Jeanne Pinay

PhD Candidate in Economics
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Education

PhD, Economics 2023–2027
University of Turin and Collegio Carlo Alberto
Research interests: Economic History, Political Economy, Cultural Economics, Development Economics
Advisors: Giovanni Mastrobuoni, Marco Sanfilippo

MSc, Development Economics 2017–2020
University of Florence, *110/110 cum laude*
Final dissertation: *Shocks, Coping Strategies and Food Security in the Context of a Protracted Conflict: The Case of Palestine*

Master-1, International Economics and Development 2015–2016
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan & Université Paris Dauphine-PSL
Erasmus program

BSc, Economics 2012–2015
Université Paris Dauphine-PSL

Teaching

Quantitative Methods: Causal Inference with Stata (graduate) Spring 2025
Lecturer, University of Turin

Development Economics: Growth, Development and Impact Evaluation (graduate) Fall 2024
Teaching Assistant, University of Turin

Research-Related Work Experience

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- *Economist*, Rome, Italy — Aug 2020–Aug 2023
  Agrifood Economics Division (ESA) & Office of Emergencies and Resilience (OER)
- *Data Analyst Fellow*, Jerusalem — Oct 2019–Feb 2020
  Monitoring & Evaluation Unit (M&E)
- *Research Analyst Intern*, Rome, Italy — Aug 2016–Mar 2017
  Agrifood Economics Division (ESA)

Working Papers

The Colonial Roots of Modern Nationalism: The Case of Italy

with M. Broso ***Submitted***

Abstract: European empires dominated entire continents for centuries. Yet, the literature on colonial legacies has largely focused on the long-term effects of colonialism in former colonies, overlooking its consequences for the former colonial powers themselves. In this article, we study the effect of Italy's colonial expansion in East Africa on contemporary political outcomes. Using data on all Italian soldiers buried in Eritrea and Ethiopia and the contemporary distribution of surnames across Italy, we construct an index of exposure to colonial wars at the municipality level. To isolate exogenous variation in municipalities' exposure, we exploit the historical geographical distribution of mountain troops of the Italian Army, which were largely deployed in East Africa because of Ethiopia's mountainous territory. We show that exposure to the 1930s colonial campaigns increased support for neo-fascist and nationalist parties in the immediate postwar electoral cycles, and still increases support for far-right parties today. Exploring possible mechanisms, we find that: (i) the effect is amplified in municipalities with a larger presence of Black African immigrants; (ii) far-right parties obtain larger electoral returns from anti-immigration rhetoric in municipalities with stronger colonial exposure. Taken together, our results suggest that the racial narratives used to justify the colonial expansion may have persisted across generations and continue to shape political attitudes today.

Work in Progress

Europenses: The Making of a Christian European Identity in the Middle Ages

with M. Broso

Abstract: Historians agree that the modern political conception of Europe is the secular descendant of the medieval concept of Christendom. Yet, what forged Christendom as a political – rather than merely religious – community remains an open question. We conjecture that Christendom started its process toward becoming a political entity as a result of the conflict against Islam from the 8th century. We present two pieces of empirical evidence to support this argument. First, we translate and classify a corpus of nearly 13,000 clerical Latin texts written over 200–1500 using a Large Language Model (LLM). In this context, we show that references to Muslims as a threat are associated with a shift in the framing of Christendom from a religious to a political sense. Second, we use the LLM to analyze both Latin and Arabic written sources and identify the dates and locations of 194 Muslim raids in Western Europe over 711–1074. We build a city-level measure of exposure to these raids. Using data on crusaders' origins and an instrumental variable approach, we show that greater exposure to the Muslim raids significantly increased the likelihood of participation in the Crusades to the Holy Land over 1096–1204.

Offshore Oil Discoveries and the Disruption of Artisanal Fisheries

Abstract: Artisanal fishing is crucial for employment, food security, and the sustainability of marine ecosystems. Identifying the factors that threaten this sector is essential for designing efficient and effective policies. In this article, I study the effect of offshore hydrocarbon discoveries – 31 percent of all hydrocarbon fields ever discovered, and 79 percent of those found since 2020 – on artisanal fisheries. Using data on coastal countries from 1950 to 2017, I exploit variation in the plausibly exogenous timing and location of offshore discoveries in a staggered difference-in-differences design. I find that the fishing effort of the motorised artisanal fleet declines steadily, by about one third by the tenth year following a discovery. To investigate the mechanisms, I then focus on Senegal, which offers highly granular census data. I estimate a difference-in-differences model comparing fishing municipalities located close to discovery sites with those farther away. Consistent with the cross-country evidence, artisanal fishery employment falls significantly. About two thirds of this decline is offset by a rise in high-seas fishery activity. Using data on fish catches and chlorophyll-a, a proxy for marine conditions, I provide suggestive evidence that fishers reallocate toward high-seas fishing due to restricted access to fishing grounds and coastal ecosystem degradation. This suggests that existing marine protected areas and inshore exclusion zones may be insufficient to protect artisanal fisheries from the consequences of offshore resource development.

Pre-Doctoral Publications

"Impact Evaluation in Humanitarian Contexts: The Joint Resilience Program in Somalia"
with A.P. De la O Campos, B. Davis, and M. D'Errico. *Journal of Development Studies*, forthcoming

"Building Resilience in Conflict Areas: Quasi-experimental Evidence from Borno State in North-East Nigeria"
with T. Brück, W. Stojetz, P. Ronzani, and M. D'Errico. *Journal of African Economies*, forthcoming

"Shocking Social Safety Nets: Evidence from Violence and Drought in North-East Nigeria"
with W. Stojetz, P. Ronzani, M. D'Errico, and T. Brück. *Food Policy*, 2026

"Drivers and Stressors of Resilience to Food Insecurity: Evidence from 35 Countries"
with M. D'Errico, E. Jumbe, and H.A. Luu. *Food Security*, 2023 – Background paper for *The State of Food and Agriculture 2021 (FAO)*

Conference Presentations

2026 European Economic Association Congress (Dublin); European Political Science Association Conference (Prague)
2025 5th Development Economists Meeting (Florence)
2024 4th Development Economists Meeting (Rome)
2023 World Bank, IFAD & FAO Joint Conference (Palermo); AGRODEP Annual Conference (Kigali)
2022 International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Conference (Rome)