

Ornella Darova

PHD STUDENT IN ECONOMICS · UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
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EDUCATION

Jul 2019 – exp. May 2025	Ph.D. in Economics	UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
	Main Advisor: Petra Todd; Other Committee Members: Jere Behrman, Hanming Fang.	
Sep 2016 – Mar 2019	M.Sc. in Economic and Social Sciences (110/110 cum laude). Advisor: Eliana La Ferrara.	BOCCONI UNIVERSITY
Sep 2014 – Jul 2016	Honors Program in Economics	COLLEGIO CARLO ALBERTO
Sep 2013 – Jul 2016	B.Sc. in Economics and Statistics (110/110 cum laude). Advisor: Daniela Del Boca.	UNIVERSITY OF TURIN

WORKING PAPERS

Darova, O., (2024). *Language, Bullying, and Learning: School Choice in Multilingual Contexts*. Job Market Paper.

Darova, O., Galvez-Soriano, O. (2024) *Language Policy and Skill Formation: English-Indigenous Complementarities*.

Darova, O., Duchene, A. (2024) *Diversity in Teams: Collaboration and Performance in Experiments with Different Tasks*.

PUBLICATIONS

Cusolito, A. P., Darova, O. & McKenzie, D. (2023). *Capacity building as a route to export market expansion: A six-country experiment in the Western Balkans*. *Journal of International Economics*, 144, 103794.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Sep 2022 – May 2023	Research Assistant	UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
	Assisted in data collection and preliminary analysis for a project on race/ethnicity and policing.	
Oct 2021 – Dec 2021	Consultant	WORLD BANK
	Assisted in data collection for 225 firms and ran the impact evaluation of a project focused on educating entrepreneurs from emerging markets on export expansion. ⇒ Cusolito, A. P., Darova, O. & McKenzie, D. (2023). “ <i>Capacity building as a route to export market expansion: A six-country experiment in the Western Balkans</i> ”. <i>Journal of International Economics</i> , 144, 103794.	
Aug 2020 – Mar 2022	Consultant	OECD
	Analyzed regulations related to infrastructure, labor markets, and firms for the “Product Market Regulation Indicators” project, particularly for developing countries (Ecuador, Vietnam, Ivory Coast, Kosovo).	
Jun 2021 – Aug 2021	Research Assistant	UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
	Conducted extensive spatial analysis and data collection on zoning and determinants of educational access. ⇒ Agostinelli, F., Luflade, M. & Martellini, P. (2021), “ <i>On the Spatial Determinants of Educational Access</i> ”, HCEO Working Paper No. 2021-042.	
Apr 2019 – Jul 2019	Consultant	WORLD BANK
	Participated in data analysis and qualitative interviews for an experiment on firm investment readiness. ⇒ Cusolito, A. P., Dautovic, E. & McKenzie, D. (2021), “ <i>Can Government Intervention Make Firms More Investment-Ready? A Randomized Experiment in the Western Balkans</i> ”, <i>The Review of Economics and Statistics</i> , 103 (3): 428–442.	
Apr 2018 – Mar 2019	Field Research Coordinator	BOCCONI UNIVERSITY (LEAP)
	Led a randomized controlled trial in Sierra Leone, overseeing three treatment arms across 150 village clusters. Conducted interviews with local NGOs, secured ethical approval, and obtained census data. Designed and programmed surveys, trained 25 enumerators, and managed data collection logistics, ensuring high data quality. ⇒ Corno, L. & La Ferrara, E. (2022), “ <i>Norms Replacement. A Field Experiment on Female Genital Cutting</i> ”.	
Jan 2018 – Sep 2019	Research Assistant	COLLEGIO CARLO ALBERTO (CHILD)
	Designed the impact evaluation for a project with Save The Children addressing educational poverty in Italy.	

Jun 2017 – Sep 2017 **Research Intern** STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY (IIES)
Engaged in survey programming, data collection, data cleaning, enumerators training and spatial data analysis.
⇒ Burchardi, K., de Quidt, J., Gulesci, S., Lerva, B. & Tripodi, S. (2021), “Testing willingness to pay elicitation mechanisms in the field: Evidence from Uganda”, Journal of Development Economics; 152.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Jan 2024 – Apr 2024 **Instructor** in Inclusive and Equitable Teaching CETLI, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Creating inclusive classes leveraging student identities. Target: Graduate students.

Sep 2021 – May 2022 **TA** in Public Finance UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Theory of government intervention and public policy evaluation. Target: Intermediate undergraduate students.

Jun 2021 – Aug 2021 **TA** in Microeconomics for Managers WHARTON SCHOOL OF THE U. OF PENNSYLVANIA
Micro-economic foundations for business decision-making. Target: MBA students.

Sep 2020 – May 2021 **TA** in Microeconomics UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Fundamentals of microeconomics. Target: Undergraduate students.

CONFERENCES

2024 American Economic Association Annual Meeting.

2023 Midwest International Economic Development Conference (U. of Houston); Young Economists Meeting; Annual Conference of the European Society for Population Economics; CSERI (UPenn).
CSERI (University of Pennsylvania); Empirical Management Conference (International Finance Corporation, World Bank Group).

2022

2021 Boston University PhD Women’s Workshop.

HONORS & GRANTS

2024 Research Grant, School of Arts & Sciences - University of Pennsylvania; Research Grant, CSERI - University of Pennsylvania; Phil Saunders Best Economic Education Paper Award, National Assoc. of Economic Educators.

2023 Office of the Europe and Central Asia Chief Economist Academy Winner, World Bank Group; Inclusive & Equitable Teaching Fellowship, Penn’s Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL); Graduate Student Research Grant, Penn Development Research Initiative & DevLab; Hiram C. Haney Fellowship Award, Best Third Year Paper, University of Pennsylvania.

2021 Fellowship, Xingmei Zhang & Yongge Dai Fellowship; Research Grant, CSERI - University of Pennsylvania.

2020 Scholarship, Ermenegildo Zegna Group.

2019 First Prize, Thesis Award, Fondazione Finanza Etica. Full Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania (whole PhD duration).

2017 First Prize, Jo Cox Award for Thesis in European Studies, Associazione I Mille.

2016 & 2017 Scholarship, Bocconi University.

2014 & 2015 Scholarship, Collegio Carlo Alberto.

AFFILIATIONS

Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Innovation (University of Pennsylvania), **Penn Development Research Initiative** (University of Pennsylvania), **CHILD** (Collegio Carlo Alberto), **LEAP** (Bocconi University).

COMPUTER SKILLS

R, Stata, QGIS, SurveyCTO, LaTeX, MATLAB, Python.

LANGUAGES

English: fluent. **Italian:** native. **Albanian:** native. **French:** intermediate. **Spanish:** intermediate.