Francesco Giordano

francescogiordano98.github.io CV

Application to the NBER Tutorial on Digital Economics and Artificial Intelligence

Contact Information

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Graduate Study

I am a fourth-year PhD student in Economics and Decision Sciences at HEC Paris. I enrolled in 2023 and expect to finish in 2028. Beyond the core graduate sequence in economics, in the first two years of the PhD I took graduate courses in advanced microeconomics, information economics, econometrics, machine learning, and optimization, and completed the research master at the end of the second year. My dissertation committee was formed in the third year.

Before the PhD I completed an M.Sc. in Economics at LUISS University (2020–2022) and the QTEM diploma, with visits at Tilburg University and Université Paris Dauphine. In 2027 I will be a visiting PhD student in the Economics Department of Northwestern University, and in 2026 I was a short-term visiting student at Olin Business School, Washington University in St. Louis.

Research Interests

I work on the role of information in strategic interaction and individual decisions. I am interested in the development of AI and Digital Economics both from a theoretical and an empirical perspective. On the theory side, I study equilibrium and coordination when agents have limited or partially specified probabilistic information, and how such equilibria can be computed. On the empirical side, I study how experts, in particular early-stage investors and evaluators, form beliefs and make predictions.

I am interested in Digital Economics and AI in two ways. First, as a source of questions for theory: when decision makers interact without fine-grained knowledge of the process that generates the data they observe, the feedback they receive and the robustness of equilibrium to that limited knowledge become central. Second, as a change in how expert judgment is produced: AI tools are entering venture screening, diagnosis, and professional advice, which are the settings I study empirically.

Research Projects

Publications

- *Decomposing Venture Evaluation: Learning about Belief Formation* (with Andrew Funck and Thomas Åstebro), *Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal*. We separate the components of evaluators' beliefs about early-stage ventures.

Working papers

- *Ex-Post Equilibria: Structure and Computation* (with Julien Grand-Clément and Christian Kroer). We study robust equilibria in games where payoffs are uncertain, describe their structure, and give methods to compute them.
- *Coordination Mechanisms with Partially Specified Probabilities.* I study correlation devices when players know only some features of the underlying distribution, rather than the full distribution.
- *Cognitive Complexity, Expertise and Prediction Accuracy in Venture Selection* (with Andrew Funck and Thomas Åstebro). We relate evaluators' expertise and the complexity of the evaluation task to the accuracy of their predictions.

Work in progress

- *Diagnostics and Professional Advice.*
- *Encouraging Scientific Thinking in Entrepreneurial Exit Decisions* (with Thomas Åstebro, Dan Elfenbein and Tianli Li).
- *Ex-Post Correlation.*

My dissertation will combine a theoretical chapter on equilibrium and coordination under partial probabilistic information with empirical chapters on how expert evaluators form beliefs.

Committee: Frédéric Koessler (HEC Paris, CNRS), Tristan Tomala (HEC Paris), Itzhak Gilboa (HEC Paris), Nicolas Vieille (HEC Paris).