Silvia Dalla Fontana

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Education

Swiss Finance Institute & USI Lugano, Lugano, Switzerland
Ph.D. Student in Finance, 09/2018 - Present

Imperial College Business School, London, UK
Visiting Ph.D. Student, 01/2022 - 07/2022

Università Ca' Foscari, Venezia, Italy
Master of Science in Economics and Finance, 09/2014 - 03/2017

Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris, France
Erasmus Program, 01/2016 - 06/2016

Università Ca' Foscari, Venezia, Italy
Bachelor in Business Administration, 09/2010 - 03/2014

Research Interests

Entrepreneurship, Sustainability, Venture Capital, Innovation.

Teaching

USI Lugano and SFI, **Entrepreneurial Finance** (Master Program)
USI Lugano and SFI, **Finance and Sustainability** (Master Program)
Teaching Assistant to Prof. Laurent Frésard

Presentations

2022 AFA 2022 (Poster Session)

2021 Nova School of Business and Economics (Online, Finance PhD Pitch Perfect), Swiss Finance Institute Research Days, University of Zurich (Online, Sustainable Finance Research Seminar)

Other Trainings, Workshops

WEFI Fellows, 04/2021 - Present
PhD Workshop in Entrepreneurial Finance & Innovation
Prof. Michael Ewens, Caltech

Household Finance (PhD Course, Spring 2020)
Prof. Lorenz Küng

Market Microstructure (Summer School, Summer 2019)
Prof. Thierry Foucault and Prof. Albert J. Menkveld

Work Experience

European Central Bank, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Research Analyst, 10/2017 - 08/2018

Deutsche Bundesbank, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Guest Researcher, 08/2017 - 08/2018

Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Research Assistant to Prof. Loriana Pelizzon, 08/2017 - 08/2018

Euler Hermes - Allianz, Vicenza, Italy
Credit Risk Analyst, 09/2015 - 07/2017

Grants & Honors	Swiss National Science Foundation, Mobility Grant 2022 Best Discussant Award, SFI Research Days, 2021 Swiss Finance Institute Scholarship for the first year of graduate studies, 2018 Erasmus Exchange Program Scholarship, 2015
Softwares	Stata, Python
Languages	Italian (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate), Spanish (intermediate)
Citizenship	Italian

Università della Svizzera italiana

Institute of Finance

USI, IFin

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To whom it may concern

Transcript of Records
Dalla Fontana Silvia, born 30.05.1991 in Cittadella, Italy

Ms. Silvia Dalla Fontana attended the following courses pertaining to the Ph.D in Finance programme of the Swiss Finance Institute at the Università della Svizzera Italiana, Lugano during the academic year 2018-19

Asset Pricing I	24 Course hours	7.0/10
Asset Pricing II	24 Course hours	7.5/10
Advanced Derivatives Pricing	24 Course hours	8.0/10
Econometrics	24 Course hours	7.0/10
Household Finance	24 Course hours	9.0/10
Empirical Asset Pricing	24 Course hours	7.5/10
Banking and Financial Intermediation	24 Course hours	8.0/10
Corporate Finance I	24 Course hours	6.0/10
Corporate Finance II	24 Course hours	9.0/10
Time Series Analyis	24 Course hours	6.0/10
Quantitative Methods for Finance	24 Course hours	Attended
Information and Financial Markets	24 Course hours	Attended

Comprehensive Exam PASS

Each Course with in-class plus study hours 3 ECTS – Total 30 ECTS



Katia Muè
Administrative secretary

business models, or whether further financing from players such as governments are needed to foster green innovation. In the next future this will be at the centre of this research project.

Another research project I recently started together with other students of the WEFI-Fellows group, is about how the Covid-19 pandemic affected the VC industry. In particular we are interested in understanding what has been the impact of the shift toward online meetings in an industry where in-person meetings are historically important. A survey by Gompers et al. (2021) documents that VCs do report difficulty in evaluating deals, more investor-friendly terms, and a decreased investment rate. The main question of our paper addresses how Covid affected deal sourcing and selection. Preliminary results show that post-Covid (i.e., after March 2020) the distance between a VC fund and the funded startup is on average larger, and there is a lower probability that the VC and the startup are in the same state. We also find that after the introduction of vaccines, VCs choose younger companies and invest larger amounts within larger syndicates. The paper will address whether or not changes such as increasing distance persist after the pandemic, and what are the potential implications of such changes.

During 2021 I had the great opportunity to join the WEFI Fellows group where I had the chance to get to know researchers with whom I share the interest for the same research area. Starting a project with other PhD students from different universities allowed me to learn (and keep learning) new things every week. I started the second year of my PhD a couple of months before the Covid outbreak, and during 2020 it wasn't always clear how I could benefit from interactions with other researchers. The WEFI Fellows experience made me understand the importance of such interactions, both to develop my research projects and to grow as a researcher. This is why I would be thrilled to join the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp. I am very passionate about research and I believe that I would be a great addition to the group. I also believe that my research agenda would greatly benefit from this workshop and I thank you for considering my application.

References

Shai Bernstein, Xavier Giroud, and Richard R. Townsend. The impact of venture capital monitoring. *The Journal of Finance*, 71(4):1591–1622, 2016.

Paul Gompers, Will Gornall, Steven N. Kaplan, and Ilya A. Strebulaev. Venture capitalists and covid-19. *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, 56(7):2474–2499, 2021.

William R. Kerr and Ramana Nanda. Financing innovation. *Annual Review of Financial Economics*, 7(1):445–462, 2015.

Ramana Nanda and Matthew Rhodes-Kropf. Investment cycles and startup innovation. *Journal of Financial Economics*, 110(2):403–418, 2013.

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Michael Ewens
Professor of Finance and Entrepreneurship
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Monday, January 24, 2022

Recommendation for Ms. Silvia Dalla Fontana

Dear Boot Camp Organizers:

I am writing to introduce Ms. Silvia Dalla Fontana and in support of her application for the 2022 Entrepreneurship Boot Camp. As a 2009 attendee of the boot camp, I am well aware of the benefits the week has for a graduate student, specifically one with Silvia's background. Silvia is a PhD student at the University of Lugano and the Swiss Finance Institute. I met Silvia through the online Workshop on Entrepreneurial Finance and Innovation (WEFI) co-organized with Yael Hochberg, Song Ma, and David Robinson. Silvia was a regular participant in the twice-monthly seminar series and our occasional entrepreneurship lecture. Though students rarely spoke up during these events, her regular attendance was notable. More recently, she was selected by the WEFI organizers to join the first cohort of nine WEFI Fellows. This program is a bi-monthly meeting of PhD students and faculty, where students take the lead of presenting work and interacting with their peers. Silvia has presented her own work several times and demonstrates real potential as a researcher. Along with several of her colleagues in the group, she also started a new research project on the role of remote interactions in entrepreneurial finance. Her co-author group and I have met several times in a way that mimics a PhD adviser meeting, so I think that I have a sense of her potential as a researcher. She consistently impresses me with her constructive feedback to her colleagues, openness to similar feedback, and creativity.

While Silvia has certainly found a way to explore entrepreneurship research via WEFI programs, she likely still faces constraints on interactions with other students and exposure to research in the area. The bootcamp's rich set of topics presented in depth by active researchers will be an excellent complement to her training. Coming out of the pandemic (fingers crossed) she will find opportunities for networking with fellow graduate students whom she would otherwise never meet. I also strongly believe that she will be an asset to fellow bootcampers with her unique experience with the WEFI program and training at University of Lugano. So, on opportunity for benefits alone, Silvia is an excellent candidate. More importantly, she has a skill set to best incorporate all the knowledge gained from attendance.

In short, I enthusiastically recommend you consider Silvia for the entrepreneurship boot camp this summer. Let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Michael Ewens