

# Chiara Zanardello

IRES/LIDAM - UCLouvain

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Pl. Montesquieu 3 - 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

Citizenship: Italian

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Economic history, applied microeconomics, human capital, migration, long-term growth

## DOCTORAL STUDIES

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2021 – Present Ph.D. Candidate Economics **UCLouvain**  
PhD Project: *Human Capital and Knowledge Networks: Market Forces, Scientific Academies, and the Spread of Ideas in Early Modern Europe.*  
Supervisor: *David de la Croix*  
Expected graduation: *Summer 2025*

Jan-Jun 2024 Visiting Graduate Fellow **Northwestern University**  
Host advisor: *Joel Mokyr*

## REFERENCES

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**Professor David de la Croix**  
UCLouvain  
[david.delacroix@uclouvain.be](mailto:david.delacroix@uclouvain.be)

**Professor Joel Mokyr**  
Northwestern University  
[j-mokyr@northwestern.edu](mailto:j-mokyr@northwestern.edu)

**Professor Joseph F. Gomes**  
UCLouvain  
[joseph.gomes@uclouvain.be](mailto:joseph.gomes@uclouvain.be)

## PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES

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2020 - 2021 M.Res. Economics (Joint Degree) **UCLouvain**

2019 - 2021 M.Sc. Economics and Political Science **University of Milan**

Fall 2018 Undergraduate Exchange Program (Erasmus+) **University of Latvia**

2016 - 2019 B.Sc. Economics and Commerce **University of Verona**

## PUBLICATIONS

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Zanardello, Chiara (2023). “Market forces in Italian Academia today (and yesterday)”. In: *Scientometrics* 128, pp. 651–698. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-022-04579-0>.

## JOB MARKET PAPER

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- Early Modern Academies, Universities, and Economic Growth **JMP**

*LIDAM Discussion Paper - 2024/12*

Knowledge production is vital to modern progress, but what about the past? Pre-industrial European academic institutions are often assumed to have been flawed, with misallocated resources and talent. In this paper, I examine the role of academies, dynamic and scientifically oriented institutions that emerged between 1650 and 1800. Using new data on historical European academia and advanced difference-in-difference methods, I find that academies contributed to long-term urban growth. Exploiting individual-level data on scholars, I further show that literary academies had no long-term effect, whereas scientific academies led to persistent growth. Finally, I demonstrate that academies had positive spillover effects, both on the growth of neighboring cities and on the quality of pre-existing universities. Altogether, I provide the first empirical evidence of the pivotal role scientific academies played in Europe’s economic growth.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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- Flora, Cosmos, Salvatio: Pre-modern Academic Institutions and the Spread of Ideas (*with David de la Croix, and Rossana Scebba*)

While having good ideas is not uncommon, their spread and evolution require a community. In premodern Europe (1084-1793), approximately 200 universities and 150 academies of sciences employed thousands of scholars, shaping an extensive network of intellectual exchange. By reconstructing inter-personal connections through institutional affiliations, we demonstrate how the European academic landscape facilitated the diffusion of ideas and led cities to develop – examples include botanic gardens, observatories, and Protestantism. Counterfactual simulations reveal that both universities and academies played crucial roles – alongside serendipity and more traditional channels such as books – with academies being particularly effective in connecting distant parts of the network. Moreover, we show that idea diffusion through the network remains remarkably resilient, even after the removal of key regions such as England or France. In Europe, ideas gain significance being effectively channelled by powerful institutions.

- Persistence of Universities (*with Pedro Aldighieri*)

## SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

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2023	<b>Mobility scholarships:</b> Scientific Stay Grant (FRS-FNRS), and Travel Grant (FWB)
2023	<b>Ph.D. Fellowship</b> (within <i>PDR (FRS-FNRS)</i> – Main promoter: David de la Croix)
2021	<b>Ph.D. Fellowship</b> (within <i>ERC grant 883033</i> – Supervisor: David de la Croix)
2020	<b>Joint Degree Program UNIMI – UCLouvain</b>
2020, 2021	<b>Right to University Education (DSU)</b> (University of Milan)
2018	<b>Erasmus+ Study Abroad Program</b>
2017, 2018, 2019	<b>Right to University Education (DSU)</b> (University of Verona)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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2023	<i>Advanced Macroeconomics III</i> (TA, Graduate)	<b>UCLouvain</b>
2025	<i>Using Economic Tools to Solve Global Challenges</i> (TA, Graduate)	<b>UCLouvain</b>

## TALKS

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2024	Economic History Lunch (Northwestern University), Cliometric Society Conference (AU Washington DC), European Doctoral Program Jamboree (Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona), FRESH workshop “Institutions, human capital, and long-term development: Lessons from pre-modern Europe” (UCLouvain), EHA “Globalization: Perspectives from the Past” (Sacramento, CA), CEPR-YSI (University of Southern Denmark)
2023	Doctoral Workshop (UCLouvain), IRES Lunch Seminar (UCLouvain), Econometric Society Winter Meeting (UManchester)
2022	IRES Lunch Seminar (UCLouvain), Conference “Early modern science, technology, and institutions” (UManchester), Doctoral Workshop (UCLouvain), AMSE Summer School “The Economics of Growth” (Aix-Marseille University), Conference “Religion, culture and economic growth in historical perspective” (UCLouvain)

## DATA PAPERS

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2024	Gualandris, Tifenn, Vitale, Mara, and <b>Zanardello, Chiara</b> <i>Scholars and Literati at the Agiati Academy in Rovereto (1750–1800)</i> . <i>Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae</i> . <a href="#">[DOI]</a>
	Clément, Blandine, and <b>Zanardello, Chiara</b> <i>Scholars and Literati at the Royal Naval Academy of France in Brest (1752–1793)</i> . <i>Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae</i> . <a href="#">[DOI]</a>

- 2024 **Zanardello, Chiara** *Scholars and Literati at the Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts of Arras (1737–1793)*. Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae. [\[DOI\]](#)
- 2023 Clément, Blandine, and **Zanardello, Chiara** *Scholars and Literati at the Academy of Georgofili (1753 – 1800)*. Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae. [\[DOI\]](#)
- de la Croix, David, and **Zanardello, Chiara** *Scholars and Literati at the University of Modena (1175–1800)*. Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae. [\[DOI\]](#)
- Zanardello, Chiara** *Literati and Scholars at the Dissonanti Academy in Modena (1680-1800)*. Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae. [\[DOI\]](#)
- de la Croix, David, and **Zanardello, Chiara** *Scholars at the Royal Academy of Sciences in Paris (1666-1793)*. Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae. [\[DOI\]](#)
- 2022 **Zanardello, Chiara** *Scholars and Literati at the Philosophical Society of Oxford (1651–1690)*. Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae. [\[DOI\]](#)
- Rolla, Cecilia, and **Zanardello, Chiara** *Scholars and Literati at the Academy of Sciences of Bologna (1714–1800)*. Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae. [\[DOI\]](#)
- Zanardello, Chiara** *Scholars and Literati at the University of Turin (1404–1800)*. Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae. [\[DOI\]](#)
- 2021 de la Croix, David, and **Zanardello, Chiara** *Scholars and Literati at the Academy of Sciences of Turin (1757–1800)*. Repertorium Eruditorum Totius Europae. [\[DOI\]](#)

## SKILLS

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Digital Skills R, Stata, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, TeamPortal, Matlab, EViews

Languages Italian (mother tongue), English (advanced), French (advanced), German (intermediate)