# NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2025

February 4, 2025

**Applicant's contact information**:
Mattia Albanese
Rome Economics Doctorate (EIEF, LUISS, Tor Vergata)
Via Riccardo Forster 180, 00143 Rome, Italy
malbanese@redphd.it
(+39) 3421458458

**Recommendation letter writer contact information**:
Prof. Emanuele Tarantino
LUISS, EIEF, EU Commission
Via Sallustiana 62, 00187 Rome, Italy
etaranti@gmail.com
Website: https://sites.google.com/site/etarantino/

I am writing to express my keen interest in joining the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2025. I am a 3rd year PhD student at the Rome Economics Doctorate, under the supervision of Prof. Emanuele Tarantino and Prof. Fabiano Schivardi. My research interests lie at the intersection of the economics of innovation, organizational and industrial economics.

My current research investigates the influence of competition in labor and product markets on innovation and growth. I am particularly excited about the opportunity to join the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp to improve my work and learn from interactions with talented peers and faculty.

My advisor, Prof. Tarantino, who can be contacted at etaranti@gmail.com, has been instrumental in guiding my research and strongly invited me to participate to the Boot Camp. He will submit a recommendation letter following the guidelines outlined on the NBER website.

Below I present my CV, a list of the courses I attended during the PhD, as well as a short document summarizing my research interests and the reasons I would like to be part of the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp.

Sincerely,
Mattia Albanese

Curriculum Vitae

# MATTIA ALBANESE

16/05/1998 malbanese@redphd.it (+39)3421458458

## EDUCATION

**Rome Economics Doctorate, 3rd year student** *Sep 2022 - Present*
*EIEF, University of Rome Tor Vergata* *Rome, Italy*
· Main Supervisor: Prof. Emanuele Tarantino (etarantino@luiss.it)
· Co-Supervisor: Prof. Fabiano Schivardi (fabiano.schivardi@eief.it)

**Einaudi Institute of Economics and Finance (EIEF), LUISS** *Sep 2020 - Jul 2022*
*MSc Economics* *Rome, Italy*
· First Class Honours (110/110 cum laude)

**Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven)** *Sep 2019 - Feb 2020*
*Erasmus Program, Faculty of Economics and Business* *Leuven, Belgium*
· First Class Honours (GPA: 17.8/20)

**University of Rome Tor Vergata** *Sep 2017 - Jul 2020*
*BA Global Governance* *Rome, Italy*
· First Class Honours (110/110 cum laude)

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**LUISS** *Sep 2024 - Jan 2025*
*Teaching Assistant, IO and Competition Theory (Bachelor)* *Rome, Italy*

**Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance (EIEF)** *Mar 2023 - Present*
*Research Assistant for Professor Liangjie Wu* *Rome, Italy*
· Compiled a new database on corporate ownership and intellectual property in the US.

**LUISS** *Jun 2022 - Jan 2023*
*Research Assistant for Professor Emanuele Tarantino* *Rome, Italy*
· Conducted empirical analyses for projects related to competition and innovation economics.

**Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance (EIEF)** *Jun - Sep 2021*
*Research Assistant for Professor Giancarlo Spagnolo* *Rome, Italy*
· Worked on the empirical section of papers about public procurement centralization in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

## PUBLICATIONS

Albanese (2022), Master Thesis on ***The Impact of Intangible Inputs on Investments and Markups: Analysis of the Italian Case***. Supervisor: Professor Emanuele Tarantino. Published in EIEF Working Paper Series.

Albanese (2020), ***Global Eco-cities, Pursuing the Utopia of Sustainable Urbanization***. In: IAI Commentaries; 20—66, Rome, IAI, September 2020.

## WORKING PAPERS

Albanese, M., Aliberti, M. (2024). **Workplace Training Unpacked: Labor Market Competition and Investment in General Skills**.

Available at SSRN 5006121: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5006121.

## PRESENTATIONS

**3rd Bank of Italy - EIEF Workshop on Applied Microeconomics** *Nov 2024*
*EIEF*

**PhD Summer School in Finance and Product Markets** *Aug 2024*
*Università della Svizzera Italiana*

**I CEMFI School of Economics, Current Issues in the Labor Market** *Jul 2024*
*CEMFI, UIMP Santander*

## SKILLS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Data Analysis** | Excel, R, Python, Stata [Advanced] |
| **Numerical Analysis** | MATLAB [Advanced] |
| **Operating Systems** | Microsoft Windows [Advanced] |
| **Typesetting** | LaTeX, Microsoft Word [Advanced] |
| **Presentation** | Microsoft PowerPoint, LaTeX [Advanced] |

## LANGUAGES

| | |
|---|---|
| **Italian** | Native |
| **English** | Advanced (TOEFL iBT: 113/120) |
| **French** | Advanced |
| **Spanish** | Advanced |

RED Rome Economics Doctorate

Rome, January 31, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

This is to certify that MATTIA ALBANESE is enrolled in the third year of Rome Economics Doctorate, AY 2024-2025.

The **Rome Economics Doctorate (RED)** is a challenging and selective PhD program in Economics, entirely taught in English, offered jointly by EIEF (Einaudi Institute for Economic and Finance), a world-class research center created in 2008 by the Bank of Italy, the Dept. of Economics and Finance at LUISS (Libera Università di Studi Sociali Guido Carli) and by the Dept. of Economics and Finance at Tor Vergata University of Rome.

Please find below the grades secured by Mr. Albanese during his PhD:

| Course | Grade | Credits | Semester | Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Microeconometrics | 26 | 4.5 | Fall | 2022 |
| Dynamic Optimization | 22 | 4.5 | Fall | 2022 |
| Incentive Theory | 29 | 4.5 | Fall | 2022 |
| Text Analysis for Economists | 29 | 4.5 | Fall | 2022 |
| Optimal Policy | 28 | 4.5 | Fall | 2022 |
| Applied Macroeconomics | 30 | 4.5 | Spring | 2023 |
| Industrial Organization | 30 | 4.5 | Spring | 2023 |
| Labor Economics | 31 | 4.5 | Spring | 2023 |
| Economics of AI | 30 | 4.5 | Spring | 2023 |
| Macroeconometrics | 27 | 4.5 | Spring | 2023 |
| Public Economics | 31 | 3 | Spring | 2023 |
| Statistical Learning | 31 | 4.5 | Spring | 2023 |
| Econometrics of Bipartite Networks | 25 | 3 | Spring | 2023 |
| Advanced Game Theory | 31 | 4.5 | Fall | 2023 |

Sincerely,



**Stefano Gagliarducci**

**Scientific Board member and PhD Programme Coordinator**

# Research Statement

Mattia Albanese

Competition is a key determinant of innovation and growth (Aghion et al. 2005). In my work, I combine insights from industrial and organizational economics to study how competition in labor and product markets affects the incentives of organizations to expand, invest, and innovate. In this document, I summarize my current work and highlight the direction that I intend to follow for future developments.

In my main strand of research, I study how competition in labor markets affects firms' investments in human capital. In *Workplace Training Unpacked: Labor Market Competition and Investments in General Skills*, together with Manfredi Aliberti, we show that firms located in more competitive local labor markets insure against the risk of their employees being poached by a competitor by endowing them with specific human capital. The adoption of such a strategy has relevant long-term consequences, as highly specialized workers are less mobile and less resilient to sectoral economic shocks. In ongoing work, we consider the implications of different training policies on workers' careers, firms' outcomes, and long-term innovation. Increased general training is likely to increase labor mobility, exacerbating the wedge between the private and the social returns to innovation. At the same time, training might have a positive effect on in-house innovation, as it is likely to increase workers' human capital. We aim at testing which one of the two effects dominates by matching our training data to a large administrative employer-employee dataset for Italian workers and firms and to data on firms' balance sheets and patents.

In parallel work, I am studying the consequences of Antitrust policy on M&A activity and firms' outcomes. In an ongoing project, together with my supervisor Emanuele Tarantino, we exploit a quasi-exogenous variation in Antitrust enforcement in the US to measure the effect of Antritrust policy on firms' profits, product-market competition and innovation. In future work, I would like to analyze the effects of M&As on innovation by focusing on a specific dimension: the use of M&As to incorporate complementary skills and knowledge inside an organization to contain spillovers and invest in innovation.

I believe that being part of the NBER Innovation Research Bootcamp would represent an invaluable opportunity to help me grow in my research skills and learn from interaction with talented peers and faculty. Over the last years as a PhD student, I have learned that improvement can only come through challenging one's own ideas through others. I can guarantee that, if I will be given this opportunity, I will put all my efforts into being an active participant, focusing not only on the improvement of my current work, but also on engaging in constructive debate with my peers.

## References

Aghion, P., Bloom, N., Blundell, R., Griffith, R., and Howitt, P. (2005). Competition and innovation: An inverted-u relationship. *The quarterly journal of economics*, 120(2):701–728.

Dipartimento di
Economia e Finanza

LUISS

To: The Selection Committee

Rome, 6 February 2025

Subject: Letter supporting the application to the NBER Innovation Bootcamp

I am writing to support **Mattia Albanese**'s application to the NBER Innovation Bootcamp.

Mattia is an outstanding third-year PhD student from RED (the joint program organized by EIEF, Luiss, and Tor Vergata in Rome). I have known Mattia for 4 years, when he was a master's student. He soon impressed me with his creativity and intellectual autonomy. Unsurprisingly, he became a brilliant and productive PhD student. Mattia can identify important economic questions. He is also able to develop them using theoretical and empirical methods. He works on innovation, productivity, and industrial organization.

Mattia has already completed a paper on the impact of labor market competition on workers' training. Recently, he was given access to Italian social security worker- and firm-level data to analyze the effects of firms' training on workers' productivity, together with Fabiano Schivardi and Matteo Paradisi. He is also collaborating with me on a paper on the impact of merger enforcement on industry dynamics. He contributes extensively to all these projects, both operationally and conceptually.

Given his skills and personal traits, Mattia will be a successful and impactful economist. He is comparable to the students I have met in the past who are enrolled in the best graduate programs in Europe and North America.

For all these reasons, I strongly advise you to closely examine his application.

Sincerely yours,
Emanuele Tarantino

Chief Competition Economist
European Commission

Professor of Economics (Luiss and EIEF), On Leave

**Luiss**
Libera Università Internazionale
degli Studi Sociali Guido Carli

Viale Romania 32, 00197 Roma
T +39 06 85 22 5550
economiaefinanza@luiss.it

www.luiss.it