Application Material

I am a third-year Ph.D. Candidate in Management of Organizations at the Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley. I am interested in studying the changing dynamics of novelty and knowledge generation in light of new digital technologies. In particular, I am researching how new information digitized in the form of *data* becomes both a key input into the innovation production function and something that fundamentally reshapes it. My research explores how data differ from other information goods, and how firms and innovators employ them to generate novel knowledge using computational capabilities and analytics.

Graduate study pursued

Before joining Haas, I got a BA and MSc in Economics from the University of Pisa (Italy) and an Advanced Diploma from Sant'Anna School in Pisa. My education was in general Economics, with an emphasis on advanced theoretical coursework (Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Mathematical Statistics, Econometrics). My Master's thesis and my research assistantships were focused on understanding the impact of technological changes on firms and innovation, especially in historical contexts like the British First Industrial Revolution. In Fall 2017, I visited the Georgia Institute of Technology, where I carried out a semester-long project on the current development of "Industry 4.0" -- as the digitization of manufacturing we are currently witnessing is sometimes referred to.
At UC Berkeley, I completed two years of intense coursework mostly focused on three areas: organizations and innovation (major), labor economics (minor), and empirical and computational methods (minor). My overall GPA is 4.0 and the most relevant classes I took include: Applied Econometrics (thought by Pat Kline and Chris Walter), Applied Machine Learning (Joshua Blumenstock), Labor Economics (David Card), Economics of Innovation (Lee Fleming), Topics in Economics of Innovation (Abhishek Nagaraj), Sociology of Organizations (Heather Haveman), and Macro-organizational Behaviour (Toby Stuart, Sameer Srivastava, Mathijs de Vaan). I crafted my graduate school coursework so that it exposed me to cutting-edge empirical methodologies and tools while exploring research in innovation and digitization through a variety of disciplinary lenses (Economics, Sociology, and Management).

A synopsis of my academic CV is as follows:

- Ph.D. Candidate, UC Berkeley, Haas School of Business (Aug. 2018 - ongoing) - *GPA: 4.0/4.0*
- Visiting Student, Georgia Institute of Technology (Fall 2017) - *hosted by Prof. John P. Walsh*
- MSc in Economics, University of Pisa (Oct. 2016 - Jul. 2018) - *110/110 summa cum laude et encomium*
- BA in Economics and Management, University of Pisa (Oct. 2013 - May 2016) - *110/110 summa cum laude*

- Diploma in Economic Sciences, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies in Pisa (Oct. 2013 - Jul. 2018) -*100/100 summa cum laude*

Research interests in AI research:

In my dissertation, I am investigating how digital technologies are changing innovation and knowledge generation in a variety of corporate and academic settings. The surge in availability of big data, the cheap diffusion of computational capabilities, and the development of software tools are ushering in a new era where digitization will change the way innovation unfolds. My current work studies how digitization is changing scientific research specifically: machine learning and AI give the possibility to generate novelty just from automated data analysis and pattern recognition, with unclear consequences for knowledge advancement. While new theories are constrained only by the limits of imagination, AI-powered research must contend with the practical realities of limited existing data and the need of complementary assets (human capital, computation power, etc.). In particular, I exploit the availability of data to identify the effect of distinct “data shocks” (e.g. the release of the human genome) on the production of data-driven scientific novelty. Given this broad research program, I am extremely interested in the NBER AI tutorial, since it will provide me a better understanding of the latest literature on the economics of AI -- a rapidly growing and exciting field to which I hope to contribute with my work.

Contact details:

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