PhD Applicant Summary

Applicant Name: Serena Valente

Status: Third-Year PhD Student

Contact Information:

Institutional e-mail: svalente@uninsubria.it

Personal e-mail: serena.valente99@gmail.com

Institution:

Primary Institution: University of Insubria, Department of Economics, Varese (Italy)

Visiting Institution: Aston University, Department of Economics and International Business, Birmingham (UK)

PhD Program: PhD in Methods and Models for Economic Decisions

Year of Entry into PhD Program: 2023

Expected Year of Completion: Late 2026 - Early 2027

Research Area: Entrepreneurship

Research Focus within the PhD:
New venture growth, with a focus on how equity funding supports experimentation across stages of organizational maturity, within a Penrosean view of firm growth as a learning process. Related work examines startup scaling and the role of entrepreneurial ecosystems in the emergence of scaleups.

Faculty Member Providing Letter of Recommendation:

Prof. Alessia Pisoni, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Economics
University of Insubria (Varese, Italy)

Valente Serena - 3rd Year PhD Student

PhD Applicant Essay

Current and Future Research

My research lies at the intersection of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial finance, with a primary focus on understanding how financial resources shape the growth trajectories of new ventures.
My current work examines new venture growth as a learning process, conceptualizing growth as an endogenous and path-dependent process in which managers gradually discover how to deploy and recombine firm resources. Using a proprietary longitudinal dataset of over 400 Italian technology ventures from the Mind the Bridge[1] database, I study how funding events reshape subsequent growth trajectories and whether their effects depend on when they occur in this evolving learning process. In early phases, experimentation is intense and feedback from the market is noisy; over time, however, successful resource combinations become routinized and embedded in organizational processes, narrowing the scope for exploratory search. Consistent with this view, preliminary findings suggest that funding has stronger growth implications when introduced while the learning process is still broad and exploration-oriented, and weaker effects once learning becomes localized and anchored in established routines. Ongoing work extends this perspective to examine whether the timing of funding also shapes new venture survival, and I am developing a broader interest in how entrepreneurial ecosystem lifecycles mediate access to finance and venture trajectories. A complementary stream of my research focuses on startup scaling as conceptually distinct from growth and examines the role of entrepreneurial finance as a determinant of ventures' ability to transition from expansion to the scale-up phase. Taken together, my research agenda aims to understand how financial resources interact with organizational development to shape venture trajectories, with the Mind the Bridge database providing granular longitudinal evidence that is rare in the European startup context.

Reason to attend the Boot Camp

Participating in the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp 2026 would come at what I consider a particularly productive moment in my doctoral journey, which I approach as a cumulative learning process. Over the past three years, I have developed a clear sense of what I am doing and why: my research questions are defined, my data are in place, and I understand the field enough to know where my contribution sits. It is precisely this level of clarity that makes intensive engagement with leading researchers most valuable - I can bring specific work to the conversation, not just absorb inputs passively. The Boot Camp is also an unusually precise fit for my research agenda. Entrepreneurial finance is not a peripheral concern in my work - it is its central axis - and a program explicitly organized around the nexus of entrepreneurship and finance is rare. Beyond topical alignment, my doctoral journey has taken place predominantly within European research environments, through doctoral colloquia, international conferences, and training programs that have been invaluable but have developed my work in conversation mainly with EU-based scholars. Engaging with the NBER entrepreneurship research community would meaningfully broaden the intellectual context in which I position my research. My past experiences suggest I translate intensive research exposure into concrete advances rather than simply accumulating them. A summer school at St. Gallen equipped me with web scraping techniques I subsequently used to construct founder-level data for my current project. My involvement in the Oxford Residence Week for Entrepreneurship Scholars - where I serve on the organizing committee - led to a visiting research period at Aston University under supervision of Prof. Tomasz Mickiewicz (Aston University - Aston Business School) and Prof. Saul Estrin (London School of Economics), which reshaped my approach to research design and theoretical framing. I expect the Boot Camp to follow this pattern: not an isolated moment of exposure, but an experience that leaves a mark on how I think and work.

[1] Mind the Bridge is a global organization that provides innovation advisory services for corporates and startups. In 2014, Mind the Bridge has been selected by the European Commission to lead Startup Europe Partnership (SEP). Established in January 2014 at the World Economic Forum in Davos, SEP is a Startup Europe initiative dedicated to support the growth and sustainability of European startups able to compete and raise funds internationally. Based on its proprietary database, Mind the Bridge research unit regularly produce reports with the goal of sharing insights and data about startup/scaleup ecosystems in order to give relevant parties a macro overview of the current landscape (https://mindthebridge.com/research/).

Curriculum Vitae

Ms Valente Serena

- 3rd Year PhD Student in Methods and Models for Economic Decisions
  University of Insubria, Department of Economics, (Varese, Italy)
- Visiting PhD Student
  Aston University, Department of Economics and International Business, (Birmingham, UK)

CURRENT ACADEMIC POSITION

Nov. 2025 – Current	**Member of the PhD Committee of the International Management Division of the Academy of Management (AOM)**
Oct. 2025 – Current	**Visiting PhD Student** *Aston University – Aston Business School, Department of Economics and International Business, (Birmingham, UK)* Under the supervision of Prof. Tomasz Mickiewicz (Aston University - Aston Business School, Birmingham, UK) and Prof. Saul Estrin (London School of Economics, London, UK).
Oct. 2025 – Current	**Co-organizer, Interdisciplinary Seminar Series for Early Career Researchers** *University of Insubria, Department of Economics, (Varese, Italy)* Seminar Series designed to foster informal and interdisciplinary exchange among PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and early-career academics. Responsibilities include identifying and inviting speakers (including external participants), coordinating the seminar schedule, liaising with guests, and promoting events.
Jun. 2025 - Current	**Member of the Organizing Committee of the ORWES - "Oxford in Varese" Residence Week for Entrepreneurship Scholars (eds. 2025 and 2026)** along with Prof. Saul Estrin (London School of Economics), Prof. Maryann Feldman (University of North Carolina), Prof. Janet Bercovitz (Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado Boulder), Prof. Alessia Pisoni (University of Insubria), Dr. Yuan Hu (David Eccles School of Business, University of Utah), and Giorgio Di Fiore (University Cattolica del Sacro Cuore).
Nov. 2023 – Current Varese (Italy)	**PhD Student in "Methods and Models for Economic Decisions" – XXXIX Cycle** *University of Insubria, Department of Economics, (Varese, Italy)* Course Title: PhD in Methods and Models for Economic Decisions Department: Department of Economics, University of Insubria Scientific Areas: Economic and Statistical Sciences (Area 13) Scientific-Disciplinary Sectors (SDS)[2]: Economics, Economic Policy, Public Economics, Applied Economics, Econometrics, Business Administration, Accounting & Performance Measurement, Management, Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions, Economic History, Statistics, Economic Statistics, Mathematical Methods

[2] For reference, see *Ministerial Decree No. 639 of May 2, 2024*, issued by the Italian Ministry of University and Research, regarding the definition and reorganization of scientific-disciplinary sectors (SDS) and their assignment to broader scientific areas. In particular, refer to **Annex C** of the decree (*Decreto Ministeriale n. 639 del 02-05-2024 – Allegato C.pdf).*

for Economy, Finance and Actuarial Sciences, Mathematical Analysis, Probability and Mathematical Statistics, Operations Research, Informatics.
Course Start and End Dates: 01/11/2023 to 31/10/2026

Jul. 2023 – Current
Varese (Italy)

"Cultore della Materia" at the Department of Economics
Bachelor Degree in Economics and Management for Innovation and Sustainability (CLEMIS – CLEM) and Master's Degree in Global Entrepreneurship Economics and Management (GEEM)
University of Insubria, Department of Economics, (Varese, Italy)

Courses: Management (CLEMIS), Innovation Management (CLEMIS), Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management (GEEM), Seminar in Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management (GEEM), Startup Lab (GEEM), Open Innovation and Startup Ecosystems (GEEM).

EDUCATION

DOCTORAL EDUCATION

COURSES ATTENDED AND COMPLETED

A.Y. 2023/2024

Advanced Econometrics for Decision Making (Prof. Seri – 12 hours)

Agent-Based Modelling (ABM) in innovation economics (Prof. Müller – 20 hours)

An introduction to risk measures and portfolio optimization (Prof. Mastrogiacomo – 10 hours)

Applied Health Economics (Prof. Robone, Orso, Prado – 15 hours)

Applied econometrics: causality and policy evaluation (Prof. Vezzulli, Porro, Castelnovo, Sonedda – 20 hours)

Becoming a researcher: Navigating the publication process (Prof. Massini – 6 hours)

Calibration, validation and inference for complex simulation models (Dr. Martinoli – 6 hours)

Economic Growth Theory (Prof. Marsiglio – 8 hours)

History of decision making (Prof. Brambilla, Sidki – 12 hours)

Income inequality: patterns, measurement, and spatial dimension (Dr. Thach – 4 hours)

Introduction to MATLAB (Prof. Moretto – 8 hours)

Introduction to Macro AB models (Prof. Caverzasi – 10 hours)

Multidimensional approaches for measuring well-being and poverty (Prof. Gigliarano – 10 hours)

Networks: Theory and Applications (Prof. Vanni – 10 hours)

Optimization with applications to finance and economics (Prof. Hitaj – 16 hours)

Preferences, Utility and Optimization (Prof. Rocca – 20 hours)

Research Methods in Finance (Prof. Borisov – 4 hours)

Stata Laboratory for financial and economic analyses (Prof. Tanda – 10 hours)

	Stochastic programming (Prof. La Torre – 6 hours)
	The economics of altruistic decisions and charitable giving (Prof. Galmarini – 10 hours)
	The Geography of Employment and the Environment (Dr. Serafinelli – 6 hours)
	Topics in Cognitive Economics (Prof. Secchi – 15 hours)
	Transport decision making and sustainability (Prof. Maggi – 10 hours)
	What can we learn from editor-metrics? Data, approached, insights (Prof. Mendonça – 4 hours)
A.Y. 2024/2025	Portfolio Management in Python (Prof. Redaelli, Dr. Dettoni – 8 hours)
	Inside the Academic Editorial Process – How to Improve Your Skills to Perform a 'Perfect' Paper Review (Prof. Giacchetti, Picone, Tuan, Visintin, Ramus – 6 hours)
	IEEE Authorship and Open Access Symposium: Tips and Best Practices to Get Published from IEEE Editors
A.Y. 2025/2026	CV Writing for Academic Jobs (2 hours)
	CV Writing for Industry (2 hours)
	Research Data Management (2 hours)

RESEARCH RELATED ACTIVITIES AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

A.Y. 2023/2024	Innovation Camp for Ph.D. Students (Prof. Bellucci, Capelli, Farao, Pisoni, Ronchetti, Vezzulli – 28 hours)

SUMMER/WINTER SCHOOLS

Apr. 2025 Como (Italy)	**"Bioeconomy School (3rd edition) – Science, Economics, Business and Society"** *Lake Como School of Advanced Studies, (Como, Italy)*
Feb. 2025 Bilbao (Spain)	**"EERSws25: Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Research Winter School"** *University of Deusto, (Bilbao, Spain)*
Jan. 2025 Pisa (Italy)	**"SIMA-SIM-BAM School of Research Methods Winter Edition: Academic Writing"** *University of Pisa, (Pisa, Italy)*
June 2024 St. Gallen (Switzerland)	**"Data Scraping and Management for Social Scientists with R" course** *GSERM Global School in Empirical Research Methods 2024 – University of St. Gallen, (Tellstrasse, 2, 9000, St. Gallen, Switzerland)*

DEGREES COMPLETED

Oct. 2021 – Jul. 2023 Varese (Italy)	**Master's Degree in "Global Entrepreneurship Economics and Management" (GEEM) – Curriculum in International Business and Entrepreneurship (LM-77)** *University of Insubria, Department of Economics, (Varese, Italy)* **Grade: 110/110 magna cum laude**

Oct. 2022 – Sep. 2023
Fulda (Germany)

Master's Degree in International Management (PO 2019) [Double Degree Program]
Hochschule Fulda – University of Applied Sciences (Fulda, Germany)

Grade: 1.1 / 1.0 (sehr gut / very good)

Sep. 2018 – Jul. 2021
Varese (Italy)

Bachelor's Degree in "Economics and Management" (L-33)
University of Insubria, Department of Economics, (Varese, Italy)

Grade: 107/110

Sep. 2013 – Jun. 2018
Busto Arsizio (Italy)

Liceo Classico – High School Diploma
Liceo Classico I.I.S "Daniele Crespi"

Grade: 86/100

OTHER CERTIFICATES

Jun. 2022 – Oct. 2022
Varese (Italy)

German course for beginners
Ateneo Corsi di Lingue

30 hours of German language lessons aimed at providing a level of basic linguistic knowledge (A2-B1) in view of the Erasmus+ Double Degree mobility program in Germany.

Sep. 2016 – Nov. 2016
Busto Arsizio (Italy)

English Language Course in preparation to the FIRST Certificate
Liceo Classico I.I.S "Daniele Crespi"

Language course aiming to prepare candidates for the FIRST Certificate in English exams related to reading, use of English, writing, listening and speaking skills. Overall Score obtained: 171 (Level B2 – score 160-179) | Reading: 176 (Level B2 – score 160-179) | Use of English: 184 (Level C1 – score 180-190) | Writing: 156 (Level B2 – score 160-179) | Listening: 168 (Level B2 – score 160-179) | Speaking: 172 (Level B2 – score 160-179)

July 2016
Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry (Ireland)

English Language Training
The Asana School of English

60 hours of English language lessons aimed at enhancing all the fundamental language skills: listening comprehension, oral expression, reading comprehension and written production.

Nov. 2015
Busto Arsizio (Italy)

Project "Sicurezza Generale ASR" funded by Forma.Temp
Randstad Italia S.p.A. Società Unipersonale

Training course on Health and Safety in the workplace (General Training Legislative Decree 81/2008).

Apr. 2015
Broadstairs, Kent (England)

English Course
Kent School of English

15 hours of English language lessons plus a program of afternoon and evening activities aimed at exercising English language proficiency in order to develop fluent and natural communication skills in everyday and professional situations.

TEACHING, MENTORING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Oct. 2025 – Present
Varese (Italy)

Teaching Assistant for the course "Innovation Management"
Bachelor Degree in Economics and Management for Innovation and Sustainability (CLEMIS), University of Insubria, Department of Economics, (Varese, Italy)

PhD Applicant Summary, Essay and CV
for the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp 2026

Valente Serena - 3rd Year PhD Student

Oct. 2025 – Dec. 2026
Varese (Italy)

Tutor for business and orientation to foreign students areas
Bachelor Degree in Economics and Management for Innovation and Sustainability (CLEMIS – CLEM), University of Insubria, Department of Economics, (Varese, Italy)

Assignee of hours for tutoring, preparatory and supplementary activities for the academic year 2025/2026.

Jan. 2025 – Present
Varese (Italy)

Teaching Assistant for the course "Seminar in Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management"
Master's Degree in Global Entrepreneurship Economics and Management (GEEM), University of Insubria, Department of Economics, (Varese, Italy)

Jan. 2025 – Dec. 2025
Varese (Italy)

Tutor for business, orientation to foreign students and English language areas
Bachelor Degree in Economics and Management for Innovation and Sustainability (CLEMIS – CLEM), University of Insubria, Department of Economics, (Varese, Italy)

Assignee of hours for tutoring, preparatory and supplementary activities for the academic year 2024/2025.

Feb. 2024 – Dec. 2024
Varese (Italy)

Tutor for the business area
Bachelor Degree in Economics and Management for Innovation and Sustainability (CLEMIS – CLEM), University of Insubria, Department of Economics, (Varese, Italy)

Assignee of hours for tutoring, preparatory and supplementary activities for the academic year 2023/2024.

Jul. 2023 – Current
Varese (Italy)

"Cultore della Materia" at the Department of Economics
Bachelor Degree in Economics and Management for Innovation and Sustainability (CLEMIS – CLEM) and Master's Degree in Global Entrepreneurship Economics and Management (GEEM)
University of Insubria, Department of Economics, (Varese, Italy)

- **Assistance to courses/exams** of Management (Bachelor's Degree CLEMIS – CLEM) | Management of Technologies, Innovation and Operations (Bachelor's Degree CLEM) | Innovation Management (Bachelor's Degree CLEMIS) | Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management (Master's Degree GEEM) | Open Innovation and Startup Ecosystems (Master's Degree GEEM) | Seminar in Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management (Master's Degree GEEM) | Startup Lab (Master's Degree GEEM). Specifically:
    - **Tutoring for "Make IT a Case" (SIMA national competition) | Ed. 2025/26**, **2024/25 –** as part of the course *Innovation Management*, Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Management for Innovation and Sustainability (CLEMIS) | **Ed. 2023/24** – as part of the course *Management of Technologies, Innovation and Operations*, Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Management (CLEM).
    - **Support to the "Startup Lab" project** embedded into the GEEM Master's Degree program (Coordinators Prof. Alberto Onetti – Alessia Pisoni) | **Ed. 2025/26** – companies involved: Umo Health, Sablier and En-Power, in collaboration with the "Liquid Factory" Startup Studio | **Ed. 2024/25** – companies involved: Epicode (first Tech Career Accelerator in Europe) and Pelliconi (world leader in the production of caps and closures for bottles: innovative and sustainable solutions for the food&beverage sector) | **Ed. 2023/24** – companies involved: Epicode (first Tech Career Accelerator in Europe) and P-CODE (new platform of Pelliconi S.p.a. – world

leader in the production of caps and closures for bottles: innovative and sustainable solutions for the food&beverage sector).

- **Support to the Didactic Experimentation Project carried out within the NODES project|Ed. 2024/25 – Spoke 3: Tourism and Culture Industry**, with the challenge "Wood for Innovative Structures Supporting Sustainable Tourism," commissioned by the company NovelloCase srl The challenge involved students from both the GEEM/IBE Master's Degree Program (course: *Open Innovation and Startup Ecosystems* – coordinators Prof. Alberto Onetti – Alessia Pisoni) and the EDIFI/FIMEDIS Master's Degree Program (course: *Lab: Sustainability and the Financial System* – coordinator Prof. Rossella Locatelli).

- **Seminar presentation entitled: "Scaling, scalability and scaleup: definitional challenges and current research trends"** as part of the course *Seminar in Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management*, Master's Degree in Global Entrepreneurship, Economics and Management (GEEM).
- **Seminar presentation entitled: Management Basics** as part of the course *Innovation Management*, Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Management for Innovation and Sustainability (CLEMIS).
- **Seminar presentation entitled: Resources and competences – success factors in a competitive environment** as part of the course *Management*, Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Management for Innovation and Sustainability (CLEMIS).
- **Seminar presentation entitled: How to develop a Systematic Literature Review** as part of the course *Seminar in Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management*, Master's Degree in Global Entrepreneurship, Economics and Management (GEEM).
- **Seminar presentation entitled: A Business Model Canvas – How to make it effective** as part of the course *Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management*, Master's Degree in Global Entrepreneurship, Economics and Management (GEEM).

Oct. 2021 – Dec. 2022
Varese (Italy)

Tutor for business, mathematics-statistics and English language areas
Bachelor Degree in Economics and Management (CLEM), University of Insubria, Department of Economics, (Varese, Italy)

Assignee of hours for tutoring, preparatory and supplementary activities for the academic year 2021/2022.

Sep. 2016 – Jun. 2017
Busto Arsizio (Italy)

Teaching assistant for Italian and mathematics courses for foreign adults
CPIA Centro Provinciale per l'Istruzione degli Adulti

Project as part of the Alternanza Scuola-Lavoro activities.
Main activities:
- Teaching assistant in foreign adult classes
- Autonomous teaching to individual students to strengthen and give support in the activities of the Italian and mathematics classes

PUBLICATIONS

VALENTE, S., PISONI, A. (2025), Exploring Entrepreneurial Ecosystems Microfoundations – Evidence from a Longitudinal Study on the Italian Tech Scaleup Scenario, Abstract published in the Conference Proceedings of the 25th EURAM Annual Conference: Managing with Purpose – Florence (Italy) June 22-25th 2025 (ISBN 978-2-9602195-7-9)

VALENTE, S., PISONI, A. (2024), Entrepreneurial Ecosystems: exploring the Italian Tech Scaleups scenario, Short Paper published in the Conference Proceedings of the Sinergie-SIMA 2024 Conference on Management of Sustainability and well-being for Individuals and Society – Parma June 13-14th 2024 (ISBN 978-88-94-7136-5-7)

WORKING PAPERS

Valente, S. (2026), Exploring the Startup Financial Growth Cycle – A Longitudinal Study of Fundraising Determinants, Working Paper

Valente, S. (2025), The Role of Equity Funding in Driving Scaleup Growth – Evidence from a Longitudinal Study on the Italian Tech Scaleup Scenario, Working Paper

Di Fiore, G., Valente, S. (2024), International Scaling of Born-Digitals: an investigation of Institutional Drivers and Strategies, Extended Abstract accepted and presented by co-author at the 28th McGill International Conference: International Entrepreneurship in a world driven by megatrends of Digitalization and Sustainability, Lappeenranta (Finland), 14th-17th August 2024

Valente, S. (2024), Innovation Outposts in Silicon Valley. How Companies today spot new trends and disrupt business models, Working Paper

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Jan. 2023 – Current

Occasional research collaboration
Mind the Bridge, Research Division

Main activities:
- Data collection and analysis
- Support to research reports
- Support in developing the interview protocol for managers' interview (Mind the Chat, Open Innovation Talks, etc.)

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

December 2025
Birmingham (UK)

6th Research Ripple
Aston University, Department of Economics and International Business (Birmingham, UK)

Extended abstract presented: "The Role of Equity Funding in Driving Scaling – Evidence from a Longitudinal Study on the Italian Tech Scaleup Scenario".

June 2025
Florence (Italy)

25th EURAM Conference 2025
University of Florence, (Florence, Italy)

Full paper accepted and presented: "Exploring Entrepreneurial Ecosystems Microfoundations – Evidence from a Longitudinal Study on the Italian Tech Scaleup Scenario".

June 2025
Florence (Italy)

EURAM Doctoral Colloquium 2025
University of Florence, (Florence, Italy)

Extended research proposal accepted and presented: "Entrepreneurial ecosystems: a multilevel perspective – How micro-level actors shape macro-level outcomes".

June 2025
Varese (Italy)

ORWES – Oxford in Varese Residence Week for Entrepreneurship Scholars 2025
Villa Toeplitz – University of Insubria, (Varese, Italy)

June 2025 Rotterdam (the Netherlands)	**"PhD and Junior Scholar Workshop" of the European Scaleup Institute Conference 2025** *Erasmus University Rotterdam, (Rotterdam, the Netherlands)* Extended abstract accepted and presented: "Exploring scaling dynamics through funding paths: a longitudinal study of European tech startups in the post-seed phase".
June 2025 Rotterdam (the Netherlands)	**3rd European Scaleup Institute Conference 2025** *Erasmus University Rotterdam, (Rotterdam, the Netherlands)* Extended abstract accepted and presented: "The Role of Equity Funding in Driving Scaleup Growth – Evidence from a Longitudinal Study on the Italian Tech Scaleup Scenario".
Aug. 2024 Lappeenranta (Finland)	**28th McGill International Entrepreneurship Conference** *LUT University, Yliopistonkatu 34, 53850 Lappeenranta, Finland* Extended abstract accepted (and presented by co-author): "International Scaling of Born digitals: an exploratory investigation of institutional drivers and strategies".
June 2024 Parma (Italy)	**Sinergie-SIMA Management Annual Conference 2024** *University of Parma (Via Kennedy John Fitzgerald, 4, 43121 Parma – Italy)* Short paper accepted and presented: "Entrepreneurial Ecosystems: exploring the Italian Tech Scaleups scenario".
May 2024 Pavia (Italy)	**10th Enteryng workshop (ENTreprenEurship Research workshop for YouNG scholars)** *University of Pavia (Corso Strada Nuova, 65, 27100 Pavia – Italy)* Extended abstract accepted (and presented by co-author): "Towards productive entrepreneurship: investigating the role of scaleups in entrepreneurial ecosystems".

REFEREE ACTIVITY FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND JOURNALS

- Academy of Management Annual Meeting (2025)
- EURAM Annual Conference (2025)
- SIMA Conference (2025)
- International Journal of Climate Change Strategies and Management (IJCCSM)

RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

- Società Italiana di Management (SIMA)
- Accademia Italiana di Economia Aziendale (AIDEA)
- British Academy of Management (BAM)
- European Academy of Management (EURAM)

TECHNICAL AND RESEARCH SKILLS

Excellent knowledge of the Windows operating system and the Microsoft Office suite. Advanced skills in using Google Forms. Average skills in using Lyx and Overleaf – Online LaTeX Editor.

Systematic Literature Review process (familiar with advanced research using the following databases: Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar).

Basic knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods:

- Quantitative data Analysis (IT support: R, RStudio, Stata 14, 17, 19, NetLogo, Anaconda – Python, QGIS)
- Qualitative data Analysis – methodology: Yin (2014), Eisenhardt (1989), Gioia et al. (2013)

Questionnaire design for quantitative and qualitative research.

Database used for research: Orbis (Bureau van Dijk, Moody's), Aida, Statista, Crunchbase, Scribble Maps together with GeoLyx Excel add-on.

SOFT SKILLS

Excellent interpersonal communication and collaboration skills acquired through experience, especially in the university environment. Excellent organizational and time management skills, orientation to problem solving and teamwork.

LINGUISTIC SKILLS

Italian	Mother tongue
English	C1 Level obtained in both written and spoken language attending two years of Master's Degree course fully taught in English and attending a semester of study abroad (Germany) in a Degree course taught in English.
German	Basic knowledge

AWARDS

May 2023	**"Premio al Merito" award** *University of Insubria, Department of Economics, (Varese, Italy)* Award given to students based on their academic achievements.
May 2022	**"Camera di Commercio, Industria, Artigianato e Agricoltura di Varese" scholarship award** *University of Insubria, Department of Economics, (Varese, Italy)* Award given to students based on their academic achievements.

18th February 2026



Serena Valente

I authorise the processing of my personal data in accordance with Legislative Decree no. 196 of 30 June 2003 Personal Data Protection Code. I hereby declare, pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree 445/2000, the truthfulness of the data and information provided.

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI
DELL'INSUBRIA

DIPARTIMENTO DI ECONOMIA
- DiECO

Varese, 18th February 2026

RE: Recommendation Letter for Ms Serena Valente

To the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp Selection Committee

I am writing to support Ms Serena Valente's application to participate in the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp 2026. I have known Ms Serena Valente for several years in my capacity as Professor at the Department of Economics - University of Insubria, Varese. Serena is currently a third-year Ph.D. student in the Methods and Models for Economic Decisions program at the same Department under my supervision.

Serena's research focuses on the relationship between entrepreneurial finance and the growth of new ventures. She examines how funding events affect subsequent growth trajectories, considering the level of organizational development of ventures at the time these events occur. Her analysis is based on longitudinal data from the proprietary database of "Mind the Bridge" (https://mindthebridge.com/research/), a global organization that provides innovation advisory services for corporates and startups, which she has further complemented with additional firm- and founder-level information. Over the past year, I have observed a steady progression in Serena's research approach, which has benefited from her visiting research period at Aston University (Birmingham, UK) under the supervision of Prof. Tomasz Mickiewicz (Aston University - Aston Business School) and Prof. Saul Estrin (London School of Economics). Her recent work reflects an increasing ability to connect empirical analysis to underlying conceptual frameworks. Quantitative methods are not treated as an end in themselves, but are used to examine broader ideas about venture growth. In my view, this represents a positive step in the development of a research profile that combines analytical rigor with conceptual thinking.

Serena combines solid quantitative skills with a rigorous approach to research design. During her doctoral studies, Serena successfully completed several doctoral courses focused on quantitative research methodologies and model estimation techniques in economics. To further expand her research skills, she attended a research summer school on data scraping and management for social scientists, complementing her quantitative background with expertise in collecting and processing primary firm-level data. She has actively participated in workshops, conferences, and seminars at both national and international levels, where she presented extended abstracts and papers, engaging in constructive scholarly discussions to refine her research.

Throughout her academic journey, she demonstrated exceptional motivation, critical thinking abilities, and a proactive problem-solving and analytical attitude. Broadly speaking, Serena is a dedicated and enthusiastic learner who possesses excellent teamwork skills. I believe Serena is progressing in a promising direction as an independent researcher. By supporting her application to the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp 2026, I am confident that she will contribute meaningfully to academic discussions and benefit immensely from the exchange of ideas with other participants. I sincerely hope that the committee recognizes her potential and views her application favourably.

Yours sincerely,



Alessia Pisoni, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Economics | University of Insubria

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