Sara Lazzaroni

Department of Economics
University of Bologna
Address: Piazza Scaravilli 1, 40126 Bologna

E-mail: sara.lazzaroni@unibo.it
Institutional: https://www.unibo.it/sitoweb/sara.lazzaroni/en
Personal: http://www.saralazzaroni.com/

Personal information

Italian; 10 May 1985; Married; 2 Children (born in 2018 and 2024).

Education

- **Ph.D. in Economic Policy**, grade: Excellent, awarded the title of *Doctor Europaeus*, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano, 22 May 2014. Supervisor: Prof. Maria Cristina Piva. Dissertation title: "Economics of natural disasters. From macro to micro evidence with a focus on developing countries"
- **M.A. in Development Economics**, *Research paper with Distinction*, International Institute of Social Studies-Erasmus University Rotterdam, 12 December 2012. Supervisor: Prof. Arjun Singh Bedi.
- **M.A. in International Economic Integration**, *Summa Cum Laude*, University of Pavia, 13 July 2010. Supervisor: Prof. Marco Missaglia.
- **B.S. Economics**, grade obtained: 108/110, University of Pavia, 21 November 2007. Supervisor: Prof. A. Fumagalli.

National Scientific Qualification (ASN)

National scientific qualification to function as "Professore universitario di Seconda Fascia nel Settore ECON-01/A -Economia politica (former Settore Concorsuale 13/A1 - ECONOMIA POLITICA)"; obtained July 3,2024; expiring July 3, 2036.

Training

A. Academic visiting periods

- Department of Economics, *Brown University*, January-May 2016, awarded the Bologna-Brown scholarship.
- Department of Economics, *Université de Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne*, October 2008-February 2009, awarded the Erasmus scholarship.

B. Internships at a research center

International Institute of Social Studies – Erasmus University Rotterdam, June 2012-August 2012.

C. Any other training experiences, including summer/winter schools etc.

1. Summer School in Digital Humanities, University of Oxford, 3-7 July 2017.
2. 14th Summer School in International and Development Economics, Centro Studi Luca D'Agliano, 8-11 September 2015.
3. JPAL101x: Evaluating Social Programs, MIT, online learning, November 2014.
4. Belpasso International Summer School on Environmental Economics, University of Catania and FEEM, 1-7 September 2013.
5. Structural Change Real Financial Interactions and Development Summer School, University of Pavia, 13-21 June 2011.
6. Development and International Cooperation, ISPI, October 2009-January 2011.
7. Understanding and Managing Globalization and Transition, University of Pavia, March-May 2009

Employment

Associate Professor, University of Bologna, Department of Economics, 1 December 2025 – present.

Senior Assistant Professor with tenure (Ricercatore RTD-B), University of Bologna, Department of Economics, 1 December 2022 – 30 November 2025.

Junior Assistant Professor without tenure (Ricercatore RTD-A), University of Bologna, Department of Economics, 4 June 2020 – 30 November 2022.

Research Fellow (Assegnista di Ricerca), University of Bologna, Department of Economics, 1 March 2017 – 3 June 2020.

Research Fellow (Assegnista di Ricerca), University of Bologna, Department of Economics, 1 October 2016 – 28 Febr. 2017.

Short-Term Consultant, World Bank, Niger WASH-Pov Diagnostic, January 2016 – August 2016.

Research Fellow (Assegnista di Ricerca), University of Bologna, Department of Economics, 1 October 2014 – 30 Sept. 2016.

Career breaks

Compulsory Maternity Leave: from March 4 to August 2, 2018.

Health-Related Leave: from December 16, 2021, to February 18, 2022.

Compulsory Maternity Leave: from January 9 to June 9, 2024.

Complete scientific production

A. Published and accepted articles and book chapters

1. "Discrimination and assimilation: Evidence from anti-Chinese sentiments in the United States", with G. Lanzara, Gianandrea, P. Masella, and M.P. Squicciarini (2025). ***Journal of Public Economics*** 294 (December): 105450.
   DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpubeco.2025.105450.
2. "Do Bishops Matter for Politics? Evidence From Italy", with G. Lanzara, Gianandrea, P. Masella, and M.P. Squicciarini (2024). ***Journal of Public Economics*** 238 (October): 105177. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpubeco.2024.105177.
3. "Spatial and historical drivers of fake news diffusion: Evidence from anti-Muslim discrimination in India", with S. S. Abraham, G. Lanzara, Gianandrea, P. Masella, and M.P. Squicciarini (2023). ***Journal of Urban Economics*** 141 (May) 103613: 1-16. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jue.2023.103613.
4. "Historical Social Contracts and their Legacy: A Disaggregated Analysis for the Medieval Republics", with P. Buonanno, M. Cervellati, and G. Prarolo (2022). ***Journal of Economic Growth*** 27: 485-526. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/s10887-022-09209-1.
5. "Misfortunes never come singly: structural change multiple shocks and child malnutrition in rural Senegal", with N. Wagner (2016). ***Economics and Human Biology*** 23(December): 246-262. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2016.10.006.
6. "Macroeconomics of Natural Disasters: Strengths and Weaknesses of Meta-Analysis versus Review of the Literature", with Van Bergeijk, P.A.G. (2015). ***Risk Analysis*** 35(6): 1050-1072. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/risa.12372.
7. "Natural Disasters Impact, Factors of Resilience and Development: A Meta Analysis of the Macroeconomic Literature", with Van Bergeijk, P.A.G. (2014). ***Ecological Economics*** 107(11): 333-346. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2014.08.015.
8. "Economics of Natural Disasters: from Macro- to Micro- Evidence with a Focus on Developing Countries", PhD Thesis (2014), Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, XXVI ciclo, a.a. 2012/13, Milano. Available at https://publicatt.unicatt.it/handle/10280/3956.

B. Working Papers

1. "An Economic Theory of the Evolution of the States System, and Evidence for Europe 1000-1800", with M. Cervellati, G. Prarolo, and P. Vanin (2022). *CEPR Discussion Paper* No. DP13719. London: Centre for Economic Policy Research. ISSN 0265-8003. ***Conditionally Accepted Journal of the European Economic Association***. Available at https://cepr.org/publications/dp13719.

2. "The Rise of the Knowledge Economy", with M. Cervellati, G. Marciante, and P. Masella (2026). Available at https://www.nber.org/conferences/economics-culture-and-institutions-spring-2026.
3. "Economic Shocks and Assimilation Policies: Phylloxera and Educational Expansion in French Algeria", with G. Lanzara, P. Masella, and M. P. Squicciarini (2024). *BAFFI CAREFIN Centre Research Paper* No. 221. DOI: https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4816096 .
4. "Ideological Contagion and Populism: Evidence from Argentina" (2024). Mimeo.
5. "MONARCHY vs REPUBLIC: Historical Evidence on Individual Preferences and Their Roots", with M. Cervellati and G. Plevani (2024). Mimeo.
6. "Weather Variability and Food Consumption: Evidence from Rural Uganda", with A.S. Bedi (2014). ISS Working Paper-General Series No.554. The Hague, Netherlands: International Institute of Social Studies. ISSN: 0921-0210. Available at https://repub.eur.nl/pub/51272/wp585.pdf.

C. Work in Progress

1. "Borders and Conflict in Europe 1000-1800", with M. Cervellati, M. Onorato and P. Vanin. *Draft in preparation.*
2. "Causes and Consequences of Discrimination: Evidence from 19th-century France", with G. Lanzara, P. Masella and M. Squicciarini. *Data Analysis.*

Management or participation to research groups

A. Organization, management or coordination of national/international research centers, groups, or projects

1. **Principal Investigator**, for the project "Misfortunes Never Come Singly", within the *Pathways for Resilience in Semi-arid Economies Initiative*, Overseas Development Institute, August 2014 – February 2015.

B. Participation in national/international research centers, groups or projects

1. Participation to the **PRIN-2020** project "Long-Term Development in Europe: A Disaggregated Historical Database and Spatio-Temporal Analysis of State Capacity, Warfare and Diffusion of Ideas". PI: M. Cervellati (University of Bologna), from December 2021.
2. Participation to the **PRIN-2017** project "Religious and Racial Discrimination Attitudes". PI: P. Masella (University of Bologna), from October 2019.
3. Participation to the **PRIN-2015** project "The legacy of institutions for comparative development". PI: M. Cervellati (University of Bologna), from October 2016.
4. Participation to the **PRIN-2012** project "A study on the determinants of crime and civil conflict", PI: M. Cervellati (University if Bologna), from October 2014.
5. Co-organizer with Giovanni Prarolo of the reading group "**Data Scraping Tools and Methods**", University of Bologna, PhD Economics, from January 2016.

Prizes, awards and grants

A. National or international awards and recognitions

1. PhD thesis *Award of Doctor Europaeus*, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, 2014.
2. Professor Hans Opschoor Prize for Best research paper, ISS-Erasmus University, 2012.

B. Research grants

1. EIEF Research Grant on the project "Geography, demographic shock and political institutions", member of the research group, PI: G. Prarolo, University of Bologna, 2015, € 10K.
2. Brown-Bologna Programme Fellowship, Brown University, 2016, $ 6.9K.
3. PRISE Small Grants Programme, Principal Investigator, Overseas Development Institute, 2015, $5K.
4. INESAD travel grant for conference participation, INESAD, 2015.
5. EAERE travel grant for conference invitation, Harvard School of Public Health, 2013.
6. Belpasso International Summer School grant, University of Catania, 2013.

7. PhD Fellowship, Catholic University of Milan, 2010-2013.
8. Erasmus scholarship, University of Pavia and University of Paris I, 2008-2009.

Conference and Seminar Presentations

A. Invited talks/seminars

- NBER Spring Meeting Culture and Institutions, Boston, 2026;
- Development, Globalisation, Labour and Public Policies Seminars, Université de Paris 1, 2025;
- Virtual Economic History Seminars, 2021;
- Universidad de San Andreés seminar series, 2021;
- LANE HOPE seminar, University of Montevideo, 2021;
- Spring Dondena Research Seminars, Bocconi University, 2020;
- Macroeconomics Lunch Seminar, UCLouvain, 2017;
- Macro Lunch Seminar, Brown University, 2016;
- International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam, 2013;
- Harvard School of Public Health, 2013;

B. Conferences

- Petralia Sottana Workshop 2023;
- World Economic History Congress 2022;
- RIDGE-LACEA Workshop on Historical Development, 2021;
- EEA-ESEM, 2021;
- SIOE Conference, 2021;
- ASREC 24h, Virtual, 2020;
- 1st Political Economy Workshop, University of Bologna, 2020;
- 2nd Workshop on Formal and Informal Institutions for Growth and Development, Université de Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne, 2019;
- Culture, Institutions and Economic Development Conference, University of Napoli Federico, 2019;
- ASREC Europe 2019, Lund University, 2019;
- 1st Economic History Workshop, University of Bologna, 2019;
- Workshop on Political Economy 2017, Free-University of Bozen-Bolzano, 2017;
- ICEG 2017, University of Naples Parthenope, 2017;
- ASREC Europe 2017, University of Bologna, 2017;
- SIOE 2017, Columbia University, 2017;
- Culture Diversity and Economic Development Workshop, Groeningen University, 2017;
- Barcelona GSE Summer Forum, Barcelona GSE, 2017;
- EEA-ESEM, Geneva, 2016;
- Petralia Applied Economic Workshop, 2016;
- PRISE Workshop, London School of Economics, 2015;
- Internal seminar, University of Bologna, 2015, 2017;
- ENRMDTE2014, CERDI and University of Auvergne, 2014;
- BCDE 2014, Universidad Privada Boliviana, 2014;
- EDEM Seminar Series, ISS-Erasmus University Rotterdam, 2013;
- Belpasso International Summer School, 2013;
- MAER-Net, University of Greenwich, 2013;
- Second AIEAA Conference, University of Parma, 2013;
- 5th EAAE Phd Workshop, KU Leuven, 2013;
- CSAE, Oxford University, 2013.

C. Discussions

- YSI-EHES Economic History Graduate Webinar, 2025;
- 17th Migration and Development Conference, University of Bologna and John Hopkins University SAIS Europe, 2024;
- Political Economy Galatina Summer Meetings, 2019;

- Workshop on Social Economy for Young Economists, University of Bologna, 2016.

Teaching

A. Courses

Bachelor

- *2025/26* Development Economics (Master in International and Diplomatic Sciences, in English), University of Bologna, Forlì Campus, approx. 50 students.
- *2025/26* Economic Policy (BS in Statistics, in English), University of Bologna, Bologna Campus, approx. 50 students.
- *2025/26* Macroeconomics (BS in Economics and Trade – Economics and Management, in Italian), University of Bologna, Forlì Campus, approx. 170 students.
- *2024/25* Macroeconomics (BS in Economics and Trade – Economics and Management, in Italian), University of Bologna, Forlì Campus, approx. 170 students.
- *2022/23* Macroeconomics (BS in Economics and Trade – Economics and Management, in Italian), University of Bologna, Forlì Campus, approx. 170 students.
- *2019/20* Development Economics and Financial Markets (BS in Economics and Finance, in English), University of Bologna, approx. 30 students.

Ph.D.

- *2015/16* Disaggregated Data with ArcGIS and Python (in English - 15 hours), University of Bologna, approx. 10 students.
- *2016/17* Disaggregated Data with ArcGIS and Python (in English - 15 hours), University of Bologna, approx. 10 students.

B. Teaching assistance

- *2015/16* Macroeconomics (BS in Political Science, in Italian), University of Bologna, Forlì Campus, approx. 200 students.

C. Supervision

Bachelor students (20)

Master students

- Lorenzo Maccarone (completed in October 2024, in English, now PhD student at University of Bologna)
- Nicola Foglia (completed in October 2025, in English, now PhD student at Collegio Carlo Alberto, Turin)

Research Assistants

- Costanza De Acutis (2022)
- Giacomo Caserta (2022)
- Elena Sala (2024)

Other experiences and skills

A. Refereeing activity

Journal of Economic Growth; Journal of Development Economics, Explorations in Economic History, China Economic Review; Ecological Economics; Economic Modelling; Economics Research International; Environment, Development and Sustainability; Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization; Journal of Economic Surveys; Journal of Peace Research; Papers in Regional Science.

B. Institutional activities

- *2024-present* Part of selection committee for teaching assistants for economics courses for the Forlì campus of the University of Bologna;
- *2015-present* Orientation lectures for high school students (2015, 2016, 2022, 2023, 2025)*;*
- *2025* Part of Selection committee for 1 Post-doc position for the GRINS foundation fellowship;

- *2022-24* Elected Member of the Giunta di Dipartimento as representative of the Ricercatori a Tempo Determinato, University of Bologna
- *2023* Part of selection committee for the Giannoccolo Award, University of Bologna;
- *2022* Part of Selection committee for 2 Post-doc positions for the PRIN project Development and Political Economy, DSE-University of Bologna;
- *2020-2022* Co-organizer of the department's Internal Seminars, Department of Economics, DSE-University of Bologna;
- *2018-2020* Elected Member of the Consiglio di Dipartimento as representative of the Assegnisti di Ricerca, DSE-University of Bologna
- *2015* Co-organizer of the Political Economy and Development Reading Group, DSE-University of Bologna.

C. Organization of scientific meetings

- **Chair** of the Organizing Committee of the *Spring Meeting of Young Economists* 2021, University of Bologna.
- **Co-organizer** of the *1st Economic History Workshop*, University of Bologna, 2-3 Sep 2019.
- **Co-organizer** of the *ASREC Conference*, University of Bologna, 9-11 Sep 2017.

D. Personal skills and competences

- *Computer skills:*
    a. *Programming languages: Python*
    b. *Statistical softwares: Stata, R*
    c. *GIS softwares: ArcGIS, QGIS*
    d. *Data scraping and Optical Character Recognition: Scrapy (Python) and Tesseract (Python)*
    e. *Text softwares: Standard MS Office packages, LaTex*
- *Languages:* Italian (mother tongue), English (proficient), French (basic).

E. Any other relevant experience/competence

- Executive Board Member: NGO Amici della Guinea Bissau, Secretary (Sep 2014-Sep 2016)