Salvatore Viola
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February 12, 2026

Innovation Research Boot Camp 2026
National Bureau of Economic Research
1050 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Innovation Research Boot Camp Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in attending the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2026. I am a third-year PhD student at the University of Barcelona (Barcelona, Spain) working under the supervision of Rosina Moreno and Ernest Miguelez. My PhD began in October of 2023 and I expect to defend my thesis during the Summer of 2027. My research and teaching duties are currently funded by the Formación de Profesorado Universitario (FPU) scholarship awarded by the Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades (MICIU). During the first year of my PhD, I was a beneficiary of the FI scholarship provided jointly by the Catalan government and the European Union.

My supervisors and I are part of the university's Department of Econometrics, Statistics and Applied Economics and are members of the Regional Quantitative Analysis Group (AQR-IREA). While I am originally from the United States, I completed my MSc in Economics at the University of Barcelona during which I first began working with my supervisors on topics in economic geography as well as the economics of science and innovation.

My supervisor, Rosina Moreno, has already submitted a confidential letter of recommendation following the instructions in the online call for applications. In the case that a second reference is needed, my other supervisor, Ernest Miguelez, may be contacted to supply one. Please find his contact information below:

> **Ernest Miguelez**
> Carrer de John Maynard Keynes, 1, 11,
> Les Corts, 08034 Barcelona, Spain
> +34 916 02 29 11
> emiguelez@ub.edu

I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to attend the boot camp. Interacting with the outstanding researchers scheduled to present and attending the SI Innovation Policy Meeting would be an invaluable experience. Thank you in advance for organizing the boot camp as well as taking the time to review my application. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,
Salvatore Viola

Salvatore Viola

Curriculum Vitae–February 2026

Barcelona, Spain | sviola@ub.edu | +34 600 77 45 79 | linkedin.com/in/salvatoreviola

CURRENT POSITION

Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain — October 2023 – Present
PhD Student in Economics
UB School of Economics
Department of Econometrics, Statistics and Applied Economics
Regional Quantitative Analysis Group (AQR-IREA)
Thesis title: Essays on Climate Change Science and Innovation

Funding

Formación de Profesorado Universitario (FPU 2023) — January 2025 – Present
Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades

Ajut Joan Oró (FI 2023) — October 2023 – December 2024
Generalitat de Catalunya & European Union

RESEARCH

From Disaster to Discovery: Regional Responses to Climate Shocks in Science and Innovation with Ernest Miguelez and Rosina Moreno (Work in Progress)

Migrant Inventors and Environmental-Related Technologies: A Life Cycle Perspective in the U.S. with Ernest Miguelez, Rosina Moreno, Davide Consoli and François Perruchas (AQR Working Paper 2025/8)

EDUCATION

Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain — September 2021 – June 2023
UB School of Economics
MSc in Economics
Concentrations: Regional and Urban Economics; Governments and Markets
Honors/Awards: 2 Matricula d'Honor (Completion with Honors)

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA, USA — September 2017 – May 2021
Commonwealth Honors College
BA in Economics; BA in German Studies (dual-degree)
Honors/Awards: Dean's List (8 semesters); Dean's Award Scholarship; Cum Laude

Stays Abroad

Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany — March 2019 – August 2020
Bilateral Exchange Program
Honors/Awards: Baden-Württemberg Stipendium (Scholarship)

Topics: Economics, German Cultural Studies

Universität Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany — May 2018 – July 2018
Bilateral Exchange Program
Honors/Awards: Baden-Württemberg Stipendium (Scholarship)
Topics: German Cultural Studies

TEACHING

Introduction to Stata and Matlab
Universitat de Barcelona - MSc in Economics — Fall 2023, 2024, 2025
Co-instructor with Prof. Rafael Serrano-Quintero — (12 hours)

Econometrics
Universitat de Barcelona - BS in International Business — Spring 2024, 2025
Teaching Assistant of Prof. Antonio Di Paolo — (14 hours)

Spatial Econometrics
Universitat de Barcelona - MSc in Economics — Spring 2024
Teaching Assistant of Prof. Rosina Moreno — (6 hours)

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

2026

- 8th Geography of Innovation Conference (GEOINNO 2026) - Corvinus University Budapest, Budapest (Hungary), January 28-30

2025

- PhD Workshop in Economics - Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona (Spain), December 1
- PhD Summer School on the Economics of the Green and Digital Transitions: Innovation Policies for a Global Europe (UNU) - UNU-MERIT, Maastricht (The Netherlands), June 16-20
- 7th Global Conference on Economic Geography (AAG) - Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts (USA), June 4-8
- 6th International PhDays Conference (EU-SPRI ECC) - Universitat de València, València (Spain), March 5-7

2024

- XLVIII International Conference on Regional Science (AECR) - Universidad Castilla-La Mancha, Cuenca (Spain), October 16-18
- 2nd REGIS Summer School on Science, Technology and Innovation - Universidad Carlos III, Madrid (Spain), June 4-7
- 7th Geography of Innovation Conference (GEOINNO 2024) - University of Manchester, Manchester (England), January 10-12

2023

- 11th Workshop in Economics of Innovation, Complexity and Knowledge (WICK#11) - Collegio Carlo Alberto, Turin (Italy), December 12-14

- 2023 Barcelona Workshop on Regional and Urban Economics (AQR-IREA) - Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona (Spain), November 11
- UB Summer School on Economics of Science and Innovation - Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona (Spain), July 10-14

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Université de Bordeaux – Bordeaux School of Economics — Bordeaux, France (Remote)
Research Assistant — March 2023 – May 2023

University of Massachusetts Amherst – Department of Economics — Amherst, MA, USA
Research Assistant — February 2021 – May 2021

University of Massachusetts Amherst – Department of German Studies — Amherst, MA, USA
Peer Mentor — February 2021 – May 2021

DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) – North America — Remote
Young Ambassador — August 2020 – May 2021

Curran, Berger & Kludt Immigration Law Offices — Northampton, MA, USA
Intern — February 2017 – August 2017

SKILLS

- **Programming:** Stata, Python, R, SQL, QGIS, VSCode, Git/GitHub, LaTeX
- **Languages:** English (Native), German (C1), Catalan (B2), Spanish (B2)

Graduate Coursework in Economics

University of Barcelona – Master's Degree in Economics

The PhD in Economics at the University of Barcelona does not include formal coursework. Admission requires completion of a Master's degree in economics or a closely related field. The courses listed below were completed during my two-year MSc in Economics at the University of Barcelona.

Mathematics

- Mathematics I
- Mathematics II

Microeconomics

- Microeconomics I
- Microeconomics II

Macroeconomics

- Macroeconomics I
- Macroeconomics II

Econometrics

- Econometrics I
- Econometrics II
- Spatial Econometrics
- Microeconometrics
- Macroeconometrics
- Panel Data

Applied Fields

- Public Economics I: Political Economy
- Economic Growth I
- Industrial Organization and Regulation
- Empirical Industrial Organization
- Infrastructure and Transport Economics
- Governments and Markets
- Public Policy Analysis and Evaluation
- Regional and Urban Economics
- Empirical Methods in Regional and Urban Economics
- Economic Geography
- Economic History

Master's Thesis

- **Migrant Inventors and Environmental-Related Technologies**
  with Ernest Miguelez and Rosina Moreno

Salvatore Viola
PhD Student in Economics
Universitat de Barcelona
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Research Statement & Motivation

My research interests lie at the intersection of economic geography, the economics of science and innovation and climate change. I am particularly interested in how place-based factors shape the composition, direction and impact of scientific and technological activity. Economic processes such as knowledge production are path dependent, so understanding the mechanisms through which regions respond to changes such as environmental shocks or immigration is a central aim of my research.

Under this broader agenda, I am currently working on two projects. The first investigates the impact of migrant inventors on environmental-related (or green) technological diversification in US MSAs using patent data. This work explores how international linkages and inventors' prior innovative experience influence local technological trajectories. The findings suggest that regional diversification into sustainable technologies relies on frontier knowledge brought by migrant inventors from foreign countries specialized in specific green technologies. However, this reliance differs slightly depending on the relative level of maturity of individual green technological patent classes. The second project uses publication data from OpenAlex to study how Hurricane Katrina as an exogenous, geographically confined natural disaster affected the scientific trajectory of impacted regions. Localized exposure to the event spurred disaster-related scientific activity which was more likely to be cited in patents. Additionally, affected regions became more connected with top US universities, partially resulting from new collaboration with local experts.

Building on these projects, I plan to continue investigating how local environmental conditions and climate-related risks direct scientific and economic activity. Extending beyond the US context, my future work will examine the dynamics of scientific production in global regions experiencing the greatest impacts of climate change. In particular, I am interested in how displaced or mobile scientists adapt their research agendas in response to both the causes of their displacement and the characteristics of the places in which they resettle. By linking environmental shocks, scientific mobility, and knowledge production, this line of research aims to clarify how climate change reshapes the geography of science in the places where it may matter most. I see this work as contributing evidence relevant to climate and science policy, especially efforts to support resilient research systems and to reduce geographic inequalities in the production and use of knowledge.

The NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp is a great fit given the close alignment between the program's focus and my research interests. From a practical perspective, the coursework would also address a gap in my university studies which did not (as many do not) include any innovation-focused courses. In particular, the opportunity to attend the NBER Summer Institute Innovation Policy meeting is especially valuable for my work, as it would allow me to engage directly with frontier researchers on innovation and to situate my own research within these ongoing conversations. On a more personal level, having grown up in western Massachusetts and having spent the past six years studying and working in Europe, participating in a program centered in a region with a globally renowned innovation ecosystem feels especially meaningful. I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to and learn from this community while strengthening my engagement with the US-based innovation research network.

UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA

Departament d'Econometria, Estadística i Economia Aplicada

Rosina Moreno
Professor of Applied Economics

Barcelona, February 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I have had the pleasure of knowing Salvatore Viola for the last five years in several capacities: as a student, as a research assistant, and as a colleague within our teaching and researching team. He has provided assistance in several courses in the Ms in Economics, showing not only reliability but also a high degree of professionalism and maturity in front of the students. His experience teaching Stata in a basic course but also in an Econometrics course at the master's level reflects his strong technical mastery and excellent communication skills.

From a research perspective, Salvatore has built a profile focused on empirically driven and policy-relevant questions in the geography of innovation, the economics of innovation, and migration. Since our master's program does not offer a formal field course in innovation, he sought out the literature on his own, engaged deeply with it, and crafted a PhD research agenda that reflects both intellectual curiosity and originality. This initiative demonstrates both independence and academic maturity. His ability to teach himself new methods and literatures has been evident.

Salvatore is an active and valued member of our academic community. He serves as a PhD student representative (a member of the *Junta de Facultat*) and has taken the lead in organizing a well-attended PhD seminar series. His international background, an American PhD student trained in Europe with previous academic experience in the US, Spain, and Germany, coupled with his multilingual abilities, making him highly adaptable in diverse academic environments.

I offer my strongest recommendation for Salvatore's application.

Sincerely,