Social Research

University of Milano Bicocca, Milan, Italy. Reference:

Research topic: *Social investment policies for labour market inclusion: Milan and Amsterdam compared.*

Funding: Cariplo Foundation, ID: 2022-1301; 01/05/2023 - 30/04/2024; Total grant: 197,000€.

P.I.: Dr. Gemma Scalise.

Cod. SSD: GSPS-08/A Sociologia dei processi economici e del lavoro

Academic experience

2022 – 2023

- **Tutoring and teaching assistance in Political Economy** (100 hours) at the Department of Law, Economics and Cultures - University of Insubria, Como, Italy.
- **Tutoring and teaching assistance in action K** (80 hours) at the Department of Economics - University of Insubria, Como and Varese, Italy.
- **Tutoring and teaching assistance in Business Management** (60 hours) at the Department of Economics - University of Insubria, Varese, Italy.
- **Tutoring and teaching assistance in Mathematics and Statistics** (50 hours) at the Department of Economics - University of Insubria, Varese, Italy.
- **Tutoring and teaching assistance in Economics** (40 hours) at the Department of Economics - University of Insubria, Varese, Italy.

2021 – 2022

- **Tutoring and teaching assistance in Mathematics and Statistics** (60 hours) at the Department of Economics - University of Insubria, Varese, Italy.
- **Tutoring and teaching assistance in Economics** (20 hours) at the Department of Economics - University of Insubria, Varese, Italy.

2020 – 2021

- **Tutoring activities in Mathematics and Statistics** (25 hours) at the Department of Economics - University of Insubria, Varese, Italy.
- **Tutoring activities in Mathematics** (20 hours) at the Department of Economics - University of Insubria, Varese, Italy.

Past appointments

2022: Data collection and curation from different source (e.g., EU-SILC, EU-LFS, ILO, StatLine-CBS, Istat). Main activities: data collections and curation, developing of a composite indicator, and analysis of economic statistics at the Department of Sociology and Social Research – University of Milano Bicocca, Milan, Italy.

2021: Data curation and cleaning of University Mobility Survey - Rete delle Università per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile, RUS. Main activities: data cleaning and harmonization of National dataset of the University Mobility Survey (about 114,000 observations).

2020: Data curation and harmonization of Italian panel data (2002 – 2018) at a provincial level (NUTS 3) at the Department of Economics Management and Statistics – University of Milano Bicocca, Milan, Italy. Scientific Coordinator: Prof. Alessandra Michelangeli (Call 20CE248).

Education

2020 – 2024: PhD in Methods and Models for Economic Decisions – Cycle XXXVI

Department of Economics – University of Insubria, Varese, Italy.

Thesis: *Investigating Accessibility to Higher Education: Empirical Essays on Scholarships Eligibility and Commuting Behaviour*.

Supervisor: Prof. Chiara Gigliarano and Prof. Elena Maggi.

Passed final examination on April 11, 2024, with excellent rating (Italian grade: Ottimo)

2022 – 2023: PhD Visiting period (six months)

Centre for Transport & Society - University of the West of England, Bristol, UK.

Advisor: Prof. Kiron Chatterjee, Dr. Ben Clark.

2017 – 2020: M.Sc. in Statistical and Economic Sciences (LM 82 Statistical Science)

Department of Economics Management and Statistics (DEMS) - University of Milano Bicocca, Milan, Italy.

Thesis: *Assessing Edison's investment Choices with the Real Option Method*.

Supervisor: Prof. Alessandra Michelangeli;

Co-supervisor: Dr. Murad Harasheh.

2019: Erasmus Traineeship (two months)

ESSEC Business School – Paris.

Advisor: Prof. Jocelyn Martel.

2014 – 2017: B.Sc. in Finance, Insurance and Enterprise (L 41 Statistics)

Department of Statistics, Economics and Management - University of Bologna.

Thesis: *Individual savings plans offered by Mediolanum and Intesa SanPaolo*.

Supervisor: Prof. Claudio Travaglini.

Main training activities

- Advanced course and laboratory of analysis in Public Policy Evaluation at the Department of Economics, Management and Business Law – University of Bari “Aldo Moro”, Bari, Italy. (2022)
- Introduction to Macro Agent Based models at the Department of Economics – University of Insubria, Varese, Italy (2021)
- Applied econometrics: causality and policy evaluation at the Department of Economics – University of Insubria, Varese, Italy (2021)

- Applied econometrics: Health Economics at the Department of Economics – University of Insubria, Varese, Italy (2021)
- The economics of altruistic decisions and charitable giving at the Department of Economics – University of Insubria, Varese, Italy (2021)
- Behavioral economics and social preferences giving at the Department of Economics – University of Insubria, Varese, Italy (2021)
- Seminar in Machine Learning and Big Data Analysis at the Department of Economics – University of Insubria, Varese, Italy (2021)
- Multidimensional approaches for measuring well-being and poverty at the Department of Economics – University of Insubria, Varese, Italy (2021)
- Economic statistics at the Department of Economics Management and Statistics (DEMS) - University of Milano Bicocca, Milan, Italy (2018)
- Advance statistics at the Department of Economics Management and Statistics (DEMS) - University of Milano Bicocca, Milan, Italy (2018)
- Stochastic process at the Department of Economics Management and Statistics (DEMS) - University of Milano Bicocca, Milan, Italy (2018)

Languages & IT Skills

Albanian and Italian – Native; English – Fluent; French - Intermediate.

Professional knowledge of STATA, MS Office (Excel, Word, Power Point).

Academic use of statistical software: R studio, Gretl, SPSS, E-views, Matlab, LaTeX, WordPress.

Basic use of Python, SAS, Javascript, Html and CSS.

Awards and participation in funded projects

2nd May 2024 – 30th April 2025, Cariplo Foundation: *The impact of schools in reducing educational inequalities*. **Cariplo Project ID: 2022-1548**

2024 Selected as candidate for the **SIE (Società Italiana di Economia) Prize for the best PhD theses** in the field of economics (XXIV Edition)

1st May 2023 – 30th April 2024, Cariplo Foundation: CITILab Project (*Compound inequalities and labour market outsiders. The social investment policy agenda to empower the long-term unemployed, disabled people and working women*). **Cariplo Project ID: 2022-1301**

2022 SIET Conference **Best Paper Award**. Title: *Promoting commute active modes during the Covid-19 pandemic. What is the role of multimodal travel mode choices?*

1st June 2021 – 31st December 2022, Cariplo Foundation: *Post-COVID: poverty and vulnerability scenarios in the era of covid-19. how the pandemic is affecting the well-being of the Italians*. **Cariplo Project ID: 2020-4216**

Publications and working papers

Class A journals (ANVUR rating, area 13)

Myftiu, J., Gigliarano, C., Maggi, E., Scagni, A. (2023). *University Commuting During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Changes in Travel Behaviour and Mode Preferences*. Research in Transportation Business & Management. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rtbm.2023.101091>

Famà, A., Myftiu, J., Pagnottoni, P., Spelta, A. (Under review for Statistics). *Explainable Machine Learning for Financial Risk Management: Two Practical Use Cases*.

Scientific journals (ANVUR rating, area 13)

Myftiu, J. (2022). *Promoting commute active modes during the Covid-19 pandemic. What is the role of multimodal travel mode choices?* Rivista Italiana di Economia, Demografia e Statistica (RIEDS), 77(4): 73-84.

Other publication

Myftiu, J. (2024). *Investigating Accessibility to Higher Education: Empirical Essays on Scholarships Eligibility and Commuting Behaviour*. PhD Dissertation in Methods and Models for Economic Decisions – Cycle XXXVI. Department of Economics, University of Insubria.

Working papers (in progress)

Casalone, G., Michelangeli, A., Myftiu, J. Do birds of a feather flock together? Eligibility criteria for higher education scholarships and inequality in academic outcomes.

This study explores scholarship eligibility criteria based on distance from home and its impact on academic performance among Italian university students. Using panel administrative data from the University of Piemonte Orientale (2015-2022), it analyses 3,725 scholarship recipients across performance metrics like grades, ECTS, and drop-out rates. Employing a fuzzy regression discontinuity model to address discontinuities in recipient types, the findings suggest off-site recipients prioritize ECTS over grades, highlighting the importance of scholarships for them. The study advocates for a balanced approach between ECTS requirements and education quality to promote equality among Italian college students.

Myftiu, J., Scalise, G. Unveiling social investment in metropolitan regions: a composite indicators approach

This research focuses on one of the most dynamic regions in Europe, Lombardy, and aims to explore the extension of the social investment logic through some key socio-economic indicators. The dataset "A Misura di Comune" is used to develop composite indicators using the adjusted Mazziotta-Pareto index approach. The study consists of three phases. Firstly, we disaggregate the elementary indicators into the three social investment functions - namely stock, flow and buffer - in order to construct composite indicators for each municipality in Lombardy. Secondly, we consolidate the three social investment functions into an overall index at the level of the provinces of Lombardy compared to the three social investment functions. Finally, we estimate the overall level of social investment in Lombardy and evaluate its evolution over time.

Myftiu, J., Scalise, G. Do social investment policies work for vulnerable workers? A comparison between two metropolitan regions in Europe

The paper examines socio-economic conditions in European metropolitan regions and post-industrial cities, highlighting their potential for social investment policies. Focusing on Lombardy and North Holland, it analyses contextual factors influencing social investment. Using Eurostat SILC panel data, it compares socio-demographic and institutional factors, aiming to understand conditions for local social investment. It also explores the causal effects of social investment policies on long-term unemployment using multilevel regression modelling, aiming to assess the impact of inequalities on social investment outcomes.

Ciommi, M. T., Gigliarano, C., Mazziotta, M., Myftiu, J. A critical review of Composite Indices

This paper critically examines various methodologies employed in constructing composite indicators, aiming to provide a comprehensive understanding of their strengths and weaknesses. Through a detailed analysis of the different approaches used in the construction of selected composite indicators, this study sheds light on the intricacies and nuances inherent in each method. By delving into the different methods used to construct composite indicators, this research study endeavours to offer insights into their relative merits and limitations.

Myftiu, J., Crotti, D., Maggi, E. Health issues in cycling tourism and the role of road safety: an application of the protection motivation theory

This paper investigates cycling tourists' self-protection habits and perceptions of road safety in urban and extra-urban areas using 2023 primary data from an Italian national survey. Applying the Protection Motivation Theory (PMT), factors influencing health protective behaviours are explored through exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses (EFA and CFA) and structural equation modelling (SEM). The study, the first of its kind in cycling tourism, aims to shed light on tourists' health behaviours and decision-making processes, potentially informing tourism development in Italy.

Crotti, D., Myftiu, J., Residents' perspective on sustainable tourism in local marketplaces. A tourism lifecycle approach

This research investigates how transportation features impact residents' perceptions of the social, economic, and environmental sustainability of a local marketplace, focusing on Mercato di Luino in Italy. Using online survey data, residents are categorized based on transportation modes and perceptions of negative transport-related effects. ANOVA tests analyse responses on sustainability aspects, with robustness checks conducted using post-hoc techniques. Findings show residents' negative transport opinions significantly affect sustainability, particularly social dimensions like facilitating interactions. Road congestion offsets economic benefits, especially for in-town residents, and transportation issues affect perceptions of local institutions. The study employs quantitative methods to explore the intricate relationship between transportation, tourism, and marketplace sustainability.

Myftiu, J., Chatterjee, K., Clark, B. The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on travel to work behaviour

This paper investigates Covid-19's impact on travel behaviour among the UK population, focusing on: (i) disruptions to habitual travel and potential development of sustainable habits during the pandemic, exploring effects of restrictions on modal choices; (ii) changes in public transport use due to social distancing measures. Utilizing longitudinal panel data from the Understanding Society Covid-19 study, the research confirms trends like increased remote working and decreased public transport usage. The study plans to further analyse the data to identify long-term changes in travel behaviour and inform the development of transport policies and interventions to enhance resilience in future pandemics. The methodology involves a mixed-methods approach

integrating survey analysis, spatial analysis, and econometric modelling to comprehensively explore the pandemic's effects on travel behaviour.

Conferences and workshops presentation

2024: *NECTAR Conference*, Brussels (Belgium), 2nd Jul. – 5th Jul.; *10th International ASTMed conference*, Bertinoro (Italy), 19th Jun. – 21st Jun.; *8th SISEC Conference Italian Society of Economic Sociology*, Cagliari (Italy), 31st Jan. – 3rd Feb. *59th SIEDS Conference – Italian Society of Economics Demography and Statistics*, Milan and Castellanza (Italy), 22nd – 24th May.

2023: *15th SISTUR Conference Italian Association of Tourism Sciences*, Taormina (Italy), 16th – 18th Nov.; *16th ESPAnet Italia* Milan (Italy), 13th – 15th Sept.; *62st ERSA Congress – European Regional Science Association*, Alicante (Spain), 28th Aug. – 1st Sept.; *25th SIET Conference – Italian Association of Transport Economics and Logistics*, Trieste (Italy), 22nd - 23rd Jun.; *59th SIEDS Conference – Italian Society of Economics Demography and Statistics*, Naples (Italy), 25th – 26th May.

2022: *61st ERSA Congress – European Regional Science Association*, Pécs (Hungary), 22 - 26 Aug.; *43rd AISRe Conference – Italian Association of Regional Sciences*, Milan (Italy), 5 – 7 Sept.; *24th SIET Conference – Italian Association of Transport Economics and Logistics*, Varese (Italy), 8 - 9 Sept.; *58th SIEDS Conference – Italian Society of Economics Demography and Statistics*, Palermo (Italy), 26th – 27th May.

Conferences organization

2024: Co-organizer of the 26th Conference of the Italian Association of Transport Economics and Logistics (SIET), Milan (Italy), 19 – 20 Sept.

2023: Co-organizer of the Annual Workshop of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Economics, Psychology and Social Sciences (CISEPS), Milano (Italy), 14th April.

2022: Co-organizer of the 24th Conference of the Italian Association of Transport Economics and Logistics (SIET), Varese (Italy), 8 – 9 Sept.

References

Prof. Giorgia Casalone

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Prof. Gemma Scalise

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Milan, Italy. E-mail: gemma.scalise@unimib.it

Io sottoscritta, Jurgena Myftiu, consapevole delle conseguenze legali di dichiarazioni mendaci, dichiaro che tutto quanto riportato in questo curriculum vitae corrisponde a verità, ai sensi degli articoli 46 e 47 del DPR 445 del 2000.

Varese, 18/07/2024

JURGENA MYFTIU

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jurgena Myftiu', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.