https://www.saraspaziani.com/ sara\_spaziani@brown.edu

# Personal Information: Female, Italian Citizen

### **Undergraduate Studies**:

BSc in Economics and Social Sciences, Bocconi University (Summa cum Laude), 2015 Visiting Student, Northwestern University, Fall 2014

# Graduate Studies:

MSc in Economics and Social Sciences, Bocconi University (Summa cum Laude), 2018 MA in Economics, Brown University, 2019 Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, Brown University, Expected Completion Date: May 2024

### **Research Fields**:

Primary fields: Public Economics, Gender Economics Secondary fields: Development Economics, Political Economics

#### **Teaching Experience:**

Fall, 2021	Mathematical Econometrics I, undergraduate level, Brown University,
	Teaching Assistant for Professor Peter Hull
Spring, 2019	Microeconomics II, graduate level, Brown University,
	Teaching Assistant for Professor Kareen Rozen
Fall, 2019	Designing Internet Marketplace, undergraduate level, Brown University,
	Teaching Assistant for Professor Bobby Pakzad-Hurson

### **Research Experience and Other Employment:**

2017-2018	Bocconi University, Research Assistant for Professor Eliana La Ferrara
Summer, 2016	BRAC Uganda Research and Evaluation Unit, Intern
Summer, 2015	Sei Consulting, Intern

### **Professional Activities**:

Presentations	
2021	Bocconi University, LEAP Virtual Alumni Reunion; NEUDC; Applied
	Microeconomics Lunch Seminar, Brown University.
Affiliations	
2019-Present	Graduate Program in Development Fellow, Watson Institute for International
	Studies, Brown University.
2018-Present	Affiliate, Population Studies and Training Center
2015-Present	Affiliate, Laboratory for Effective Anti-Poverty Policies, Bocconi University
2016-2018	Visiting Student, Innocenzo Gasparini Institute for Economic Research (IGIER),
	Bocconi University
Other	
2022	Organizer of the Applied Microeconomics Breakfast at Brown University
2022	Participant to the NBER Boot Camp in Behavioral Public Economics

#### Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

Spring, 2022	James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Wealth and Income Inequality Project Fellowship
2020-2021	Watson Institute Graduate Program in Development Fellowship
2020	Brown University Teaching Award

2014 Exams passed with Distinction, Northwestern University
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## **Research Grants:**

Watson Institute Graduate Program in Development Summer funds (\$1,000)
Brown University Economics Department Award (\$1,000)
Orlando Bravo Center for Economic Research Award (\$800)
Brown University Economics Department Award (\$1200)
Watson Institute Graduate Program in Development Summer funds (\$2,000)
As Co-PI: IZA: Gender, Growth & Labour Markets in LICs Programme (£9,149)
As Co-PI: JPAL Post Primary Initiative (\$49,178)

## <u>Skills</u>

Stata, Survey Solutions, MS Office, LaTeX (proficient)

## **Publications:**

"Can Gender Quotas Break the Glass Ceiling? Evidence from Italian Municipal Elections" Accepted. European Journal of Political Economy

## **Research Papers:**

"Meet Your Future: Job Search Effort and Aspirations of Young Jobseekers" (with Livia Alfonsi and Mary Namubiru). *Accepted based on pre-results review. Journal of Development Economics (2021)* This study investigates the relative importance of several barriers to quality employment young jobseekers in developing contexts face when transitioning into a labor market characterized by high levels of informality and technological constraints: lack of information on labor market conditions, inability to communicate their own value, lack of connections, lack of motivation and liquidity constraints. The experimental setting is that of Vocational Training Institutes (VTI) in Uganda. We track 1115 VTI students over a period of 3 years to follow the evolution of their employment expectations and planned search strategy as they approach the labor market and start the search. Treated students are eligible to participate in the Meet Your Future Program, a highly tailored career-coaching program delivered by successful alumni who belong to their search in addition to the program. We estimate the casual effect of these interventions on students' expectations, job search and labor market outcomes. Last, through detailed data on students' pre-intervention network and socioeconomic background we are able to evaluate the program's potential to increase equality of access to quality jobs.

"Gender Gaps: Back and Here to Stay? Evidence from Skilled Ugandan Workers during COVID-19" (with Livia Alfonsi and Mary Namubiru). *Submitted*.

We investigate gender disparities in the effect of COVID-19 on the labor market outcomes of skilled Ugandan workers. Leveraging a high-frequency panel dataset, we find that the lockdowns imposed in Uganda reduced employment by 69% for women and by 45% for men, generating a previously nonexistent gender gap of 20 p.p. Eighteen months after the onset of the pandemic, the gap persisted: while men quickly recovered their pre-pandemic career trajectories, 10% of the previously employed women definitively separated from the labor market, and another 35% remained occasionally employed. Additionally, the lockdowns permanently shifted female workers to sectors misaligned with their skill sets, relocated them into agriculture and other unskilled sectors, and widened the gender pay gap. Pre-pandemic sorting of women into economic sectors subject to the strongest restrictions and childcare responsibilities induced by schools' prolonged closure only explain up to 57% of the employment gap.

## **Research Papers in Progress**

"Optimal Unemployment Insurance with Misallocation"