NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2026

February 12, 2026

Applicant Contact Information:
Mattia Albanese
Rome Economics Doctorate (EIEF, LUISS, Tor Vergata)
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Recommendation Letter Writer:
Prof. Emanuele Tarantino
LUISS, EIEF, European Commission
Via Sallustiana 62, 00187 Rome, Italy
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Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am a fourth-year PhD student in the Rome Economics Doctorate, supervised by Prof. Emanuele Tarantino and Prof. Fabiano Schivardi. I entered the program in September 2022 and expect to complete my PhD in Summer 2027. I am writing to apply to the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2026.

My research lies at the intersection of labor economics, industrial organization, and innovation. I believe that participation in the Boot Camp would provide valuable feedback at a crucial stage of my doctoral research.

Prof. Tarantino will submit a recommendation letter in accordance with the application guidelines.

Enclosed please find my CV, transcript of completed coursework, and a research statement describing my current and future work.

Sincerely,
Mattia Albanese

Mattia Albanese

Rome Economics Doctorate (EIEF, LUISS, Tor Vergata)
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EDUCATION

Rome Economics Doctorate (EIEF, LUISS, Tor Vergata) Sep 2022 – Present
PhD in Economics (4th year)
Supervisors: Emanuele Tarantino, Fabiano Schivardi

London School of Economics, Department of Management Sep 2025 – Dec 2025
Visiting Research Student
Host: Rocco Macchiavello

Rome Masters in Economics (LM-56), EIEF & LUISS Sep 2020 – Jul 2022
MSc Economics, 110/110 cum laude

KU Leuven, Faculty of Economics and Business Sep 2019 – Feb 2020
Erasmus Program, First Class Honours (GPA 17.8/20)

University of Rome Tor Vergata Sep 2017 – Jul 2020
BA Global Governance, 110/110 cum laude

RESEARCH

Albanese, Fumagalli, Motta, Tarantino (2025)
When Antitrust Bites: The Effect of Antitrust Enforcement on Transaction Prices
Exploits quasi-exogenous variation from the 2000 HSR reform. Shows how enforcement design affects merger profitability and industry concentration through remedy mechanisms.

Albanese & Aliberti (2024)
Workplace Training Unpacked: Labor Market Competition and Investment in General Skills
Develops a novel measure of training generality using Italian administrative data. Shows that stronger labor market competition reduces general training provision.

Albanese (2022)
The Impact of Intangible Inputs on Investments and Markups: The Italian Case
Documents the rise of intangible capital and its link to investment gaps and markups. Published in EIEF Working Paper Series.

Albanese (2020)
Global Eco-cities, Pursuing the Utopia of Sustainable Urbanization, IAI Commentaries.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- *Firms' Training Strategies and Workers' Careers*, with Aliberti, Paradisi, Schivardi (VisitINPS Scholars Project)
- *Capital Structure and Firms' Human Capital Investments*
- *Corruption and Collusion: Evidence from Brazil Urban Train Case*, with Barbosa and Spagnolo

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance (EIEF), LUISS

- Prof. Liangjie Wu (2023–Present): Corporate Ownership and Intellectual Property in the US
- Prof. Emanuele Tarantino (2022–Present): Industry Consolidation and Innovation
- Prof. Giancarlo Spagnolo (2021): Public Procurement Centralization and COVID-19 Response

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Microeconomics (Bachelor), Tor Vergata 2025–2026
Teaching Assistant, Industrial Organization and Competition Theory (Bachelor), LUISS 2024–2025

PRESENTATIONS

- 40th AIEL Conference, Milano Bicocca (2025)
- Bank of Italy – EIEF Workshop (2024)
- PhD Summer School in Finance, USI (2024)
- CEMFI School of Economics, UIMP Santander (2024)
- Rome PhD Conference (2023, 2024)

SKILLS

Programming: R, Python, Stata, MATLAB, LaTeX
Languages: Italian (native), English (TOEFL 113/120), Spanish (proficient), French (advanced)

PhD Coursework – Rome Economics Doctorate (RED)

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

Research Statement

Mattia Albanese

Firms rely on worker training to build innovative capabilities, yet general training increases employees' outside options and the risk of knowledge spillovers. I provide evidence that stronger local labor market competition induces firms to tilt training toward more firm-specific skills, thereby reducing worker mobility. By shaping mobility patterns, firms' human capital strategies influence the allocation and diffusion of innovative knowledge across the economy.

In my job market paper, I study this mechanism using administrative employer–employee data covering Italian workers and firms, including detailed information on firm-provided training activities. I exploit variation in local labor market competition across establishments of multi-location firms to identify how firms adjust training in response to competitive pressure. I find that greater local competition increases skill specificity and leads to economically meaningful reductions in subsequent worker mobility. I am extending the analysis to examine how these mobility responses affect firm productivity, knowledge diffusion, and innovation outcomes. To this end, I develop a structural model linking training choices, mobility, and knowledge flows, and use it to evaluate counterfactual training subsidies.

Building on this work, I extend my research agenda to examine how firms acquire innovative capabilities through external market transactions, including mergers and acquisitions and outsourcing. Complementing my analysis of internal training decisions, this line of research studies how competitive pressures and competition policy shape firms' incentives to acquire knowledge externally. In particular, I aim to analyze how antitrust enforcement affects the returns to knowledge-driven acquisitions and the allocation of innovative activity across firms.

My research sits at the intersection of labor economics, industrial organization, and innovation. The NBER Innovation Bootcamp provides a unique environment to receive feedback from scholars working across these fields and to refine the innovation dimensions of my work. Given my focus on competition, knowledge diffusion, and the organization of innovative activity, the Bootcamp represents a natural setting to further develop this research agenda.

Dipartimento di
Economia e Finanza

LUISS

To: The Selection Committee

Brussels, 12 February 2026

Subject: Letter supporting the application to the NBER Entrepreneurship Bootcamp

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

Mattia is an outstanding fourth-year PhD student from RED (the joint program organized by EIEF, Luiss, and Tor Vergata in Rome). I have known Mattia for 5 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 can also 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.

For his job market paper, he is developing a structural labor market model to assess how training programs affect labor mobility and productivity. To my knowledge, it would be the first paper of this kind to address a critical question at the intersection of labor, IO, and innovation.

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 these reasons, I strongly recommend that you review his application closely.

Sincerely yours,
Emanuele Tarantino

Chief Competition Economist
European Commission

Professor of Economics (Luiss and EIEF), On Leave

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