

Elona Harka

Department of Economics
University of Bergamo
Via dei Caniana 2
24127 Bergamo, Italy
Email: elona.harka@unibg.it
Website: <http://www.elonaharka.com/>

Current Position

09/2023–present Assistant Professor (RTD-A), Department of Economics, University of Bergamo, Italy

Past Positions

09/2020–08/2023 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Economics, University of Bergamo, Italy

11/2019–08/2020 Grant holder of the “Ph.D. Excellence Research Grant”, Department of Economics and Management, University of Padova, Italy

Education

02/2020 Ph.D. in Economics, University of Padova, Italy
Dissertation: “Essays in Empirical Economics”
Date of Defense: 18 February 2020
Supervisor: Lorenzo Rocco, Co-supervisor: Antonio Nicolò

01/2019–03/2019 Visiting Research Student, Department of Economics, University of Warwick, UK

03/2016 Master in Migration Law (Diritto delle Migrazioni), University of Bergamo, Italy

07/2011 BSc in Economics, University of Tirana, Albania

Research Interests

Economic History, Political Economy, Public Economics

Publications

“Studying more to vote less. Education and voter turnout in Italy”, with Lorenzo Rocco, *European Journal of Political Economy*, Volume 72, 2022, 102115

Working Papers

“From Chalkboards to Steam Engines: Early Adoption of Compulsory Schooling, Innovation and Industrialization”, with Francesco Cinnirella, [CEPR Discussion Paper No. 20519](#). [CEPR Press, Paris & London](#), [CESifo Working Paper No. 12043](#) [CESifo Munich](#)

“Books Go Public: The Consequences of the Expropriation of Monastic Libraries on Innovation”, with Paolo Buonanno, Francesco Cinnirella, and Marcello Puca, [CEPR Discussion Paper No. 18926](#). [CEPR Press, Paris & London](#), [CESifo Working Paper No. 11015](#) [CESifo Munich](#)

“The Alabaster Ceiling: The Gender Legacy of the Papal States”, with Luca Nunziata and Lorenzo Rocco, [IZA DP No.14719, 2021](#)

Research Papers in Progress

“Dialects, human capital and labour market outcomes”, Job Market Paper
“The legacy of colonial institutions in Morocco”

Invited Seminars and Conference Presentations

- 2025 European Historical Economics Society (EHES) Conference, University of Hohenheim, Germany
 World Economic History Congress, Lund University, Sweden
 “Authoritarianism and Nation Building” Workshop, University of Bergamo, Italy
 European Association of Young Economists (EAYE) Meeting, King’s College London, UK
- 2023 Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture (ASREC) Conference, Bocconi University, Milan, Italy
 Associazione per la Storia Economica (ASE) Annual Meeting, University of Naples Federico II, Naples, Italy
 European Historical Economics Society (EHES) Conference, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria
 Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics (SIOE) Conference, Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany
 Frontier Research in Economic and Social History (FRESH) meeting, “Historical Political Economy and Long-run Development”, University of Cologne, Germany
 “The Causes and Consequence of Technological Progress” Workshop, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
 4th UniBg Economics Winter Symposium, Spiazzi di Gromo, Italy
- 2022 Seminar, Gender Economics Course, Department of Economics, American University, Washington DC, US
 Seminar, Department of Economics “Marco Biagi”, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy
 “Gender Discrimination: Cultural Origins and Lab Evidence” Workshop, University of Bergamo, Italy
- 2021 Spring Meeting of Young Economists, University of Bologna, Italy
- 2020 Seminar, Department of Economics, University of Bergamo, Italy
 Seminar, Department of Economic Theory and Economic History, University of Málaga, Spain
- 2019 International Conference on Culture, Institutions and Economic Development, Matera, Italy

Applied Economics Workshop: “Economics of Education, Retirement and the Household”, University of Padova, Italy

2018 Annual Conference of the Italian Society of Public Economics (SIEP), University of Padova, Italy

Teaching

Spring 2025 Lecturer, Soft and Complementary Skills, Master, University of Bergamo

Fall 2024 Lecturer, Health Economics and Public Finance, Undergraduate, University of Bergamo

Lecturer, Soft and Digital Skills, Undergraduate, University of Bergamo

Teaching Assistant, Crash Course in Introductory Econometrics, Master, University of Bergamo

Spring 2024 Lecturer, Health Economics and Public Finance, Undergraduate, University of Bergamo

Fall 2023 Teaching Assistant, Crash Course in Introductory Econometrics, Master, University of Bergamo

Spring 2023 Teaching Assistant, Microeconometrics, Master, University of Padova

Fall 2022 Teaching Assistant, Advanced Econometrics, Master, University of Bergamo

Teaching Assistant, Empirical Economics for Policy Making, Undergraduate, University of Bergamo

Spring 2022 Lecturer, Microeconomics, Undergraduate, University of Bergamo

Teaching Assistant, Microeconometrics, Master, University of Padova

Spring 2021 Teaching Assistant, Advanced Econometrics, Master, University of Bergamo

Teaching Assistant, Microeconometrics, Master, University of Padova

Teaching Assistant, Crash Course in Introductory Econometrics, Master, University of Bergamo

Spring 2020 Teaching Assistant, Microeconometrics, Master, University of Padova

Spring 2019 Teaching Assistant, Microeconomics, Undergraduate, University of Padova

Teaching Assistant, Microeconometrics, Master, University of Padova

Other Research Activities

12/2019 Research Assistant in the project “Talking (and Thinking) business: language time encoding and entrepreneurship”, University of Padova

Refereeing Activity

Journals: *Economia Politica*, *European Journal of Political Economy*, *Economics of Education Review*
Conferences: Spring Meeting of Young Economists 2022, European Association of Young Economists 2025

Winter/Summer Schools

01/2018 FBK-IRVAPP winter school “Advanced Methods for Impact Evaluation”, Trento, Italy

Computer Skills

Stata, QGIS, L^AT_EX, Office

Languages

English (fluent), Italian (fluent), Albanian (mother tongue)

References

Prof. Lorenzo Rocco
Department of Economics
University of Padova
via del Santo, 33 - 35123
Padova, Italy
✉ lorenzo.rocco@unipd.it

Prof. Francesco Cinnirella
Department of Economics
University of Bergamo
via dei Caniana 2 - 24127
Bergamo, Italy
✉ francesco.cinnirella@unibg.it

Prof. Luca Nunziata
Department of Economics
University of Padova
via del Santo, 33 - 35123
Padova, Italy
✉ luca.nunziata@unipd.it

Last update: December 14, 2025