Application to the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp 2025

Manfredi Aliberti, Rome Economics Doctorate (RED)

Contact Information:

Manfredi Aliberti
Via Sallustiana, 62
Rome (RM), Italy, 00187
(T): (+39)3480300073
(E): maliberti@redphd.it

Academic Information:

School: Rome Economics Doctorate (RED) - PhD jointly run by EIEF, LUISS and Tor Vergata
Area of interest: Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Labor
Year of entry into the PhD program: 2021
Expected year of completion: 2026

Recommendation Letter Writer:

Professor Fabiano Schivardi
Viale Romania, 32
Rome (RM), Italy, 00198
(E): fschivardi@luiss.it
(WS): https://sites.google.com/view/fabianoschivardi/home

I am a fourth-year Ph.D. student at the Rome Economics Doctorate (RED), an Economics Ph.D. program jointly run by the Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance (EIEF), LUISS University, and the University of Rome Tor Vergata. Below, I present my CV and an essay describing my research and the reasons for applying to the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp.

Manfredi Aliberti

https://sites.google.com/view/manfredialiberti/home-page

Einaudi Institute for Economics & Finance
Via Sallustiana, 62
Rome (RM), Italy, 00187

Citizenship: Italian
Phone Number: (+39)3480300073
Email: maliberti@redphd.it

Education

Rome Economics Doctorate - RED — **Rome, Italy**
PhD in *Economics* & *Finance* jointly run by Tor Vergata University of Rome, EIEF, and LUISS — 09/2021 - present
Supervisor: Fabiano Schivardi, Co-Supervisor: Barbara Biasi

University of California, Los Angeles — **Los Angeles, United States**
Visiting Graduate Researcher at the *Department of Economics* — 09/2024 - 12/2024
Host: Michela Giorcelli

University of Cambridge, Clare College — **Cambridge, United Kingdom**
Master of Philosophy in *Economic Research* — 09/2019 - 09/2020

Sapienza University of Rome — **Rome, Italy**
Bachelor's Degree in *International Economic Relations (L-33, Economic Sciences)* — 09/2017 - 07/2019

Sapienza University of Rome — **Rome, Italy**
Enrolled in the Bachelor's Degree in *Philosophy (L-18)* — 09/2016 - 07/2017

Work Experience

EIEF, Einaudi Institute for Economics & Finance — **Rome, Italy**
Research Assistant for *Fabiano Schivardi* — 01/2022 - present
Research Assistant for *Liangjie Wu* and *Claudio Michelacci* — 07/2021 - 11/2021

LUISS, Libera Università degli Studi Sociali Guido Carli — **Rome, Italy**
Teaching Assistant in *Micoreconomics* for *Matteo Escudé* and *Giulia Tura* — 02/2025 - 06/2025
Teaching Assistant in *Micoreconomics* for *Matteo Escudé* and *Emanuele Tarantino* — 02/2024 - 06/2024

UZH, University of Zurich — **Zurich, Switzerland**
Research Assistant for *Kai Gehring* — 09/2020 - 06/2021

Research

Working Papers

Workplace Training Unpacked: Labor Market Competition and Investment in General Skills (with Mattia Albanese)

Work in Progress

The Effects of PhD Programs on Innovation: Evidence from the 1980 University Reform in Italy

Presentations

2024: Economic History Association Meeting, UCLA Economic History Proseminar
2023: Rome PhD in Economics & Finance Conference (Tor Vergata), WICK#11 PhD Workshop (Collegio Carlo Alberto)
2022: Rome PhD in Economics & Finance Conference (LUISS)

Skills & Interests

Programming: Stata (proficient), Python (proficient), R (basic), Matlab (basic)
Languages: Italian (native), English (fluent), Spanish (basic), German (basic)
Interests: history, philosophy, rowing, rugby, rock music

Research Essay

Entrepreneurship is fundamental to the economy: it shapes economic growth, drives innovation, and fosters firm and job creation. My research focuses on the intersection of innovation, entrepreneurship, and labor markets, with a particular emphasis on the role that public policies play in promoting innovation, technology adoption, and business dynamism. Given my research interests, I see the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp as an invaluable opportunity to be exposed to new ideas and relevant research questions while becoming part of a community that shares my interest in entrepreneurship research.

My doctoral dissertation examines the impact of the introduction of PhD programs in the Italian higher education system on innovation, using both aggregate and individual-level data. While descriptive evidence suggests that PhD graduates are the most innovative segment of the population, the absence of comprehensive data and clear identification strategies has so far prevented causal analysis of their role in fostering patenting activity. To address this gap, I leverage the allocation mechanism that determined where PhD programs were established to construct a suitable control group. My findings indicate that PhD programs positively influence local innovation, particularly in industries closely related to the expertise developed within the newly established programs. To better understand the mechanism, I also use data on admission exams to estimate through a RDD the individual-level returns of completing a PhD on patenting activity. My estimates show that earning a PhD increases individual patent production, but they also suggest hiring a PhD has positive spillovers on the graduate's colleagues. In a future step, I am planning to assess the effect of PhD programs on firm creation, looking both at PhD-founded start-ups and aggregate local firm creation. This research contributes to the broader discussion on how talent formation shapes the supply of new ideas and the creation of new firms, and how firms integrate highly skilled workers into their innovation processes.

In an ongoing project with my supervisor, Fabiano Schivardi, we analyze the heterogeneous effects of firms' technology adoption on workers' careers and firms' performance in Italy. Our study highlights how innovation affects both firm performance and workforce dynamics, shedding light on its role in enhancing productivity growth and creating employment opportunities for young, skilled workers. Using matched employer-employee data linked with firm-level technology adoption information, we find that while technology adoption consistently boosts firm productivity, its benefits are not evenly distributed: young graduates disproportionately capture the gains in terms of employment and wages. These findings underscore the importance of understanding which firms and workers benefit from technological progress and how firms can adapt to gain the most from innovation.

As I near the completion of my PhD, I aim to further explore the role of public policies and entrepreneurship in driving technological diffusion. Specifically, I am interested in understanding firms' decision-making processes regarding technology adoption. My current research on its effects has, indeed, led me to explore the factors that drive firms to adopt new technologies, with a particular focus on supplier-firm networks and their role in shaping these decisions.

Since I am eager to deepen my knowledge of the fundamental questions and issues in the economics of entrepreneurship, I am looking forward to participating in the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp. This experience would not only let me improve my current projects but also explore new avenues for future research by exposing me to the latest developments at the research frontier of our field.

Prof. Fabiano Schivardi, Ph.D., Stanford University
LUISS University and EIEF
Viale Romania 32, 00192 Roma-Italy
Email: fschivardi@luiss.it
https://sites.google.com/view/fabianoschivardi

Rome, February 4, 2025

Re: Recommendation letter for Manfredi Aliberti's application to the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp

It is with great pleasure that I write to recommend Mr. Manfredi Aliberti for the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp. I am Manfredi's PhD dissertation advisor. Manfredi is an exceptionally promising student interested in innovation and entrepreneurship. He is enrolled in a new PhD program started in Rome three years ago jointly by Luiss University, Tor Vergata University and (EIEF). The aim is to join forces of scholars active in Rome to set up a competitive PhD program. Students are closely followed and receive a lot of feedback on their work. There is no track record of placement yet. However, Manfredi is the best student of his class, and, based on the status of his dissertation project, we predict that he will do well on the academic job market.

Manfredi's dissertation, titled *The Effect of PhD Programs on Innovation: Evidence from the 1980 University Reform in Italy*, is centered around the 1980 Italian university reform that introduced PhD programs for the first time. This historical setting allows him to explore the causal effects of PhD programs on innovation and other economic outcomes at the local level. The project is already well developed and ready to be presented at the Boot Camp.

Manfredi is a promising applied economist, with a talent for finding new data. He employs the most up-to-date econometric technics in a rapidly evolving field. He is very enthusiastic, eager to learn, and always ready to talk to people. He would both benefit a lot and contribute substantially to the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp. I support his application enthusiastically.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at fschivardi@luiss.it or +39 340 4120546 if you require further information.

Sincerely,

Fabiano Schivardi
Professor of Economics
Luiss University and EIEF

