

Education

Luiss Guido Carli University

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, expected May 2027

Dissertation: *Rules that Fit: Essays on Culture, Institutions, and Development*

Advised by Prof. Luigi Pascali and Prof. Mounu Prem

University of Nottingham

Visiting Ph.D. Student, School of Economics, January–August 2026

Hosted by Prof. Valeria Rueda

KU Leuven

M.Sc. in Cultural Anthropology and Development Studies, 2020–2022, *magna cum laude*

Honours Programme

Ghent University

M.Sc. in Economics, 2019–2020, *cum laude*

B.Sc. in Economics, 2016–2019

Research Interests

Development Economics, Political Economy, Economic History

References

Prof. Luigi Pascali

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Prof. Mattia Bertazzini

University of Nottingham

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Job Market Paper

The Cultural Foundations of State Legitimacy: Kinship Intensity and Institutional Mismatch

Frank D. Lewis Memorial Prize in Economic History, 2026

Why do institutional transplants succeed or fail? I argue that formal institutions lose legitimacy when they conflict with local social structures. I examine whether Common Law better accommodates kinship norms by allowing judges greater flexibility. I compare communities within ethnic homelands partitioned by borders between Civil and Common Law. Civil Law lowers economic activity in high-kinship societies but not in low-kinship societies, implying 12.6% lower GDP per capita. Surveys link this mismatch to lower state trust and civic participation. To investigate the mechanism, I analyse a new corpus of colonial court documents and find more accommodating language toward customary norms under Common Law. In Cameroon, after Civil Law judges were appointed to Common Law courts in 2016, economic activity fell three times as much in high-kinship communities as in low-kinship communities. The results suggest that compatibility between culture and institutions affects state legitimacy and economic performance.

Working Papers

Corporations as the State: Urbanisation, Women's Empowerment, and Long-Run Development in the Copperbelt, 2025. R&R at *Journal of Development Economics*.

The Origins of Superstition: Environmental Volatility and Magical Beliefs, 2026.

The Dispossessed: Large-Scale Land Acquisitions, Elite Capture, and Dissent in Africa, 2026.

What's in a Name? Champagne Exports under Shampanskoye Protectionism, 2026. R&R at *Journal of Wine Economics*.

Publications

Champagne spillovers: Geographical indications and regional economic development, *Journal of Wine Economics*, 21(2), 107–122, 2026.

Interest rate risk exposures and hedging of euro area banks' banking books, with B. Klaus, F. Lenoci and C. Pancaro, *Financial Stability Review*, 67–70, May 2022.

Book Chapters	The Digital Money Trilemma: Sovereignty, Stability, and Integration in Cross-Border CBDCs , in <i>Digitalisation towards Sustainable Development: Comparative International Perspectives</i> (eds. W. Reiners and S. Lucatello), Routledge, forthcoming.
Teaching	Computational Finance (Python), Teaching Assistant to Prof. Nicola Borri, Bachelor, Luiss, 2025 Corporate Finance, Teaching Assistant to Prof. Andrea Polo, Bachelor, Luiss, 2024–2025 Managerial Economics, Teaching Assistant to Prof. Corrado Pasquali, Master, Luiss, 2024 Intermediate Macroeconomics, Private Tutor, Bachelor, 2022
Past Employment	European Central Bank (ECB), Stress-Test Modelling Division, Trainee, DG Macropprudential Policy and Financial Stability, Frankfurt, Germany, 2021–2022
Fellowships & Awards	Frank D. Lewis Memorial Prize in Economic History, Canadian Network for Economic History, 2026 Research Grant, Mining History Association, 2026 Scholarship for Research Papers in Wine Economics, American Association of Wine Economists, 2025 Marie Skłodowska-Curie PRODIGEES Grant, European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme, 2023–2025
Research Experience	Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), Visiting Fellow, Delhi, India, 2023 AI & Banking / The Taranto Steel Plant, Research Assistant, Prof. Emanuele Tarantino, 2023
Papers in Progress	The Insurance Origins of the State Rooted in Place: Staple Crops, Trade, and Structural Transformation (with J. Enguehard and C. Hamilton) Kinship Structure and the Marriage Market: Evidence from West Sumatra
Software Packages	rddid: Stata package to perform Difference-in-Discontinuities estimation
Conferences & Seminars * scheduled	ReCIPE Annual Conference, CEPR, Oxford, UK, 2027* CESifo Workshop on Political Economy, TU Dresden & ifo Institute, Dresden, Germany, 2026* PSG Economics PhD Workshop, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 2026* Culture and Economic Policy Workshop, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 2026* AEHN Annual Meeting, University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden, 2026 EIEF Lunch Seminar, Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance, Rome, Italy, 2026 ASREC Europe Conference, Warwick Venice Centre, Venice, Italy, 2026 CNEH-IESG Conference (poster), Yellowknife, Canada, 2026 CEPR Economic History Symposium, Bank of Spain, Roda de Berà, Spain, 2026 Annual PhD Conference, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK, 2026 NICEP Conference, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK, 2026 CeDEx Seminar, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK, 2026 Economics Brown Bag, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK, 2026 Conference on the Future of Development Economics, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK, 2025 AEHN Annual Meeting, National University of Lesotho, Maseru, Lesotho, 2025 Annual Rome PhD Conference, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy, 2025 AAWE Annual Conference, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, USA, 2025 PRODIGEES Final Conference, Instituto Mora, Mexico City, Mexico, 2025 Annual Rome PhD Conference, Luiss Guido Carli University, Rome, Italy, 2024
Academic Service	Referee for <i>Journal of Wine Economics</i> Organised PRODIGEES workshop on Central Bank Digital Currencies
Languages	Dutch (native), English (C2), French (C1), Italian (B1)
Software Skills	Python, Stata, QGIS, LaTeX, SQL, CSS, Excel, Tableau