

Francesco Cinnirella

Curriculum Vitæ

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Department of Economics

University of Bergamo

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Current Position

- 2021– Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, University of Bergamo, Italy
- 2023– Director of the PhD in Economics, University of Bergamo, Italy
- 2014– Research Fellow, CESifo, Munich
- 2013– Research Associate, Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy (CAGE), University of Warwick
- 2012– Research Affiliate, Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), London
- 2019– Editorial Board of *Rivista di Storia Economica/Italian Review of Economic History*

Past Appointments

- 2019-2021 Associate Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, University of Bergamo, Italy
- 2019-2021 Research Associate, Danish Institute for Advanced Study (D-IAS) at the University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark
- 2017-19 Assistant Professor of Economics, Danish Institute for Advanced Study and Department of Business and Economics, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark
- 2008-17 Senior Economist, ifo Center for the Economics of Education, ifo Institute—Leibniz Institute for Economic Research at the University of Munich, Germany
- 2015 Visiting Professor (*Lehrstuhlvertretung*) in “Quantitative Economic History”, University of Bayreuth
- 2014 Visiting Professor (*Lehrstuhlvertretung*) in “Quantitative Economics”, University of Mannheim
- 2012 Visiting Scholar, Brown University, Providence (RI), USA
- 2010-11 Visiting Professor (*Lehrstuhlvertretung*) in “Economic History”, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich
- 2004-08 Teaching Assistant, Institute of Economic History, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich

2003 Research Assistant, Department of Economics and Institutions, Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Italy

Education

2008 Dr. oec. publ. (Ph.D. in Economics), Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich (*summa cum laude*)
2004 Master in Economics and Finance, Ca' Foscari University, Venice (with distinction)
2003 Laurea Degree in Economics, Università di Roma "Tor Vergata", Italy

Fields of Interest

Growth and Development, Economic History, Political Economy, Public Economics, Demography

Publications in Refereed Journals

"Kindergartens and Intergenerational Mobility" (with Philipp Ager, Katherine Eriksson, and Viktor Malein), **AEA Papers and Proceedings**, 2025, 115: 415-20

"Flow of Ideas: Economic Societies and the Rise of Useful Knowledge" (with Erik Hornung and Julius Koshnick), **Economic Journal**, 2025, 135: 1496-1535

"Structural Change, Elite Capitalism, and the Emergence of Labor Emancipation" (with Quamrul Ashraf, Oded Galor, Boris Gershman and Erik Hornung), **Review of Economic Studies**, 2025, 92(2): 808-836

"Islam and Human Capital in Historical Spain" (with Alireza Naghavi and Giovanni Prarolo), **Journal of Economic Growth**, 2023, 28, 225-257

"Prussia Disaggregated: The Demography of its Universe of Localities in 1871" (with Sascha O. Becker), **Journal of Demographic Economics**, 2020, 86(3): 259-290

"Further Evidence of Within-Marriage Fertility Control in Pre-Transitional England" (with Marc Klemp and Jacob Weisdorf), **Demography**, 2019, 56(4): 1557-1572

"Nation Building: The Role of Central Spending in Education" (with Ruth Schueler), **Explorations in Economic History**, 2018, 67(1): 18-39

"The Role of Human Capital and Innovation in Economic Development: Evidence from Post-Malthusian Prussia" (with Jochen Streb), **Journal of Economic Growth**, 2017, 22(2): 193-227

"Malthus in the Bedroom: Birth Spacing as Birth Control in Pre-Transition England" (with Marc Klemp and Jacob Weisdorf), **Demography**, 2017, 54(2): 413-436 (Leading article)

"Landownership Concentration and the Expansion of Education" (with Erik Hornung), **Journal of Development Economics**, 2016, 121: 135-152

- “iPEHD - The ifo Prussian Economic History Database” (with Sascha O. Becker, Erik Hornung and Ludger Woessmann), **Historical Methods**, 2014, 47(2): 57-66
- “Does Women’s Education Affect Fertility? Evidence from Pre-Demographic Transition Prussia” (with Sascha O. Becker and Ludger Woessmann), **European Review of Economic History**, 2013, 17(1): 24-44
- “The Effect of Investment in Children’s Education on Fertility in 1816 Prussia” (with Sascha O. Becker and Ludger Woessmann), **Cliometrica**, 2012, 6(1): 29-44
- “Why Does Height Matter for Educational Attainment? Evidence from German Children” (with Marc Piopiunik and Joachim Winter), **Economics and Human Biology**, 2011, 9(4): 407-418
- “The Trade-off between Fertility and Education: Evidence from before the Demographic Transition” (with Sascha O. Becker and Ludger Woessmann), **Journal of Economic Growth**, 2010, 15(3): 177-204. (Leading article)
- “Optimists or Pessimists? A Reconsideration of Nutritional Status in Britain, 1740-1865”, **European Review of Economic History**, 2008, 12(3): 325-354
- “On the Road to Industrialisation: Nutritional Status in Saxony, 1690-1850”, **Cliometrica**, 2008, 2(3): 229-257
- “European Heights in the Early 18th Century” (with John Komlos), **Vierteljahrschrift für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte**, 2007, 94(3): 271-284

Publications in Volumes

- “Lessons from Bismarck’s Germanisation Policy” (with Ruth Schueler), in Rohner, D. and E. Zhuravskaya (eds), *Nation Building: Big Lessons from Successes and Failures*, CEPR Press, Paris & London, 2023, Chapter 12, 141-150
- “Education systems and human capital accumulation” (with Sascha O. Becker and Erik Hornung), in U. Pfister and N. Wolf (eds.), *An Economic History of the First German Unification: State Formation and Economic Development in a European Perspective*, Routledge, 2023, Chapter 15, 255-273
- “Bildung, Entwicklung und Nationsbildung im 19. Jahrhundert” (with Sascha O. Becker and Erik Hornung), in U. Pfister, J.-O. Hesse, M. Spoerer, and N. Wolf (eds.), *Deutschland 1871*, Mohr Siebeck, Tübingen, 2021, 313-333
- “Marital Fertility and Investment in Children’s Education”, in C. Diebolt, A. Rijpma, S. Carmichael, S. Dilli, and C. Störmer (eds.), *Cliometrics of the Family*, Springer, Berlin, 2019, Chapter 3, 33-54
- “Land Inequality, Education, and Marriage: Empirical Evidence from Nineteenth-Century Prussia” (with Erik Hornung), in M. Cervellati and U. Sunde (Eds.), *Demographic Change and Long Run Development*, MIT Press, Cambridge, 2017, 183-220

“Child Labor” (with G. Toniolo, G. Vecchi), in G. Vecchi (Ed.), *Measuring Wellbeing: A History of Italian Living Standards*, Oxford University Press, 2017, 143-168

“Lavoro minorile” (with G. Toniolo, G. Vecchi), in G. Vecchi (Ed.), *In ricchezza e in povertà. Il benessere degli italiani dall’Unità’ ad oggi*, Bologna: Il Mulino, 2011, 131-158

Working Papers

God, Guilt, and Giving: Public Good Contribution among Catholics and Protestants (with Sebastiano Della Lena, Elena Manzoni, and Fabrizio Panebianco), [CESifo WP 12414](#); [CEPR DP 21081](#)

“From Chalkboards to Steam Engines: Early Adoption of Compulsory Schooling, Innovation and Industrialization” (with Elona Harka), [CESifo WP 12043](#); [CEPR DP 20519](#)

“Books Go Public: The Consequences of the Expropriation of Monastic Libraries on Innovation” (with Paolo Buonanno, Elona Harka, and Marcello Puca), [CESifo WP 11015](#); [CEPR DP 18926](#)

“Froebel’s Gifts: How The Kindergarten Movement Changed the American Family” (with Philipp Ager), [CESifo WP 8504](#); [CEPR DP 15146](#)

“Religious Tolerance as Engine of Innovation” (with Jochen Streb), [CEPR DP 12466](#)

“The Cost of Decentralization: Linguistic Polarization and the Provision of Education” (with Ruth Schueler), [CESifo WP 5894](#), [CEPR DP 11274](#)

Work in Progress

“The Making of an American: Public Kindergartens and the Assimilation of Immigrant Children”, (with Philipp Ager, Katherine Eriksson, and Viktor Malein)

“The Impact of Italianization on Education and Labor Market Outcomes in Fascist Italy” (with Elona Harka)

Research Grants

2023-2025 Principal Investigator: “Empirical Evaluation of Historical Policies: Fascist Land Reclamation Program and Human Capital Accumulation in the Long-Run”, Ministero dell’Università e della Ricerca (ca. € 200,000)

2018-2021 Co-Investigator (Principal Investigator: Philipp Ager): “Institutions of Care: The Role of Early Childhood Investments for Historical Development”, Danish Council for Independent Research (ca. € 600,000)

2015-2017 Principal Investigator: “The Effects of Cultural Diversity on Innovation: Evidence from Nineteenth Century Prussia”, German Research Foundation (€ 118,100)

- 2012 Visiting Scholar at Brown University for the project “The Transition from Stagnation to Modern Economic Growth: Causes and Effects of the Accumulation of Human Capital”, Fritz Thyssen Stiftung (€6,442)
- 2010-2012 Team member of the project: “Establishment of a leading international centre of excellence examining the effects of education on longterm economic development”, Leibniz Association

Conference Presentations

- 2024 ASREC, Salonicco, Greece; CEPR EH Symposium, Dublin, Ireland; IESEG, Paris, France
- 2023 IBEO, Alghero, Italy; SIEP (Italian Society of Public Economics), Verona, Italy; European Historical Economic Society (EHES) meeting, Vienna, Austria; Urban Economic Association, Bocconi University, Milan
- 2022 Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture (ASREC), London, October 21-22; XXXIV SIEP (Italian Society of Public Economics), L’Aquila, Italy, September 15-16; CEPR Ninth Economic History Symposium, Odense, Denmark, June 9-10
- 2020 American Economic Association (AEA) Annual Meeting, San Diego, January 03-05;
- 2019 European Historical Economics Society (EHES) Conference, Paris, August 29-31; CEPR Conference “Accounting for the Wealth of Nations: History and Theory”, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, April 25-26;
- 2018 Economic History of Religion Conference, Northwestern University, Oct. 26-27; World Economic History Congress (WEHC), Boston, July 29-Aug. 3; Conference on “Deep-Rooted Factors in Comparative Development”, Brown University, May 5-6
- 2017 European Economic Association (EEA), Lisbon, Aug. 21-15; II Kongress für Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte, Bonn, Apr. 19-22; Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture (ASREC), Boston, Feb. 24-25; AEA/ASSA Meeting, Chicago, Jan. 6-8 (discussant)
- 2016 Verein für Socialpolitik, Augsburg, Sept. 4-7; NBER SI “Development of the American Economy”, Boston, July 11-14; CESifo Delphi, Munich, July 1-2; CEPR Economic History Symposium, Dublin, June 9-10
- 2015 Economic History Association (EHA), Nashville (TN), USA, Sept. 11-13; European Historical Economic Society (EHES), Pisa, Italy, Sept. 4-5; European Economic Association (EEA), Mannheim, Aug. 24-27; Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture (ASREC), Boston, USA, March 20-22; First German Economic History Conference, Munster, Germany, March 11-14

- 2014 Center for Advanced Studies (CAS), “The Long Shadow of History — Mechanisms of Persistence in Economics and the Social Sciences”, Munich, Germany, Nov. 21-22; CEPR Economic History Symposium, Vienna, Austria, Sept. 25-26; EH Clio Lab, Santiago de Chile, Aug. 8-9; CESifo Venice Summer Institute, “Demographic Change and Long-Run Development”, Venice, Italy, July 25-26; NBER SI, “Income Distribution and Macroeconomics”, Boston (MA), USA, July 15-17
- 2013 European Historical Economics Society (EHES), London, UK, Sept. 6-7; European Economic Association (EEA), Gothenburg, Sweden, Aug. 26-30; CEPR Economic History Symposium, Perugia, Italy, Apr. 12-14; Royal Economic Society (RES), Royal Holloway, London, UK, Apr. 3-5; CAGE/CEPR Conference “Long-Run Growth: Unified Growth Theory and Economic History”, University of Warwick, UK, Jan. 29-30
- 2012 Economic History Association (EHA), Vancouver, Canada, Sept. 21-23; Verein für Socialpolitik (VfS), Göttingen, Germany, Sept. 9-12; European Economic Association (EEA), Malaga, Spain, Aug. 27-31; European Society for Population Economics (ESPE), Bern, Switzerland, Jun. 20-23
- 2011 European Historical Economics Society (EHES), Dublin, Ireland, Sept. 2-3; Economic History Society (EHS), Cambridge, UK, Apr. 1-3
- 2009 Econometric Society European Meeting (ESEM), Barcelona, Spain, Aug. 23-27; World Economic History Congress (IEHA), Utrecht, Netherlands, Aug 3-7; CESifo-Delphi International Conference on “Human Capital and the Global Division of Labor”, Delphi, Greece, Jun. 12-13; CESifo Area Conference on Employment and Social Protection, Munich, Germany, May. 15-16; Economic History Society (EHS), Warwick, UK, Apr. 3-5
- 2007 Economic History Society (EHS), Exeter, UK, Mar. 30-Apr. 1
- 2006 International Conference on Economics and Human Biology (EHB), Strasbourg, France, Jun. 22-24; German Cliometrics, Tübingen, Germany, Jun. 7-10
- 2005 Social Science History Association (SSHA), Portland (OR), USA, Nov. 3-6; European Historical Economics Society (EHES), Istanbul, Turkey, Sept. 9-10

University Seminars and Workshops

- 2025 Economic History Mini-Workshop, Mannheim; CEPR Applied Micro-Economic History Workshop in Heidelberg; Humboldt University of Berlin; Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg;
- 2024 Bank of Greece, Athens, Greece; Bocconi University, Milan, Italy; Parthenope University, Naples, Italy;
- 2023 Workshop on Comparative Economic Development, Athens, Greece;
- 2022 UCLouvain Economics Seminar, Nov. 24; Riccardo Faini CEIS Seminars, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Nov. 4; Research on central banking history and on Italian economic history, Bank of Italy, Rome, Oct. 13;

- 2021 IV Workshop on Formal and Informal Institutions for Growth and Development, Nov. 23; Institut für Wirtschaft- und Sozialgeschichte, Vienna, Nov. 16; IÉSEG School of Management, Oct. 14
- 2020 Humboldt University of Berlin, Jan. 15
- 2019 Belfast, Nov. 8; Lund University, Dec. 4; Dondena Centre for Research on Social Dynamics and Public Policy, Bocconi University, Milan, March 4; University of Bologna, June 5
- 2017 Galatina Summer Meetings, Galatina, Italy, Aug. 28-30; University of Copenhagen, Denmark, Dec. 15
- 2016 EH/Tune 6th Economic History Workshop, Siena, Italy, Oct. 27-28; Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium, June 22-23; University of Siena, Italy, Apr. 20; University of Konstanz, Germany, June 6; University of Bonn, Germany, Jan. 14
- 2015 Universitat de Barcelona (UB), Spain, Dec. 4-5 [Keynote speaker]; University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany, Nov. 25; Brown University, Rhode Island, USA, Mar. 18
- 2014 University of Copenhagen, Denmark, Dec. 18; University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark, Dec. 16; Tinbergen Institute, Rotterdam, Netherlands, Nov. 24; Technical University Munich (TUM), Germany, July 10
- 2013 Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, Italy, Oct. 15; Università di Bologna, Italy, Oct. 14; Mannheim Economic History Talks, University of Mannheim, Germany, Apr. 24; Economics Seminar, Università degli studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Italy, Apr. 16
- 2012 Macro Lunch, Brown University, Providence (RI), USA, Nov. 12; Research in Economic History, Harvard University, Cambridge (MA), USA, Nov. 5; Workshop "Intergenerational Transmission of Entrepreneurship, Occupations and Cultural Traits in the Process of Long-Run Economic Growth", Naples, Italy, May 17-18; BETA Workshop in Historical Economics: "Population Cliometrics and Unified Growth Theory", University of Strasbourg, France, May 11-12, 2012; University of Barcelona (UB), Spain, Mar. 7; Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Germany, Jan. 25
- 2011 MEA - Munich Center for Economics of Aging, Munich, Germany, Nov. 23; Berlin Colloquium, Humboldt-Universität (HU), Berlin, Germany, Jun. 29; Workshop "Gary Becker Revisited: Welfare and Household Behavior in Europe", European University Institute (EUI), Florence, Italy, Mar. 25; FRESH Meeting, University Carlos III, Madrid, Spain, Mar. 10-11; MEHR Seminar, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, Feb. 24
- 2010 Workshop "Towards Sustained Economic Growth: Evidence and Theory", CREI Barcelona, Spain, Oct. 29-30; Sound Economic History Workshop, Lund University, Sweden, Oct. 7-8; Workshop "Human Capital in Economic History: Measurement, Determinants and Implications", Tübingen, Germany, Aug. 28-29
- 2009 MPI Econ Workshop, Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, Bonn, Germany, Oct. 1; Economic History Workshop, Universidad Carlos III, Madrid, Spain, May. 13; Economic History Workshop, Pembroke College, University of Oxford, UK, Apr. 30

2008 GlobalEuroNet Summer School “Economic and Social Inequalities in Historical Perspective”, Paris, France, Jul. 7-11

Referee

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Journal of Political Science, CE-Sifo Economic Studies, Cliometrica, Demographic Research, Econometrica, Economic History Review, Economic Journal, Economics Bulletin, Economics and Human Biology, Economics of Education Review, Education Economics, European Economic Review, European Journal of Political Economy, European Review of Economic History, Explorations in Economic History, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Demographic Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of Economic Growth, Journal of Economic History, Journal of Economic Inequality, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of European Economic History, Journal of Economic Surveys, Journal of Population Economics, Perspektiven der Wirtschaftspolitik, Population Studies, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Scandinavian Economic History Review, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Science, Social Science History

Languages

Italian: native
English: fluent
German: fluent
Spanish: advanced