

ANTONIO FRANCESCO GRAVINA

Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Public Economics

University of Messina

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[Personal Website](#) | [University Profile](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Economic Growth and Development; Structural Transformation; Technological Change; Automation and Labor Markets; Applied Econometrics

ACADEMIC POSITIONS AND RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Public Economics Department of Economics, University of Messina	Dec. 2024 – Present Messina, Italy
Consultant Asian Development Bank Research Project: <i>Industry, Services, and the Future of Development in Asia</i>	Jun. 2026 – Present Manila, Philippines
Junior Assistant Professor of Economics Department of Law, University of Palermo Research Project: <i>ROBOCOP – RObotic and BOttlenecks in Changing OccuPations</i>	Dec. 2021 – Dec. 2024 Palermo, Italy
Consultant Asian Development Bank Research Project: <i>Industry, Services, and the Future of Development in Asia</i>	May 2024 – Sep. 2025 Manila, Philippines
Consultant Asian Development Bank Research Project: <i>Enhancing Models for Macroeconomic Assessment and Long-Term Growth Projection</i>	Jun. 2023 – Jun. 2024 Manila, Philippines
Post-Doctoral Research Fellow Department of Law, University of Palermo Research Project: <i>Robotization of Production Processes and Impact on the Labor Market in Terms of Automation Risk, Skills and Wages</i>	Mar. 2021 – Dec. 2021 Palermo, Italy

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Management and Statistics University of Messina	Oct. 2017 – Dec. 2020 Messina, Italy
Visiting Ph.D. Student United Nations University Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT)	Nov. 2019 – Feb. 2020 Maastricht, Netherlands
M.Sc. in Economic and Financial Sciences University of Messina	Mar. 2015 – Dec. 2016 Messina, Italy
B.A. in Economic Sciences University of Messina	Sep. 2011 – Mar. 2015 Messina, Italy

PUBLICATIONS IN REFEREED JOURNALS

- Wealth and the origins of the education take-off** 2026
with M. Battisti, G. Maggio, A. M. Lavezzi, G. Tortorici
Journal of Economic Growth, 31, 77–124. doi: 10.1007/s10887-025-09257-3
- “What’s your shape?” A data-driven approach to estimating the Environmental Kuznets Curve** 2025
with M. Lanzafame
Energy Economics, 148, 108649. doi: 10.1016/j.eneco.2025.108649
- Robotic capital-skill complementarity** 2025
with M. Battisti, M. Del Gatto, C. F. Parmeter
Macroeconomic Dynamics, 29, e54. doi: 10.1017/S1365100524000567
- Demography, growth, and robots in advanced and emerging economies** 2024
with M. Lanzafame
Asian Development Review, 41(2), 1–26. doi: 10.1142/S0116110524400122
- Unraveling wage inequality: Tangible and intangible assets, globalization and labor market regulations** 2024
with N. Foster-McGregor
Empirical Economics, 67, 1375–1420. doi: 10.1007/s00181-024-02587-y
- School-age vaccination, school openings and Covid-19 diffusion** 2023
with E. Amodio, M. Battisti, A. M. Lavezzi, G. Maggio
Health Economics, 32(5), 1084–1100. doi: 10.1002/hec.4657
- Are robots in rich countries a threat for employment in emerging economies?** 2022
with M. R. Pappalardo
Economics Letters, 221, 110888. doi: 10.1016/j.econlet.2022.110888
- Patterns of inequality and robotization: A panel data analysis** 2022
with G. Vallanti
Economia Italiana, 2021/3, 135–159.
- Do robots complement or substitute for older workers?** 2021
with M. Battisti
Economics Letters, 208, 110064. doi: 10.1016/j.econlet.2021.110064
- Finance, globalisation, technology and inequality: Do nonlinearities matter?** 2021
with M. Lanzafame
Economic Modelling, 96, 96–110. doi: 10.1016/j.econmod.2020.12.026

WORKING PAPERS

- The impact of automation on youth employment trajectories** 2026
with M. Battisti, I. Brunetti, P. Li Donni
Under review.
Previous version circulated as *Automation and Young Workers’ Job Trajectories: The Italian Case*, INAPP Working Paper No. 124, 2024. doi: 10.53223/InappWP_2024-124
- When manufacturing matters most: Structural transformation and productivity growth trajectories in developing and emerging economies** 2026
with M. Battisti, M. Lanzafame
ADB Economics Working Papers Series No. 840. doi: 10.22617/WPS260125-2. *Under review*.
- Asia’s structural transformation: Patterns, challenges, and new stylized facts** 2026
with M. Battisti, M. Lanzafame
ADB Economics Working Papers Series No. 842. doi: 10.22617/WPS260133-2.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Did Schooling Shield Sicily from the Rise of the Mafia?	<i>In progress</i>
Automation and State Repression with M. Battisti, D. Maimone Ansaldo Patti	<i>In progress</i>
How Much Do Countries Really Invest in Human Capital? Measurement and the Gains from Reallocation with M. Battisti, V. Prete	<i>In progress</i>
When Robots Cross Borders: Foreign Automation and Employment Dynamics in Catching-Up Economies with M. Battisti, M. Lanzafame	<i>In progress</i>
Markups, Misallocation, and Structural Transformation in Asia: A Micro-to-Sector Approach with M. Battisti, M. León-Ledesma, M. Lanzafame	<i>In progress</i>

HONORS, AWARDS, AND QUALIFICATIONS

National Scientific Qualification as Associate Professor in Economic Policy Italian Ministry of University and Research	Jun. 2026 Italy
National Scientific Qualification as Associate Professor in Economics and Public Economics Italian Ministry of University and Research	Nov. 2025 Italy
Best Doctoral Dissertation in Economics “Andrea Vaona” Award, University of Trento and University of Verona	Jul. 2021 Verona, Italy

RESEARCH GRANTS AND FUNDING

FFABR UniME Young Researchers 2025 University of Messina – Project: <i>AlfaBetizzazione: una Barriera all’Ascesa mafiosa? (ABBA)</i>	Dec. 2025 Messina, Italy
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SCIENTIFIC APPOINTMENTS AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

Member of the Scientific Committee OECD Spatial Productivity Review of Sicily	2026 – Present OECD Trento Centre for Local Development
Member of the Doctoral Board Ph.D. Program in Economics, Management and Statistics	2025 – Present University of Messina
Member of the Joint Teaching-Student Committee (CPDS) Department of Economics	2025 – Present University of Messina
Member of the Ph.D. Final Examination Committee Ph.D. Program in Economics, Management and Statistics, XXXVIII Cycle	Dec. 2025 University of Messina
Ad Hoc Peer Reviewer Economic Modelling; Economic Change and Restructuring; Journal of Economic Growth; Canadian Journal of Economics; Applied Economics; Energy Economics; Journal of Productivity Analysis; Journal of Population Economics	
Quality Assurance Delegate Economics, Department of Law, University of Palermo	A.Y. 2023/24 – 2024/25 Palermo, Italy

SUPERVISION

Ph.D. Supervisor Ph.D. Program in Economics, Management and Statistics, XLI Cycle	2025 – Present University of Messina
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SELECTED CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND SEMINARS

9th International ASTRIL Conference Roma Tre University	22–23 Jan. 2026 Rome, Italy
Workshop on Misallocation and Technological Heterogeneity in Agriculture University of Palermo – <i>Moderator</i>	5–6 Dec. 2025 Palermo, Italy
Industry, Services, and the Future of Development in Asia – Research Workshop Asian Development Bank	18–19 Nov. 2025 Manila, Philippines
Africa Growth and Opportunity: Research in Action (AGORA) World Bank Group, Bank of Italy and Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance – <i>Invited Expert</i>	3–5 Nov. 2025 Palermo, Italy
66th Annual Conference of the Italian Economic Association (SIE) University of Naples Parthenope	23–25 Oct. 2025 Naples, Italy
XXI CiMET Workshop Kore University of Enna	18–20 Sep. 2024 Enna, Italy
ERDI Seminar Series Asian Development Bank	11 Jan. 2024 Online
ESM Lunch Seminar Department of Economics, University of Messina	31 Oct. 2023 Messina, Italy
Brown Bag Seminar Department of Economics, University of Palermo	31 May 2023 Palermo, Italy
Economic Seminar Series Department of Economics, University of Bergamo	3 May 2023 Bergamo, Italy
Program Evaluation Methods in Econometrics 2022 Italian Econometric Association (SIdE)	20 Jul. 2022 Bertinoro, Italy (Online)
Brown Bag Seminar Departments of Economics and Law, University of Palermo	4 May 2022 Palermo, Italy
LABOR 2nd Biannual Workshop Laboratorio Riccardo Revelli and Collegio Carlo Alberto	24–25 Feb. 2022 Turin, Italy
62nd Annual Conference of the Italian Economic Association (SIE) Italian Economic Association	26–29 Oct. 2021 Online
Awarding of the Andrea Vaona Prize for Doctoral Thesis Department of Economic Sciences, University of Verona	1 Oct. 2021 Verona, Italy
3rd Warsaw Money-Macro-Finance Conference (RCEA) University of Warsaw	3–4 Jun. 2021 Online
60th Annual Conference of the Italian Economic Association (SIE) University of Palermo	24–26 Oct. 2019 Palermo, Italy
7th SIdE Workshop for Ph.D. Students in Econometrics and Empirical Economics Italian Econometric Association (SIdE)	29–30 Aug. 2019 Bertinoro, Italy
EDEEM Doctoral Summer Workshop in Economics Ca' Foscari University of Venice	13–14 Jun. 2019 Venice, Italy

OUTREACH AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Lions International – Artificial Intelligence and the Labor Market Invited talk: <i>Artificial Intelligence and the Labor Market: Governing Technological Progress</i> Palazzo d'Orleans	11 Jan. 2025 Palermo, Italy
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, University of Messina – Department of Law Public Economics and Accounting, <i>Undergraduate level</i>	A.Y. 2026/27 Messina, Italy
Lecturer, University of Messina – School of Excellence 2026 Regional Public Finance and Policy: Efficiency, Equity and Institutional Quality in Regional Public Policies	Jul. 2026 Messina, Italy
Lecturer, University of Messina – Master in Parliamentary and Assembly Institutions Monetary Policy – The Role of Central Banks in the Economic System	Mar. 2026 Messina, Italy
Lecturer, University of Messina – Department of Law Public Economics, <i>Undergraduate level</i>	Feb. 2026 – Present Messina, Italy
Lecturer, University of Messina – Department of Economics International Public Policy, <i>Graduate level</i>	Feb. 2025 – Dec. 2026 Messina, Italy
Lecturer, University of Messina – Department of Economics Statistical and Econometric Models for Panel Data, <i>Ph.D. level</i>	Jun. 2025 Messina, Italy
Lecturer, University of Messina – Department of Economics Econometrics, <i>Undergraduate level</i>	Feb. 2025 – Dec. 2025 Messina, Italy
Lecturer, University of Palermo – Department of Law Political Economy, <i>Undergraduate level</i>	Oct. 2022 – Dec. 2024 Trapani, Italy
Lecturer, University of Palermo – Department of Law Regional Economics and Regional Pacts, <i>Undergraduate level</i>	Oct. 2022 – Nov. 2023 Trapani, Italy
Teaching Assistant in Political Economy Department of Law, University of Palermo	Mar. 2021 – Sep. 2022 Palermo, Italy
Lecturer, University of Palermo – Department of Economics Technology, Economic Growth and Inequality, <i>Ph.D. level</i>	May – Jun. 2022 Palermo, Italy
Lecturer, University of Messina – Department of Economics Statistical and Econometric Models for Panel Data, <i>Ph.D. level</i>	May 2022 Messina, Italy
Lecturer, Sapienza University of Rome – Department of Law and Economics Topics in Economic Growth, <i>Ph.D. level</i>	Apr. 2022 Rome, Italy
Lecturer, University of Palermo – Department of Law Nations and Growth: The Role Played by Public Law and Political Economy, <i>Undergraduate level</i>	Mar. – May 2022 Palermo, Italy
Subject Lecturer in Economics Department of Law, University of Palermo • Political Economy • Regional Economics	Jan. 2020 – Mar. 2021 Palermo, Italy
Learning Support Teacher in Economics Department of Economics, University of Messina, <i>Undergraduate level</i>	May – Oct. 2019 Messina, Italy
Learning Support Teacher in Economics Department of Economics, University of Messina, <i>Undergraduate level</i>	Jul. – Oct. 2018 Messina, Italy
Teaching Assistant in Economics M.Sc. in Banking and Finance, University of Messina	Mar. – Jun. 2017 Messina, Italy
Online Tutor in Economics Department of Economics, University of Messina, <i>Undergraduate level</i>	Aug. – Oct. 2016 Messina, Italy

ADVANCED TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL COURSES

Italian Econometric Association (SIde) Program Evaluation Methods in Econometrics 2022	18–23 Jul. 2022 Bertinoro, Italy (Online)
University of Palermo Applied Nonparametric Econometrics Prof. Christopher F. Parmeter, University of Miami	31 Jan. – 2 Feb. 2022 Palermo, Italy
Rossi-Doria Centre, Roma Tre University International School for Advanced Training: Public Policy Impact Assessment. Concepts, Methods and Applications	13–17 Sep. 2021 Online
Italian Econometric Association (SIde) An Introduction to Machine Learning and Text Mining for Economists using Stata, Python and R	26–30 Jul. 2021 Online
Panel Data Workshop Modelling Spatial Heterogeneity, Network Dependence and Nonlinearity in Multi-Dimensional Datasets Prof. Yongcheol Shin, University of York	Sep. 2018 Bari, Italy
EconoMetrics Advanced Econometric Course for Time Series and Panel Data	Apr. – May 2018 Online

SKILLS

Languages: Italian (native), English (B2)
Statistical and Econometric Software: Stata (advanced), R (basic), MATLAB (basic)
Other Software: LaTeX, Microsoft Office