

Ivan Napoli

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Profile

Innovation Economics PhD researcher with expertise in AI impact analysis and international experience with field exposure in **impact evaluation, financial and educational inclusion**. Skilled in **data-driven research, quantitative and qualitative analysis**, and clear research **communication**. Currently conducting a doctoral project on how LLMs are transforming research practices and productivity in higher education.

Professional Experience

IGC, London School of Economics (LSE) and University of Oxford

PhD Fellow and Consultant - Zambia Evidence Lab

Lusaka, Zambia

06/2025 – 09/2025

- Selected for a **competitive PhD fellowship** supporting field-based research on supporting inclusive finance through **AI-oriented solutions and development policy**. The programme is a joint initiative of LSE and Oxford University under the International Growth Centre and supported by the Zambian Ministry of Finance.
- Conducted a **policy-oriented analysis** of Zambia's **national surveys** (Labour Force Survey and ICT Survey), focusing on demographic, labour market and digital financial inclusion dimensions. The goal is to **inform inclusive finance and digital learning strategies**, in collaboration with national stakeholders and the IGC Zambia Evidence Lab.
- Performed **quantitative analysis** on demographic, employment, and digital usage indicators to support evidence-based recommendations for inclusive credit strategies and **digital education access**.
- Engaged with national stakeholders, financial institutions, and public agencies to align research with **policy implementation** and local development priorities.

United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Researcher - Technology, Innovation, and Knowledge Development

Geneva, Switzerland

03/2024 – 06/2024

- Conducted research on **national industrial and innovation policies**, analyzing OECD and national datasets to inform UNCTAD's policy work.
- Provided analytical support to the **Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)**, contributing to global discussions on **digital transformation and technology governance**.

MFR – MicroFinanza Global Rating Agency

Financial and Economic Inclusion Analyst

Milan, Italy

04/2023 – 01/2024

- Conducted **field assessments** of microfinance institutions, banks, and non-banking financial institutions through on-site assessments, actively engaging with institutions and interviewing key figures, to ensure a **comprehensive evaluation of financial and social performance**.
- Performed **Social Ratings, ESG Ratings, and Client Protection Certifications** under the **European Investment Bank (EIB) SIFTA (InvestEU) program**, ensuring compliance with **international standards for responsible finance**.
- Fine-tuned and updated **macro-financial benchmarking tools**, analyzing **regional economic trends** and integrating data from **international statistics and global development databases**.
- Collaborated with institutional stakeholders to enhance **access to finance for underserved populations**, reinforcing the role of **inclusive finance in sustainable development**.

CISL Lombardia

Economic and Social Researcher

Milan, Italy

12/2022 – 03/2023

- Conducted **quantitative and qualitative research** on **labour economics, working conditions, and industrial relations** in Lombardy.
- Designed and analyzed **surveys on worker welfare and employment trends** to inform **union policy recommendations**.
- Contributed to research reports, including "*La Voce delle Donne Iscritte a CISL Lombardia*" (2023) and "*White Blue Collar*" (2024), contributing to regional discussions on **gender equality and labour rights**.

Education

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

PhD in Economics of Innovation

Milan, Italy

10/2023 – Present

Research focus: AI, labour markets, economic transformation, and social sustainability.

Teaching Activity: Economics of Science and Innovation Policy (8h) - Graduate Course.

Current Project: "Chat-PhD": *The Role of LLMs in Shaping the Research Practices and Productivity of Young Scholars.*

- Conducting an original, mixed-methods research project exploring how the widespread availability of large language models is reshaping doctoral research practices and knowledge production in France. The study combines bibliometric analysis of dissertations with a targeted survey distributed to recent PhD graduates. It investigates the effects of LLM exposure on academic novelty, interdisciplinarity, and supervisory dynamics. The project contributes to ongoing debates around the digital transformation of higher education and provides empirical insights to inform doctoral training policies, institutional strategies, and responsible AI governance in research environments.

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

MSc Economics, Finance and International Markets

Final grade: 110 cum laude/110

Milan, Italy

09/2020 – 10/2022

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Bachelor in Economics and Service Management

Final grade: 110 cum laude/110

Milan, Italy

09/2017 – 07/2020

Skills

Languages: Italian (Native), English (C1+), French (B1)

Digital Skills: Stata, Excel (Pivot Tables, Simtools), LaTeX, Microsoft Office Suite, Python, Databases (World Bank, Orbis-Bureau van Dijk, WDI), ATLAS

Policy Works

Technology and Innovation Report 2025, UNCTAD: <https://www.un-ilibrary.org/content/books/9789211068016>

Training and Awards

2025: Workshop: Artificial Intelligence Algorithms in Practice – University of Groningen

- I completed an intensive, hands-on training on the application of artificial intelligence across diverse policy and research domains.
- I developed AI solutions for forecasting, sentiment analysis, and classification using Python (XGBoost, neural networks, LSTM).

2024: Advanced Training in Impact Evaluation of Development Policies – Sapienza University and IFAD

- I completed an advanced training program focused on impact evaluation of development policies and programs.
- I was engaged in hands-on training with policy examples using STATA, and acquired competencies in evaluating public policy in developing contexts.
- The course was delivered in collaboration with experts from FAO, IFAD and the World Bank.

2024: Global Youth Leaders Program – Innovation and Digital Transformation (G7-G20)

- I was selected for the Global Youth Leaders Program 2024 in the "Innovation and Digital Transformation" priority area.
- I engaged with experts from the Italian G7 Presidency, international organizations and major companies, contributing to policy proposals.
- The program is supported by ILO, UNDP, OECD, UNICEF, UN SDG Lab, FAO, WFP, UNSSC and others.

Conferences (Presenting Author)

2025: REGIS Innovation Studies Summer School, Bordeaux

2025: Workshop on the Organisation, Economics and Policy of Scientific Research, Strasbourg.

2025: REGIS discussant for Italy, presenting "Who is Replacing AI? The Impact of Generative AI on Online Freelancing Platforms" by Demirci et al.

2024: 12th Edition Workshop in Economics of Innovation, Complexity and Knowledge, Torino.

2024: 9th Edition KU Leuven Data and Algorithms for STI Studies, Antwerp.

Certificates

2019: IELTS, overall score: 7.5 (C1+), issued by British Council Milan.

2020: BMC, Financial markets topics and introduction to the Bloomberg terminal, issued by Bloomberg.

2020: Fundamentals of project management, issued by FormaTerziario, Milan.

2020: Excel extra-curricular course, issued by FormaTerziario, Milan.

Volunteering

Mi Ami Festival

Volunteer Staff

Milan, Italy

2022 – Current

- I assist in the planning and execution of Mi Ami Festival, an annual alternative music festival, and I contribute to logistics, on-site coordination, and artist liaison activities, collaborating with a diverse team of volunteers and professionals.