

Lorenzo Rocco

Professor of Economics

Department of Economics and Management, University of Padova
Padova, Italy | February 15, 2026

Research Interests

- Economics of education and human capital
- Socio-economic determinants of health

Current Position

Professor of Economics

March 2015 – Present

Department of Economics and Management, University of Padova, Italy

Other Affiliations and Memberships

- IZA – Institute of Labor Economics, Fellow
- GLO – Global Labor Organization, Fellow

Past Positions

- **Associate Professor of Economics**, Department of Economics and Management, University of Padova (Italy) March 2015
- **Assistant Professor of Economics (ricercatore)**, Department of Economics and Management (former Faculty of Economics), University of Padova (Italy) January 2004

Education

- **Ph.D. in Economics and Econometrics**, University of Toulouse I, France 2005
- **Ph.D. in Economics**, University of Milan, Italy 2002
- **Master in Economics and Econometrics**, University of Toulouse I, France 2001
- **Master in Economics**, CORE, Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium 2000
- **Laurea (B.A.) in Economics and Business**, University of Udine, Italy 1998

Languages

English (fluent), **French** (fluent), **Italian** (mother tongue)

Teaching Activities

University of Padova – School of Economics

- Impact Evaluation (master) 2024 – Present
- Microeconometrics (master) 2018 – 2023
- Development Economics 2005 – 2017
- Microeconomics 2008 – Present

- Game Theory (graduate) 2010 – 2011
- Economic Policy 2004 – 2005
- Consumer Theory (graduate) 2009
- Dynamic Games under Incomplete Information (graduate) 2004

Other Didactical Activities

- Health economics lecture series, Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, Wuhan, China June 2021
- Course of Development Economics, First International Summer School, Xi'an International Studies University, Xi'an, China July 2019
- Grand Round (lecture), Fielding School of Public Health (UCLA): "Social Capital and Health – an Economic Perspective" February 2018
- Lecture "A sketch of the Italian Healthcare System", Ph.D. program, Fielding School of Public Health (UCLA)
- Principles of Microeconomics, Scuola Galileiana – School of Excellence, University of Padova 2015 – 2017
- Health Economics, MA in Economics and Management of Health Services, University of Ca' Foscari, Venice 2013 – 2015
- Labor Economics, Scuola Galileiana – School of Excellence, University of Padova 2013
- Tutor of Economics, Scuola Galileiana – School of Excellence, University of Padova 2009 – 2012, 2013 – 2015

Honours and Awards

- Member of the New Economics Expert Group, WHO 2021 – Present
- Member of the Executive Committee, European Association of Labour Economists (EALE) 2020 – 2023
- UCLA GIM & HSR/FSPH Health Policy and Management Leading Scholars Award December 2017
- Certificate for Highly Cited Research, Economics of Education Review, in recognition of the contribution to the quality of the journal made by: "The effect of immigration on the school performance of natives: Cross country evidence using PISA test scores" January 2017
- Visiting Professors Grant, Fondazione Cariparo 2016
- Marco Fanno Award, for the best publication of a young economist, Department of Economics "Marco Fanno", University of Padova 2008
- Visiting Scholar: Kyoto (2007), Boston University (2006), Harare (2003)

Grants – Principal Investigator

- Local Unit PI – PRIN 2022 project: "Tackling Inequalities in Educational Outcomes: Experimental Evidence from Italian Primary Schools"
- PI of the two-year research project "The legacy of pre-unitary states: economic and social performance in Italy after 150 years of Unification", funded by the University of Padova 2012 – 2014
- Centro Studi AntonVeneta Grant "Economic and social aspects of immigration in Italy and Europe" 2010 – 2011
- PI of the two-year research project "Economic analysis of the HIV-AIDS epidemic in Sub-Saharan Africa and in the Countries in Transition", funded by the University of Padova 2006 – 2008

Participation to Funded Research Projects

- NPRR Network GRINS 2022 – 2026
- H2020 Skills2Capabilities (with G. Brunello) 2023 – 2025
- VisitINPS Scholar Programs type B (with G. Brunello) 2019 – 2020
- Member of the biennial research project (SID) "Question Position, Test Length and Test Scores", funded by the University of Padova (Principal Investigator: Giorgio Brunello) 2019 – 2020
- Annual Research Grant of the University of Padova 2004 – 2025
- Starting Grants of the Fondazione Cariparo "Education, Retirement and Household Behaviour" (coordinator: G. Brunello) 2015
- Member of the biennial research project (SID) "Talking (and Thinking) Business: Language Time Encoding and Entrepreneurship", funded by the University of Padova (Principal Investigator: Luca Nunziata) 2018 – 2019
- Member of the biennial research project "Do perceived and actual socioeconomic inequality influence civic participation by shaping values and interpersonal trust in different societies?", funded by the University of Padova (Principal Investigator: M. Lenzi) 2016 – 2018

Research Projects of National Interest (PRIN) funded by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Scientific Research

- 2017, REFLEX 2020: Reassessing the Effects of Labor Market FLEXibility (national coordinator P. Garibaldi; local coordinator G. Brunello)
- 2009, Public policy evaluation in education, justice and public administration (national coordinator A. Ichino; local coordinator G. Brunello)
- 2005, Institutions and the labor market in the OECD countries (national coordinator G. Bertola; local coordinator G. Brunello)
- 2004, Analysis of the economic outcomes of personalized interactions (national coordinator P.L. Porta; local coordinator B. Gui)

Scientific Review

I have been reviewer for: The Economic Journal, Journal of Human Resources, Research in Economics, European Journal of Public Health, Health Economics, Journal of Health Economics, Health Policy, Journal of Economic Inequality, Politiche Sanitarie, Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics, Economics of Education Review, World Bank Economic Review, Journal of Population Economics, Social Science Research, Ageing and Society, Eastern Economic Journal, Labour Economics, International Review of Economics, Education Economics, Journal of Economics, Economics Letters, Journal of African Economics, Empirical Economics, Economia Politica, Economic Change and Restructuring, Education Finance and Policy, Social Science and Medicine, Review of the Economics of the Household, Journal of Human Capital, Small Business Economics, Metroeconomica, Asian Development Review, IZA Journal of Labour Economics, European Economic Review, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Empirical Research in VET, PlosOne, Politica Economica, Mathematical Biosciences and Engineering, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Economic Psychology, B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy.

I have been member of the scientific committee for papers selection of the EALE 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026; ASSET 2007, ECHE 2008, 2010, 2012, iHEA 2011 and 2015, AIES 2021, REHO 2022, 2024, 2026 conferences.

I have acted as reviewer for the Italian Research Assessment (VQR) 2004-2010, 2011-2014 and 2015-2019 in the area economics and statistics, and for the Swiss National Science Foundation 2018, 2023, 2025.

Editorial Activities

- **Co-Editor**, Review of Economics of the Household June 2022 – Present
- **Co-Editor**, Economics of Education Review January 2022 – Present
- Associate Editor, Review of the Economics of the Household 2020 – 2022

- Member of the Editorial Board, "Global Handbook of Health Economics" (3 volumes), World Scientific Publishing October 2011 – March 2016
- Co-Editor of the book "The economics of Social Capital and Health", World Scientific Publishing October 2010 – December 2013
- Guest Editor of the symposium "Social Capital and Health", Eastern Economic Journal November 2012 – June 2013

Organization of Scientific Events

- EALE 2022 conference (main organizer), Padova
- EALE 2021 conference (co-organizer)
- Workshop "Multidisciplinary perspectives on the socio-economic determinants of health", University of Padova April 2017
- IV workshop of the "Global Network on Social Capital and Health", University of Padova October 2012

Research with International and National Organizations

- 2023, UNESCO, "The high global private, social and fiscal costs of children not learning"
- 2020, The World Bank, "Economic assessment of RTI in four ECA Region countries"
- 2019, Fondazione Cariparo, "Il Facilitatore dell'Inserimento Lavorativo"
- 2018, Fondazione Cariparo, "Progetto Social NeetWork – Giovani Attivi"
- 2016, The World Bank, "The assessment of the macro-economic impact of road traffic injuries"
- 2014, OECD, "The impact of VET on adult skills"
- 2013, The World Bank, "The Economic Burden of Chronic Diseases in the MENA Region"
- 2012, World Health Organization, "Economics of Social Determinants of Health"
- 2011, European Union, Executive Agency for Health and Consumers, "EU-wide overview of the market and regulation regarding types of alcoholic beverages with potentially particular appeal to minors", with HAPI
- 2010, Regione Emilia Romagna (Italy), "Standard costs in education: a survey of international experiences"
- 2009, The European Observatory and The World Bank, "Economic consequences of CVD and chronic diseases in Middle East and North Africa"
- 2009, The World Bank, "Macroeconomic costs of CVDs and NCDs in China"
- 2008, IC-HEALTH, "Assessing the macroeconomic costs of cardiovascular disease/chronic disease in developing countries"
- 2008, The World Bank, "The impact of health on the labor market"
- 2007, World Health Organization, "Social Capital and Health in Europe"
- 2007, World Health Organization, "Nutrition Policy Analysis"
- 2006, World Health Organization, "Returns of Investment in Health in Eastern Europe and Central Asia"
- 2005, International Labour Office, "Public Sector Pay in OECD countries. Data collection"
- 2005, The World Bank, "Economic Costs of NCD in the Russian Federation"

Ph.D. Supervision

Former Ph.D. Students

- Emanuele Caggiano (2020-2024) – currently post-doc, University of Rome Third
- Zecharias Fetene Anteneh (2019-2022) – currently research fellow, Centre for Health Economics, University of York
- Nhat Quynh Huynh (2018-2020) – currently Post-Doc, University College London, UK
- Elona Harka (2017-2019) – currently Post-Doc, University of Bergamo, Italy

Publications

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

1. "Bipartisan Firms", with E. Caggiano, *Economics & Politics*, 38(1):18-45 2026
2. "Intended college major choice and the inheritance of majors", with G. Brunello, F. Campo, E. Lodigiani, M. Miotto, *Economic Letters*, 255:112558 2025
3. "Teacher Personality and the Perceived Socioeconomic Gap in Student Outcomes", with G. Brunello, C. Crocè, and P. Giustinelli, *Economics Letters*, 247:112096 2025
4. "The Effects of the Vietnam Hunger Eradication Program on Schooling", with M. Bertoni and Q. Huyhn, *Economics of Education Review*, 104:102616 2025
5. "Pension reforms, Longer working horizons and absence from work", with Maria de Paola and Lorenzo Rocco, *Journal of Population Economics*, 38(1):9 2025
6. "If (my) 6 was (your) 9. Reporting heterogeneity in student evaluations of teaching", with M. Bertoni and E. Rettore, *Labour Economics*, 89:102567 2024
7. "The Protestant ethic and entrepreneurship: Inside the black box", with L. Nunziata, *Small Business Economics*, 62(4):1285-1313 2024
8. "Business is Tense: New Evidence on How Language Affects Economic Activity", with F. Campo and L. Nunziata, *Journal of Economic Growth*, 29(1):121-149 2024
9. "European Immigrant Health Policies, Immigrants' Health, and Immigrants' Access to Healthcare", with P. Dourgnon and N. Pourat, *Health Policy*, 127:37-43 2023
10. "Education and COVID-19 excess mortality", with P. Bello, *Economics and Human Biology*, 47:101194 2022
11. "Studying more to vote less. Education and voter turnout in Italy", with E. Harka, *European Journal of Political Economy*, 72:102115 2022
12. "The Pathways to College", with L. Agarwal and G. Brunello, *Journal of Human Capital*, 15(4):554-595 2021
13. "Effect of Immigration on Depression among Older Natives in Western Europe", with J.J. Escarce, *Journal of the Economics of Ageing*, 20:100341 2021
14. "Mortality, morbidity and economic growth", with Elena Fumagalli, Andrew Mirelman and Marc Suhrcke, *Plos One*, 16(5):e0251424 2021
15. "Where do I stand? Assessing researchers' beliefs about their productivity", with Marco Bertoni, Giorgio Brunello and Daniele Checchi, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 185:61-80 2021
16. "Some unpleasant consequences of testing at length", with Giorgio Brunello and Angela Crema, *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, 83(4):1002-1023 2021
17. "Does low-skilled immigration increase profits? Evidence from Italian local labour markets", with Giorgio Brunello and Elisabetta Lodigiani, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 85:103582 2020
18. "Does Low Skilled Immigration Increase the Education of Natives? Evidence from Italian Provinces", with Giorgio Brunello and Elisabetta Lodigiani, *Labour Economics*, 63:101794 2020
19. "Grandparents in the blues. The effect of childcare on grandparents' Depression", with Giorgio Brunello, *Review of The Economics of the Household*, 17:587-613 2019
20. "The effect of job loss on pharmaceutical prescriptions", with Angela Crema, Lorenzo Simonato and Laura Cestari, *Social Science and Medicine*, 217:73-83 2018
21. "Procedures vs. Incentives: The Case of the University Promotion System in Italy", with E. Rettore and C. Dal Maso, *Education Economics*, 26(3):213-232 2018
22. "The Protestant Ethic and Entrepreneurship: Evidence from Religious Minorities in the Former Holy Roman Empire", with Luca Nunziata, *European Journal of Political Economy*, 51:27-43 2018
23. "The effects of vocational education on adult skills, employment and wages: What can we learn from PIAAC?", with G. Brunello, *SERIEs*, 8:315-343 2017

24. "The contribution of urbanization to non-communicable diseases: evidence from 173 countries from 1980 to 2008", with Yevgeniy Goryakin and Marc Suhrcke, *Economics and Human Biology*, 26:151-163 2017
25. "Community Repeated Interaction and Strategic Delegation", with Ottorino Chillemi and Benedetto Gui, *International Journal of Game Theory*, 46:737-760 2017
26. "A Tale of Minorities: Evidence on Religious Ethics and Entrepreneurship", with Luca Nunziata, *Journal of Economic Growth*, 21(2):189-224 2016
27. "Fruit and vegetable consumption in the former Soviet Union: the role of individual and community-level factors", with Y. Goryakin, M. Suhrcke, B. Roberts and M. McKee, *Public Health Nutrition*, 18(15):2825-1835 2015
28. "Selection and the Age Productivity Profile: Evidence from Chess", with M. Bertoni and G. Brunello, *Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organization*, 110:45-58 2015
29. "Trust me, you will be in better health", *Health Policy*, 116(1):123-132 2014
30. "From Social Capital to Health - and Back", with E. Fumagalli and M. Suhrcke, *Health Economics*, 23(5):586-605 2014
31. "Social capital and smoking behavior", with B. d'Hombres, *Eastern Economic Journal*, 40(2):202-225 2014
32. "Social capital and self-reported general and mental health in nine Former Soviet Union countries", with Y. Goryakin, M. Suhrcke, B. Roberts and M. McKee, *Health Economics, Policy and Law*, 9(1):1-24 2014
33. "The effect of health on labour supply in nine former Soviet Union countries", with Y. Goryakin, M. Suhrcke, B. Roberts and M. McKee, *European Journal of Health Economics*, 15:57-68 2014
34. "When the cat is near, the mice won't play: The effect of external examiners in Italian schools", with M. Bertoni and G. Brunello, *Journal of Public Economics*, 104:65-77 2013
35. "The Effect of Immigration on the School Performance of Natives: Cross Country Evidence using PISA Test Scores", with G. Brunello, *Economics of Education Review*, 32:234-246 2013
36. "Is Social Capital Good for Individual Health? A European Perspective", with M. Suhrcke, *WHO Regional Office for Europe* 2012
37. "Lost in Transition? The Returns to Education Acquired under Communism", with G. Brunello and E. Crivellaro, *Economics of Transition*, 20(4):637-676 2012
38. "On the Efficiency Costs of De-Tracking Secondary Schools in Europe", with G. Brunello et al., *Education Economics*, 20(2):117-138 2012
39. "The Influence of Social Capital on Health in Eight Former Soviet Countries: why does it differ?", with B. d'Hombres et al., *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 65(1):44-50 2011
40. "Does Social Capital Determine Health: Evidence from Eight Transition Countries", with B. d'Hombres, M. Suhrcke and M. McKee, *Health Economics*, vol. 19, pp. 56-74 2010
41. "Educational Standards in Public and Privates Schools", with G. Brunello, *The Economic Journal*, vol. 118, pp. 1866-1887 2008
42. "Provoking a Civil War", with Z. Ballo, *Public Choice*, vol. 134, pp. 347-366 2008
43. "Anonymity in Nonatomic Games", *International Review of Economics (RISEC)*, vol. 54, pp. 225-247 2007
44. "Adult Health in Russia – More than Just a Health Problem?", with P. Marquez, M. Suhrcke and M. McKee, *Health Affaires*, vol. 26(4), pp. 1040-1051 2007

Chapters in Books

1. "Workplace Social Capital and Sickness Absence", with M. Kamrul Islam, in Folland, S. and Nauenberg, E. (eds) *"Elgar Companion to Social Capital and Health"*, Edward Elgar Publishing 2018
2. "Social Capital and Health", with Eline Aas, in Scheffler R. (ed.) *"World Scientific Handbook of Global Health Economics and Public Policy"*, vol. 2, World Scientific Publishing 2016
3. "The empirics of social capital and health", with E. Fumagalli, in Folland, S. and Rocco, L. (eds) *"The economics of social capital and health"*, World Scientific Publishing 2014
4. "Social capital and smoking", with B. d'Hombres, in Folland, S. and Rocco, L. (eds) *"The economics of social capital and health"*, World Scientific Publishing 2014
5. "The economic costs of ill health in the European Region", with M. Suhrcke, R. Sauto Arce and M. McKee, in: J. Figueras and M. McKee (eds) *Health Systems, Health, Wealth and Societal Well-being: Assessing the case for investing in health systems*, McGraw-Hill, Open University Press, New York 2011

6. "What are the potential benefits of mortality reduction in Russia?", with M. Suhrcke; chapter in *"Dying too young - Addressing premature mortality and ill health due to non-communicable diseases and injuries in the Russian Federation"* (pp. 95-102), Washington: The World Bank 2005
7. "How do NCDs and injuries affect the Russian economy?", with M. Suhrcke; chapter in *"Dying too young - Addressing premature mortality and ill health due to non-communicable diseases and injuries in the Russian Federation"* (pp. 55-64), Washington: The World Bank 2005

Monographs and Reports

1. *"Socioeconomic Impacts of Road Traffic Injuries in Central Asia"*, with M. Suhrcke and A. Mecineanu, The World Bank – GRSF 2022
2. *"The Economics of Social Capital and Health"*, with S. Folland, World Scientific Publishing 2014
3. *"Health: a vital investment for economic development in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ECA)"*, with M. Suhrcke and M. McKee, Brussels: European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies 2007
4. *"Economic consequences of non-communicable diseases and injuries in the Russian Federation"*, with M. Suhrcke et al., European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies 2007
5. *"Chronic Disease: an Economic Perspective"*, with M. Suhrcke et al., Oxford: The Oxford Health Alliance 2006

Working Papers

1. "Immigration and Adult Children's Care for Elderly Parents: Evidence from Western Europe", with A. Berlanda and E. Lodigiani, IZA DP 17984 2025
2. "Rest Assured. The Effects of Sleep on Labor Productivity", with M. Bertoni and F. Meli, IZA DP 17618 2025
3. "Does Work-Based Learning Facilitate the School to Work Transition? Evidence from an Italian Reform", with M. Bernardi, M. Bertoni, G. Brunello and C. Croc , IZA DP. 17352 2024
4. "The Pecuniary Costs of Early School Leaving and Poor Basic Cognitive and Non-cognitive Skills", with G. Brunello, IZA DP. 17296 2024
5. "Do classical studies open your mind?", with G. Brunello, P. Esposito and S. Scicchitano, IZA DP. 15985 2023
6. "The Alabaster Ceiling: The Gender Legacy of the Papal States", with E. Harka and Luca Nunziata, IZA DP 14719 2021
7. "The Effects of Vocational Education on Adult Skills and Wages. What can we learn from PIAAC?", with G. Brunello, OECD Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers, No. 168, OECD Publishing, Paris 2015
8. "Chronic diseases and the labour market outcomes in Egypt", with K. Tanabe et al., World Bank Policy paper 5575 2011
9. "The Stairways to Heaven: A Model of Career Choice in Sports and Games, with an Application to Chess", with K. Ariga, G. Brunello and R. Iwahashi, IZA discussion paper 3327 2008
10. "School Tracking Across the Baltic Sea", with K. Ariga, G. Brunello and R. Iwahashi, CEPR discussion paper 6552 2007
11. "On the Economic Value of Repeated Interactions under Adverse Selection", with O. Chillemi and B. Gui, FEEM Working Paper, n.73.2006 2006
12. "Why is the Timing of School Tracking so Heterogeneous?", with K. Ariga, G. Brunello and R. Iwahashi, IZA Discussion Paper, n. 1854 2005
13. "Mortality Crisis in Russia: a Case of Mass Suicide", CEPET Discussion Paper, Department of Public Economics, University of Graz (Austria), n. 2005/1 2005
14. "Political Risk, Poverty and Famines", CEPET Discussion Paper, Department of Public Economics, University of Graz (Austria), n.2005/2 2005
15. "Self-destructive behaviours in war-times: drug-addiction in Afghanistan and Chechnya", (prepared for the WIDER Conference "Making Peace Work", Helsinki - June 2004) 2004
16. "Pricing of an Endogenous Peak-Load", working paper n.54, Department of Economics, University of Milan – Bicocca 2002

17. "Economics of Science", working paper n. 55, Department of Economics, University of Milan – Bicocca 2002

Active Participation to Conferences, Workshops and Seminars

- 2023: Prague, Rome
- 2022: London, Padova, Turin
- 2021: EALE 2021, Rome, Milan, SIE 2021, Losanna
- 2020: Austrian Public Health Association, EALE-SOLE
- 2019: Padova, Pittsburgh, Xi'An, Novara, Matera, Bergamo
- 2018: Padova, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Bari, Sevilla, Florence
- 2017: Mannheim, Padova, San Diego, Pavia
- 2016: Trieste, Trento, JRC – Ispra, Jerusalem
- 2015: Milan, Padova
- 2014: Dublin, Toronto, Paris, Venice
- 2013: Venice, Padova, Sidney, Paris, Rome
- 2011: Bologna, Padova, Bressanone
- 2010: Padova, Amman, Oslo, Torino, Brescia, Udine
- 2009: Beijing, Bergamo, Cairo
- 2008: Siena, Copenhagen, Milan, Paris, Rome
- 2007: Padova, Trento, Copenhagen, Florence, Udine
- 2006: Venice, Berkeley, Vienna, Budapest, Padova, Coventry
- 2005: Udine, Milan, Barcelona, Helsinki

Service at the Department of Economics and Management – University of Padova

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| • Head of the MSc in Applied Economics | 2023 – 2024 |
| • Head of the committee in charge of launching the MSc in Applied Economics | 2020 – 2023 |
| • Head of the Committee supervising IT and Data infrastructure | 2022 – 2024 |
| • Member of the Upgrading Committee | 2023 |
| • Member of the Didactic Committee | 2023 – Present |
| • Deputy Head of the Master of Science in Banking and Finance | 2016 – 2022 |
| • Member of the executive board of the PhD in Economics and Management | 2016 – 2020 |
| • Member of the board of the Galilean School of Higher Education, University of Padova | 2014 – 2019 |
| • Head or Member of many recruiting committees at the University of Padova and in several other Italian universities | |