

ADRIANA DI LIBERTO

University of Cagliari, Dipartimento di Scienze Economiche e Aziendali
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EDUCATION

University College London (London, UK)	2004
Ph.D. in Economics	
University of Siena (Siena, ITA)	2000
Ph.D. in Economics	
University College London (London, UK)	1994
M.Sc. in Economics	
University of Cagliari (Cagliari, ITA)	1992
Laurea (B.A.) summa cum laude in Political Science (Economics)	

CURRENT POSITION AND AFFILIATIONS

Full Professor of Economics	Dec. 2016 – Present
<i>Department of Economics and Management, University of Cagliari</i>	<i>Cagliari, Italy</i>
Research Fellow RFBerlin	2025 - Present
<i>ROCKWOOL Foundation (Institute for the Economy and the Future of Work)</i>	<i>Berlin, Germany</i>
Research Fellow IZA	2014 - Present
<i>IZA (Institute for the Study of Labor)</i>	<i>Bonn, Germany</i>
Research Fellow CRENoS	2002 - Present
<i>CRENoS (Centre for North South Economic Research)</i>	<i>Italy</i>
Member of the Board of Regents	July 2023 - Present
<i>Bank of Italy</i>	<i>Italy</i>

PAST APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor of Economics	Jan. 2014 - Dec. 2016
<i>Department of Economics and Management, University of Cagliari, Italy</i>	
Assistant Professor of Economics	2002 - Dec. 2014
<i>Department of Economics and Management, University of Cagliari, Italy</i>	
Post-doc position (assegno di ricerca)	2000 - 2002
<i>Department of Economics and Management, University of Sassari, Italy</i>	
Research assistant	1994 - 1996
<i>University of Cagliari, Italy</i>	
Research assistant	1992 - 1993
<i>FEEM (Fondazione ENI Enrico Mattei), Milano, Italy</i>	

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Economics of Education, Labor Economics, Growth and Human Capital

VISITING

- September 2024 - July 2025 Visiting Scientist, University of Potsdam (Potsdam), and Associate Scientist, DIW (German Institute for Economic Research, Berlin).
- February 2013 IFN (Research Institute of Industrial Economics, Stockholm).
- July 2011 IZA (Institute for the Study of Labor, Bonn).

PUBLICATIONS IN REFEREED JOURNALS

1. 2025 – “Managerial Practices and Student Performance: Evidence from Changes in School Principals”, with L. Giua, F. Schivardi, M. Sideri, G. Sulis, *accepted*, Journal of Human Capital. Previously CEPR Discussion Paper No. 19919 and IZA Discussion Paper No. 16203.
2. 2023 – “Vested Interest and Local Decision Making as Barriers to Eradicating a Pandemic Disease: The Case of African Swine Fever in Sardinia”, with F. Pigliaru, *Studi Economico-Giuridici*, Vol. 64(1), pp. 75–96.
3. 2022 – “Grading Practices, Gender Bias and Educational Outcomes: Evidence from Italy”, with L. Casula and S. Pau, *Education Economics*, Vol. 30(5), pp. 481–508.
4. 2015 – “Managerial Practices and Students’ Performance”, with F. Schivardi and G. Sulis, *Economic Policy*, Vol. 30(84).
5. 2015 – “Employment Subsidies, Informal Economy and Women’s Transition into Work in a Depressed Area: Evidence from a Matching Approach”, with M. Deidda, M. Foddi and G. Sulis, *IZA Journal of Labor Policy*, Vol. 4(7), April.
6. 2015 – “Past Dominations, Current Institutions and the Italian Regional Economic Performance”, with M. Sideri, *European Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 38.
7. 2015 – “Length of the Stay in the Host Country and Educational Achievement of Immigrant Students: The Italian Case”, *International Journal of Manpower*, Vol. 36(4).
8. 2013 – “High Skills, High Growth: Is Tourism an Exception?”, *Journal of International Trade and Economic Development*, Vol. 22(5).
9. 2011 – “Tourism and Development: A Recent Phenomenon Built on Old (Institutional) Roots?”, with R. Brau and F. Pigliaru, *The World Economy*, Vol. 34(3).
10. 2011 – “International TFP Dynamics and Human Capital Stocks: A Panel Data Analysis, 1960–2003”, with F. Pigliaru and P. Chelucci, *The Review of Income and Wealth*, Vol. 57(2).
11. 2011 – “Measuring Productivity”, with M. Del Gatto and C. Petraglia, *Journal of Economic Surveys*, Vol. 25(4).
12. 2010 – “La Valutazione degli Effetti degli Aiuti *de minimis* in un Comune della Sardegna: Aspetti Preliminari e Fattibilità”, with M. Meloni, *Rivista Economica del Mezzogiorno*, No. 4.
13. 2008 – “How to Measure the Unobservable: A Panel Technique for the Analysis of TFP Convergence”, with F. Pigliaru and R. Mura, *Oxford Economic Papers*, Vol. 60(2).

14. 2008 – “Education and Italian Regional Development”, *Economics of Education Review*, Vol. 27(1).
15. 2007 – “Convergence and Divergence in Neoclassical Growth Models with Human Capital”, *Economia Politica*, No. 2/2007.
16. 2003 – “Some Econometric Issues in Convergence Regressions”, with J. Symons, *The Manchester School*, Vol. 71(3).
17. 2001 – “Stock di Capitale Umano e Crescita delle Regioni Italiane: Un Approccio Panel”, *Politica Economica*, No. 2.
18. 1999 – “Istruzione Disuguale, Crescita Differente”, *Equilibri*, No. 3.
19. 1994 – “Crescita Endogena e Distribuzione del Reddito: Una Analisi Empirica”, *Il Giornale degli Economisti e Annali di Economia*, Vol. LII (N.S.), No. 1–3.

BOOKS AND CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

1. 2023 – “Barriere economiche alla eradicazione della Peste Suina Africana: il caso della Sardegna”, with F. Pigliaru, in *Autonomia della Regione e degli Enti locali: dal sistema delle competenze ai risultati dell’azione amministrativa. Un’analisi teorico-empirico-valutativa*, I. Ruggiu (ed.), Edizioni Scientifiche Italiane.
2. 2019 – *Il mondo che cambia*, A. Di Liberto and A. Pavan (eds.), Franco Angeli.
3. 2019 – “Le competenze manageriali dei Dirigenti Scolastici Italiani”, in *Il mondo che cambia*, A. Di Liberto and A. Pavan (eds.), Franco Angeli.
4. 2019 – “La valutazione dell’efficacia dei contributi *de minimis* alle imprese: un approccio basato sul Regression Discontinuity Design”, in *Il mondo che cambia*, A. Di Liberto and A. Pavan (eds.), Franco Angeli.
5. 2018 – “Shirking and Social Capital: Evidence from Skilled vs Unskilled School Workers”, with M. Sideri, in *Regional Development Trajectories Beyond the Crisis*, M. Bellandi, B. Biagi, A. Faggian, E. Marrocu, S. Usai (eds.), Franco Angeli.
6. 2017 – “School Management and Student Achievements”, in *Handbook of Contemporary Education Economics*, G. Johnes, J. Johnes, T. Agasisti, L. López-Torres (eds.), Edward Elgar.
7. 2013 – “Valutazione quantitativa”, in *L’impatto della politica regionale contro la dispersione scolastica: i laboratori didattici attuati in seguito alla delibera regionale n. 47/29 del 2007*, A. Di Liberto, G. F. Dettori and C. Zoppi (eds.), Kata Consulting.
8. 2013 – “TFP Convergence Across European Regions: A Comparative Spatial Dynamics Analysis”, with S. Usai, in *Geography, Institutions and Regional Economic Performance*, R. Crescenzi and M. Percoco (eds.), Springer.
9. 2010 – “Il cambiamento delle imprese nella percezione dei laureati”, with S. Usai, in *XI Rapporto sulla condizione occupazionale dei laureati. Occupazione e occupabilità dei laureati. A dieci anni dalla Dichiarazione di Bologna*, Consorzio Universitario ALMALAUREA (ed.), Il Mulino.
10. 2007 – “Convergence Clubs and the Role of Human Capital in Spanish Regional Growth”, in *Knowledge and Regional Economic Development*, J. Surinach, R. Moreno and E. Vayà (eds.), Edward Elgar.
11. 2006 – “Il capitale educativo: dati regionali e confronti internazionali”, in *Economia dell’Istruzione e del Lavoro in Sardegna*, A. M. Pinna and G. Sulis (eds.), CUEC.

ARTICLES SUBMITTED TO JOURNALS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

1. 2025 – “Remote Learning During the Covid-19 Pandemic: Evidence from a Three-Level Survey of Italian Schools”, with A. Caria and S. Pau, *IZA Discussion Paper No. 17545*, submitted
2. “Spatial Abilities and the Gender Gap in Mathematics (Matabì)”, with L. Giua, B. Romano and G. Piumatti
3. “School Management and the Gender Gap in Grading”, with L. Giua
4. “On Trust and Health”, with S. Balia, M. Darden and M. Macis
5. “Local vs. Central Decision-Making in Pandemic Disease Management: Evidence from African Swine Fever in Sardinia”, with F. Pigliaru
6. “Regional Heterogeneity and School Workers’ Behavior: The Role of Social Capital and Skills”, with F. Pigliaru and M. Sideri
7. “Does a Part-Time School Principal Harm Students? Evidence from a School Consolidation Program in Italy”, with S. Pau and R. Ballatore

WORKING PAPERS AND POLICY PIECES

1. 2025 – “Leading Schools, Raising Scores: The Role of Management in Education”, with A. Di Liberto, L. Giua, F. Schivardi, M. Sideri, G. Sulis, *VOXeu Columns (CEPR)*, 5 March
2. 2019 – “Politiche dell’istruzione: una priorità non solo regionale”, *OpenCalabria.com*, 12/07/2019
3. 2015 – “Se l’insegnante non va a scuola”, with M. Sideri, *Lavoce.info*, 05/05/2015
4. 2013 – “Le lacune del preside-manager”, with F. Schivardi and G. Sulis, *Lavoce.info*, 06/09/2013
5. 2013 – “Le competenze manageriali dei Dirigenti Scolastici italiani”, with F. Schivardi, M. Sideri and G. Sulis, *Working Paper Fondazione Giovanni Agnelli*, No. 48
6. 2001 – “Education and Italian Regional Development”, with J. Symons, *CEP Discussion Paper*, No. 496, Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics
7. 1994 – “Convergence Across Italian Regions”, *FEEM Working Paper*, No. 68, Fondazione ENI Enrico Mattei

FINANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS (COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROCESSES)

International

- **2022–Present** – “Economic, Social and Spatial Inequalities in Europe in the Era of Global Megatrends (ESSPIN)”, Horizon Europe (EU), Grant Agreement ID: 101061104 (01/10/2022–30/09/2025). Participant.
- **2022–Present** – “Growing Resilient Inclusive and Sustainable (GRINS)”, Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza (PNRR), NextGenerationEU funding, Project Code MUR: PE0000018, CUP: F53C22000760007 (01/12/2022–30/11/2025). Participant.
- **2011** – “Sharing Knowledge Assets: Interregionally Cohesive Neighborhoods (SEARCH)”, Seventh Framework Programme – Socioeconomic Sciences and Humanities (FP7-SSH), Grant Agreement No. 266834. Participant.

- **2007** – “Intangible Assets and Regional Economic Growth (IAREG)”, Seventh Framework Programme – Socioeconomic Sciences and Humanities (FP7-SSH), Grant Agreement No. 216813. Participant.

National

- **2020** – “Autonomia della Regione e degli Enti locali: dal sistema delle competenze ai risultati dell’azione amministrativa. Un’analisi teorico-empirico-valutativa”, Regione Sardegna, Legge 7/2022, Grant CUP: F25C20001170002. Unit coordinator.
- **2012** – “Che cosa fa nascere un imprenditore?”, Regione Sardegna, Legge 7/2007, Grant No. CRP 60619. Participant.
- **2010** – “La valutazione delle politiche scolastiche della Regione Sardegna”, Regione Sardegna, Legge 7/2007, Grant CUP: F71J09000300002. Participant.
- **2002** – “I fattori che influenzano i processi di crescita economica e di convergenza tra le regioni europee”, Italian Ministry of Education (MIUR), Cofin. Participant.
- **1998** – “European Integration and Regional Disparities in Economic Growth and Unemployment”, Italian Ministry of Education (MIUR), Cofin. Participant.

OTHER FINANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS

- **2021** – “Indagine informativa sulle pratiche della Didattica a Distanza (DaD) e della Didattica Digitale Integrata (DDI)”, funded by Fondazione Giovanni Agnelli, Turin.
- **2010** – “La valutazione della politica ICS (Interventi di coesione sociale)”, funded by In.Sar S.p.A.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Since 2015 – University of Cagliari: Macroeconomics (undergrad.)
- Since 2011 – University of Cagliari: Intermediate Policy Evaluation (grad., Laurea Magistrale)
- Since 2011 – University of Cagliari: Principles of Policy Evaluation (grad., Laurea Magistrale)
- 2010–2011 – University of Cagliari: Introductory Economics (undergrad.)
- 2004–2011 – University of Cagliari: Applied Macroeconomics (grad., Laurea Specialistica)
- 2003–2009 – University of Cagliari: Macroeconomics (undergrad.); Introductory Economics (undergrad.)
- 2003–2004 – University of Sassari: Econometrics of Panel Data (Master in Applied Statistics)
- 2001–2002 – University of Cagliari: Macroeconomics (undergrad.)
- 2000–2001 – University of Sassari: Econometrics (undergrad.); European Economy (grad., Jean Monnet EU program)
- 2000–2001 – University of Cagliari: Macroeconomics (undergrad.)
- 1998–1999 – University College London: European Economy I (undergrad., TA); Macroeconomics (undergrad., TA); European Economy II (undergrad., TA)
- 1997–1998 – University College London: European Economy I (undergrad., TA)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 2023–2024: Member of the evaluation committee, program “A Scuola per il Futuro – Insieme per contrastare l’abbandono scolastico”, Editions 2023 and 2024, Fondazione Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP), Rome.
- 2018: Advisor – Evaluation project “CI SIAMO!”, Cooperativa Sociale Schema Libero, research funding by Impresa Sociale Con i Bambini – Fondazione per il Sud.
- 2014: Advisor – “Gruppo di lavoro per l’elaborazione degli indicatori per la valutazione dei Dirigenti scolastici”, INVALSI – National Institute for the Educational Evaluation of Instruction and Training, Rome.
- 2011–2012: Advisor – Research project “Sviluppo di un sistema di indicatori di capitale umano” (Developing a system of human capital indicators), ISTAT – Italian National Institute of Statistics, Rome.
- 2009–2010: Member of the Steering Group on “Politiche regionali contro la dispersione scolastica”, Regione Autonoma della Sardegna.

REFeree SERVICES

Journal of Development Economics, Economic Journal, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Oxford Economic Papers, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of Population Economics, Journal of Productivity Analysis, Economics of Education Review, Education Economics, Regional Studies, Journal of Agricultural Economics, Papers in Regional Science, Applied Economics, Economics of Innovation and New Technologies, Bulletin of Economic Research, Journal of International Trade and Economic Development, Emerging Markets Finance and Trade, Applied Energy, The Review of Income and Wealth, Empirical Economics, Metroeconomica, International Economics Journal, Higher Education Quarterly, Giornale degli Economisti, Rivista Internazionale di Scienze Economiche e Commerciali, Scienze Regionali, Economia Politica