

ANNAMARIA MILAZZO

email: annamaria.milazzo@unitelmasapienza.it, amilazzo@uh.edu
website: <https://sites.google.com/view/amilazzo>

CURRENT POSITIONS

University of Rome Unitelma Sapienza

Associate Professor of Economics (Nov 2024-present)

University of Rome La Sapienza

Member of the Scientific Board, Doctoral School in Social Sciences and Economics (May 2025-present)

University of Houston, Institute for Research on Women, Gender & Sexuality (IRWGS)

Research Assistant Professor (Jan 2023-Aug 2024, courtesy: Sept 2024-present)

The World Bank, Gender Impact Evaluation

Research Consultant, March 2017-present

VISITING POSITIONS

University of Pavia, November 2024

Visiting Faculty

Paris School of Economics, France, August 2011–January 2012

Visiting CEPR/AMID Early Stage Researcher

EDUCATION

Bocconi University, Italy, 2013

Ph.D. in Economics; Dissertation titled: “*Gender, Family and Traditional Norms in Developing Countries*”; PhD Advisor: Eliana La Ferrara

University of Bologna, Italy, 2005

Masters in Development and International Cooperation

University of Cambridge, UK, March–June 2004

Exchange program Socrates-Erasmus

University of Bologna, Italy, 2004

Masters in Economics (Laurea Specialistica in Economia), *magna cum laude*

University of Bologna, Italy, 2002

Bachelor in Economics (Laurea in Economia e Finanza)

PUBLICATIONS

Customary Norms, Inheritance and Human Capital. Evidence from a Reform of the Matrilineal System in Ghana (joint with Eliana La Ferrara), *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, Volume 9, Issue 4, pp. 166–85, 2017.

Women Left Behind? Poverty and Headship in Africa (joint with Dominique van de Walle), *Demography*, Volume 54, Issue 3, pp. 1119–1145, 2017.

Why Are Adult Women Missing? Son Preference and Maternal Survival in India, *Journal of Development Economics*, Volume 134, pp. 467–484, 2018.

Governance and Women’s Economic and Political Participation: Power Inequalities, Formal Constraints and Norms (joint with Markus Goldstein), *World Bank Research Observer*, Volume 34, Issue 1, pp. 34–64, 2019.

Government of Malawi's Unconditional Cash Transfer Improves Youth Mental Health (joint with Gustavo Angeles, Jacob de Hoop, Kelly Kilburn, Sudhanshu Handa, and Amber Peterman), *Social Science & Medicine*, Volume 225, pp. 108–119, 2019.

Long-term well-being among survivors of the Rwandan and Cambodian genocides (joint with Jose Cuesta), *Journal of Development Studies*, Volume 57, Issue 8, pp. 1413–1427, 2021.

Nutrition, Religion, and Widowhood in Nigeria (joint with Dominique van de Walle), *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, Volume 69, Issue 3, pp. 951–1001, 2021.

Government Unconditional Cash transfers and Safe Transitions to Adulthood in Malawi (joint M. Lambon-Quayefio, A. Peterman, S. Handa, A. Molotsky, F. Otchere, P. M. Mvula, M. Tsoka, J. Joost De Hoop, G. Angeles, and K. Kilburn), *World Development*, Volume 175, March 2024, 106483, available online on December 2, 2023.

Son Preference, Maternal Health and Women's Survival: A Cross-Cultural Analysis (joint with Neha Agarwal), *Accepted, Economic Development and Cultural Change*. Policy & media coverage: *Ideas for India*

BOOKS

Development and Nutrition. The Role of Social Norms (joint with Eliana La Ferrara), EGEA publishing (Bocconi University Press), 2015.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Racial Disparities in Maternal Health: The Role of Preexisting Health Conditions, 2016-2022, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4855578>, *R&R, Health Economics*

Intersecting Social Inequalities in Prenatal and Postnatal Care: Examining Race, Ethnicity, Socioeconomic Status, and Geographic Location. (joint with N. Langa, Z. Oyarvide Tuthill, K. Anderson, F. York, M. Sampson, E. Gregory, K. Pilkinton, Q. Walton), *R&R, Social Science & Medicine*

Son Preference, Fertility and Family Structure. Evidence from Reproductive Behavior among Nigerian Women, *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper* No. 6869, World Bank, 2014. Policy & media coverage: *The Economist*, Fertility and Son Preference in Nigeria. Bring Back the Girls, July 19th 2014, *R&R, World Development*.

Explaining the Performance Gender Gap Among Informal Businesses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (joint with Markus Goldstein and Julia Vaillant)

TEACHING

Inter-university program offered by the University of Rome La Sapienza and Unitelma Sapienza, Italy, academic year 2025/26

Lecturer – Principles of Economics with Applications to Fashion (Graduate)

University of Rome Unitelma Sapienza, Italy, academic year 2025/26

Lecturer – Economia Comportamentale (Graduate), jointly with Annarita Colasante

University of Rome Unitelma Sapienza, Italy, academic year 2024/25, 2025/26

Lecturer – Economia Politica e Cooperazione Internazionale (Undergraduate)

University of Pavia, Dept. of Political and Social Sciences, Italy, academic year 2024/25, Fall

Lecturer (Visiting Faculty) – Part of the course 'Economia dello Sviluppo e Cooperazione' (Graduate), jointly with Enrica Chiappero and Marco Missaglia

University of Houston, Department of Economics, United States, academic year 2021/22, Spring

Lecturer (Adjunct Faculty) – The Economics of Gender (Undergraduate)

University of Calgary, Department of Economics, Canada, academic year 2018/19, Fall
Lecturer – Principles of Microeconomics (Undergraduate)

Bocconi University, Department of Economics, Italy, academic year 2011/12
Teaching Assistant – Development Economics (Master), Prof. Eliana La Ferrara, Christopher Woodruff

Bocconi University, Department of Economics, Italy, academic year 2010/11
Teaching Assistant – Development Economics (Master), Prof. Eliana La Ferrara, Katja Kaufmann;
Teaching Assistant – Development Policy (Undergraduate), Prof. Andreas Madestam, Tommy Murphy

University of Bologna, Department of Economics, Italy, academic years 2003/04–2004/05–2005/06
Teaching Assistant – Macroeconomics (Undergraduate), Prof. Giovanni Maria Mazzanti, Lorena Vincenzi

HONORS AND AWARDS

Bando di Terza Missione di Ateneo 2025/26 University of Rome Unitelma Sapienza ‘Stereotipi Invisibili: Pregiudizi e Disuguaglianze’ (Role: PI)

Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR)/AMID Marie Curie Fellowship funded under the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme, Early Stage Researcher, Paris School of Economics, Aug 2011-Jan 2012

Ph.D. Full Scholarship, Bocconi University, Italy, 2008–2012

Scholarship awarded to the most proficient student of the Master’s course in International Cooperation and Development, University of Bologna, Italy, 2005

Socrates-Erasmus Grant (granted by the University of Bologna), University of Cambridge, UK, 2004

GRANTS & CONTRACTS PARTICIPATION

Early Reach Evaluation. Inter-local agreement between Harris County and UH to evaluate Early Reach (Raising Educational Access for Children in Harris County), a pilot program to contract with high-quality child care centers to increase the supply of affordable, high-quality childcare in Harris County. The scope of the evaluation includes centers and family impacts, as well as the program’s cost effectiveness. Contract amount: \$2.3 million
Role: Co-PI; **Timeline:** 2024–2026

RAPID Early Childhood Survey for Harris County, implemented by the Stanford Center on Early Childhood, Stanford University. Member of the UH team acting as Harris County’s local partner to provide support for the survey. Developed a new module of questions on maternal health specifically tailored for inclusion in the RAPID Survey. Contract amount: \$600,000
Role: Co-PI; **Timeline:** 2023–2025

National Science Foundation, Build and Broaden: Enhancing Social, Behavioral and Economic Science Research and Capacity at Minority-Serving Institutions, with the project titled: “Identifying and Understanding the Social and Policy Determinants of Obstetric-Care Use, Maternal Mortality and Morbidity in Texas and the USA: A National and Targeted Assessment”, Grant funding: \$340,000
Role: Co-PI; **Timeline:** 2023–2026

PREVIOUS RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Houston, IRWGS, June-Dec 2022
Researcher

University of Houston, Department of Economics, Jan-May 2022
Adjunct Faculty

UNICEF Office of Research, November 2016-March 2017, Sept 2017-Jan 2018

Research Consultant

UNICEF, Social Protection Unit, MENA Region, April 2017-Jan 2018

Research Consultant

International Labor Office, Rome, March-Oct 2016

Research Consultant, Understanding Children's Work

The World Bank, Washington D.C., United States

Oct 2024-June 2025 Research Consultant, Living Standards Measurement Unit
 Sept 2015-June 2016 Research Consultant, Development Research Group, 2017 World Development Report (extended core team member)
 Sept 2013-Sept 2015 Post-doctoral Researcher, Development Research Group
 April-June 2013 Consultant, Africa Region, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management
 June-Sept 2012 Consultant, Africa Region, Social Protection & Labor
 Sept 2005-Sept 2008 Consultant, Social Safety Nets team, Social Protection & Labor

CONFERENCES AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

World Bank Africa Gender Innovation Lab (July 8th 2025); Workshop 'Riconoscere, comprendere e contrastare la violenza economica' (invited speaker), University of Rome Unitelma Sapienza, June 27th 2025; 58th Annual Meetings of the Canadian Economics Association (session chair), Toronto, May30th-June 1st 2024; Brown Bag seminar, Department of Economics, University of Houston, April 4th 2024; ARPA Connect 2023, November 9th 2023, Houston (invited speaker); Harris County Early Childhood Ecosystem Convening, October 17th 2023, Houston (invited speaker); UNFPA Every Girl Counts Global Technical Meeting: Ending Son Preference and Gender-biased Sex Selection, 14-15 February 2023 (virtual, invited speaker); Department of Economics, University of Manchester, November 18th 2021 (invited speaker); 2021 Annual Conference of the Canadian Economics Association (virtual), June, 3-5, 2021; January 2020 American Economic Association Meetings, San Diego, session 'Cultural Dynamics of Gender Norms' (declined, paper presented by coauthor); University of Victoria, invited seminar, March 29th 2019; Gender and Development conference, SITE Stockholm, December 17-18, 2018 (invited speaker); Famines and Adolescents' Workshop, UNICEF Office of Research, Florence, October 26-27, 2017 (invited speaker, declined); Center for Child Well-Being and Development, Annual Conference 2017, University of Zurich, March 17-18 2017 (invited speaker); 11th Workshop of the Households in Conflict Network, Toronto, Canada, Nov 6-7, 2015 (attendee); Bocconi University, 'Social Norms, Economic Development, and Nutrition' conference presentation of the book 'Development and Nutrition. The Role of Social Norms' (authors: Eliana La Ferrara and Annamaria Milazzo), Fondazione Invernizzi, Milan, April 22nd 2015; IFPRI, Washington D.C., Jan 22nd 2015; Population Association of America 2014 Annual Meeting, Boston, 1-3 May 2014; University of Calgary, Canada, April 23rd 2014; Spring 2014 Seminars, *qui² de* Development Seminar, Georgetown University, April 10th 2014; Canadian Economic Association 2013 Annual Conference, HEC Montréal, May 30-June 2 2013; Fall 2012 Seminars, University of Calgary, Canada, Dec 7th 2012; NEUDC Conference, Dartmouth College, United States, 3-4 Nov 2012; CRED-FUNDP Workshop, Namur, Oct 23rd 2012; First NOVAFRICA Conference on Economic Development in Africa, Lisbon, 7-8 Sept 2012 (declined); AEL 2012, German Economic Association, Bonn, 22-23 Jun 2012; CEPR/AMID Symposium in Development Economics, Milan, 8-9 Jun 2012; Casual Friday Seminar, Paris School of Economics, Jan 13rd 2012; Lunch Seminar on Applied Economics, Paris School of Economics, Nov 8th 2011; CSAE Conference, St Catherine's College, Oxford, 20-22 Mar 2011.

POLICY-RELATED WORKING PAPERS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Profiting from Parity: Unlocking the Potential of Women's Businesses in Africa (contributed with empirical analyses on the role of social norms in determining business performance), World Bank book, 2019

Non-Contributory Social Protection and Gender in the Middle East and North Africa Region, Report being finalized for the UNICEF MENA Regional Office

World Development Report 2017: Governance and the Law (extended core team member in charge of the contributions related to gender issues to the entire report), World Bank, 2017. Policy & media coverage (related to gender): *World Bank blog series 'Let's talk development'*, Gender-based violence, power and norms, May 25th 2016

Social Safety Nets in World Bank Lending and Analytical Work, 2002–07, (joint with Margaret Grosh), Chapter 5 in “Social Protection and Labor at the World Bank, 2000–08”, pp. 135–173, World Bank book, 2009

How to Make Public Works Work: A Review of the Experiences (joint with Carlo del Ninno and Kalanidhi Subbarao), *World Bank Social Protection Discussion Paper* No. 0905, 2009

For Protection and Promotion: The Design and Implementation of Effective Safety Nets World Bank book publication, by Margaret Grosh, Carlo del Ninno, Azedine Ouerghi, Emil Tesliuc (with the assistance of Annamaria Milazzo and Christine Weigand), 2008

Highly Labor-Intensive Public Works in Madagascar: Issues and Policy Options (joint with Nirina Haja Andrianjaka), *World Bank Social Protection Discussion Paper* No. 0836, 2008

REFeree SERVICE

American Economic Review, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* (3), *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *Asian Population Studies*, *Demography*, *B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change* (4), *Journal of African Economies*, *Journal of Development Economics* (3), *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* (3), *Journal of Health Economics*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Nature Sustainability*, *Oxford Economic Papers*, *Population Research and Policy Review*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (4), *Review of Economics of the Household*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *Social Forces*, *World Bank Economic Review* (3), *World Development* (3)

ADVISING

PhD Dissertation committee member, outside reader, Ryan McGregor (May 2024)

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

Italian scientific qualifications (Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale)

Associate Professor of Economics (until January 2032)

Associate Professor of Economic Policy (until January 2032)

Associate Professor of Applied Economics (until January 2032)

Languages: Fluent in Italian and English. Fair knowledge of French.

Autorizzo il trattamento dei dati personali contenuti nel mio curriculum vitae in base all'art. 13 del D. Lgs. 196/2003 e all'art. 13 GDPR 679/16.