

Francesca Truffa

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Appointments

Assistant Professor of Business Economics and Public Policy at the Ross School of Business, University of Michigan, 2024–Current.

Lazear Liang Postdoctoral Scholar, Stanford Graduate School of Business, 2022-2024.

Education

Ph.D. Economics, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 2016–2022.

Dissertation: Essays in Labor and Gender Economics

Committee: Prof. Matthew Notowidigdo (Chair), Prof. Lori Beaman, Prof. Jonathan Guryan, Prof. Seema Jayachandran

M.A. Economics, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 2017.

M.Res. Economics (Ph.D. Track), Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, 2015.
Summa cum Laude

B.A. Economics, Università degli Studi di Genova, Genova, Italy, 2013. *Summa cum Laude*

Affiliations

Affiliate Member, CESifo Research Network

Invited Researcher, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Science for Progress Initiative (SfPI)

Research

Publications

“Undergraduate Gender Diversity and the Direction of Scientific Research” with Ashley Wong.
Forthcoming *American Economic Review*

Other Publications

“Gender Gaps in Entrepreneurship: Business Networks and Collaborations in Ghana” with Edward Asiedu, Monica Lambon-Quayefio, and Ashley Wong.
Forthcoming *American Economic Association Papers & Proceedings*

Working Paper

“Peer Effects and the Gender Gap in Corporate Leadership: Evidence from MBA Students” with Menaka Hampole and Ashley Wong.
Quarterly Journal of Economics, Revise & Resubmit

“Motherhood and the Gender Gap in Self-Employment” with Mery Ferrando, Teodora Tsankova, and Ashley Wong

“Female Entrepreneurship and Professional Networks” with Edward Asiedu, Monica Lambon-Quayefio, and Ashley Wong.
This study is registered in the AEA RCT Registry and the unique identifying number is: “AEARCTR-0006439”.
Data collection in progress.

“The Spillover Effects of Maternity Leave Extensions on Unemployment Insurance” with Ashley Wong.

Work in Progress

“Pension Caregiver Credits and the Gender Gap in Old-Age Income” with Fabio Blasutto and Ashley Wong.

“The Effects of Academic Calendar on Faculty Outcomes” with Valerie Bostwick, Stefanie Fischer, and Ashley Wong

“How Female Representation Changes Science: Evidence from College Coeducation” with Drew Hendrickson and Ashley Wong

“Diversifying Innovation: How Student Debt Affects Diversity in Entrepreneurship” with Menaka Hampole and Ashley Wong

“Addressing Racial Disparities in Medical Education and Science: The Role of the Civil Rights Movement” with Thomas Helgerman and Ashley Wong

“Saving for a (not so) Rainy Day: A Randomized Evaluation of Savings Groups in Mali” with Lori Beaman, Dean Karlan and Bram Thuysbaert.

“Effect of Beliefs and Gender Roles on Girls’ Math Education” with Ashley Wong.
This study is registered in the AEA RCT Registry and unique identifying number is: AEARCTR-0003054. Data collection completed.

Fellowships, Grants & Awards

2025 Sanford R. Robertson Assistant Professor of Business Administration

2025 Ross Research Grant (\$10,000)

2024 National Science Foundation, “Addressing Racial Disparities in Medical Education and Science: The Role of the Civil Rights Movement,” No. 2417813, with Thomas Helgerman (PI) and Ashley Wong

2024 Upjohn Institute Early Career Award, with Fabio Blasutto and Ashley Wong (\$7,500)

2024 J-PAL Science for Progress Initiative Award, with Ashley Wong (\$10,000)

- 2024 International Growth Centre (IGC) Full Research Grant, with Edward Asiedu, Monica Lambon-Quayefio, and Ashley Wong (£60,000)
- 2023 Carlo Dell’Arling Young Economist Prize
- 2023 IZA/FCDO Programme on Gender, Growth and Labour Markets in Low-Income Countries ($G^2LM|LIC$), with Edward Asiedu, Monica Lambon-Quayefio, and Ashley Wong (EUR 25,000)
- 2023 International Growth Centre (IGC) Full Research Grant, with Edward Asiedu, Monica Lambon-Quayefio, and Ashley Wong (EUR 35,000)
- 2022 Université Paris-Dauphine “Women and Science” Grant, with Ashley Wong (EUR 10,000)
- 2022 ODISSEI Microdata Access Grant, with Mery Ferrando, Teodora Tsankova and Ashley Wong (EUR 7,500)
- 2022 2nd Discrimination and Diversity Workshop Outstanding Paper Award (\$600).
- 2021 NBER Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Program in Gender in the Economy, with Ashley Wong (\$27,000).
- 2021 11th UniCredit Foundation Best Paper Award on Gender Economics, 2021 (\$2,966).
- 2021 Dissertation Year University Fellowship (DYUF), Northwestern University.
- 2020 Dissertation Fellowship from the Boston College Center for Retirement Research and the Social Security Administration (SSA), with Ashley Wong (\$28,000).
- 2020 JPAL Jobs and Opportunity Initiative, with Edward Asiedu, Monica Lambon-Quayefio, and Ashley Wong (\$49,979).
- 2020 The Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics, with Edward Asiedu, Monica Lambon-Quayefio, and Ashley Wong (\$24,480).
- 2020 PEDL Exploratory Research Grant, with Edward Asiedu, Monica Lambon-Quayefio, and Ashley Wong (\$51,331).
- 2019 Buffett Institute Graduate Student Dissertation Research Travel Award, Northwestern University (\$2,000).
- 2019 Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award.
- 2019 Susan Schmidt Bies Prizes for Doctoral Student Research on Economics and Public Policy for best third-year Ph.D. student research paper (\$1,000).
- 2019 J-PAL Post-Primary Education Initiative, with Ashley Wong (\$48,510).
- 2018 The Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics, with Ashley Wong (\$39,452).
- 2018 Graduate Research Grant, Northwestern University (\$3,000).
- 2018 Buffett Institute Graduate Student Dissertation Research Travel Award, Northwestern University (\$3,000).
- 2015 Université Catholique de Louvain Fellowship.

Presentations & Conferences

2025: AEA ASSA; Università degli Studi di Pavia; Gender in the Economy: Women in the Digital World; 2025 Pacific Conference for Development Economics (PacDev); Nebraska Labor Summit 2025; University of Michigan Population Studies Center; 2nd Annual Banff Innovation, Productivity and Economic Growth Conference*

2024: AEA ASSA; Berkeley Culture Connect Conference; ifo Big-Data Seminar; Midwest Economics Association (MEA/SOLE); Yosemite Retreat in Entrepreneurship and Innovation; Cornell University; Nebraska Labor Summit 2024; Stanford Gender SITE Gender; Opportunity Insights

2023: AEA ASSA; AlpPop 2023; Eastern Economic Association (EEA); Stanford University; Midwest Economics Association (MEA/SOLE); SOLE's 2023 Annual Conference; Economic History Workshop - Uppsala; 79th Annual Congress of the IIPF; EEA-ESEM 2023; Meeting of Young Economists 2023; 38th AIEL Conference; Haas School of Business, University of California Berkeley; University of Rochester; University of California, Merced; University of Minnesota; 2023 APPAM; Milano Labour Lunch Seminar (joint seminar Bocconi, Cattolica, Statale and Bicocca); 5th DONDENA Workshop in Public Policy - Bocconi University.

2022: NBER Summer Institute (Gender); 2022 Stanford Site on Gender Economics; EEA-ESEM 2022; 6th 2022 Empirical Microeconomics Workshop - University of Calgary; Workshop of Labour and Family Economics (WOLFE) 2022 - University of York; Florida State University; National University of Singapore (NUS); Hitotsubashi University; 5th RISE Workshop - Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition, Munich.

2021: AEA ASSA; Univesità di Genova; 4th IZA Workshop on Gender and Family Economics: "Women in Leadership"; 6th IZA Workshop: The Economics of Education; Workshop UniCredit Foundation - Bocconi on Gender Economics.

2020: University of Michigan, H2D2 Research Day (poster session).

(*: Scheduled)

Teaching

University of Michigan, Ross School of Business

Fall 2024 - BE300: Applied Economics

Northwestern University (Teaching Assistant)

Fall 2020 - ECON 342: Economics of Gender

Spring 2020 - ECON 342: Economics of Gender

Winter 2020 - ECON 340: Family Economics

Fall 2019 - ECON 201: Introduction to Macroeconomics

Winter 2019 - ECON 342: Economics of Gender

Universite Catholique de Louvain (Teaching Assistant)

Sept 2015 – Jan 2016: Political Economics (undergraduate), Macroeconomics (undergraduate)

Jan 2016 – Jun 2016: Advanced Macroeconomics II (graduate), Public Economics (undergraduate), Macroeconomics (undergraduate)

Refereeing

Quarterly Journal of Economics, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Economic Journal, Management Science, Journal of Financial Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Labour Economics, Economics of Education Review, World Development, Economic Inquiry, Journal of Demographic Economics, National Science Foundation (NSF)

Professional Activities

Organizer:

Empirics and Methods in Economics Conference (EMCON) Northwestern University and University of Chicago, 2018 and 2019

Applied micro workshop, Winter 2019, Northwestern University

Mentoring:

Economics Ph.D. Mentorship Program, Northwestern University 2019–2021

Graduates Mentoring Undergraduates Student Group, Northwestern University 2020–2022

Other Research Experience

Research Assistant, Northwestern University

Winter 2021 - Professor Dean Karlan

Fall 2017-Spring 2019 - Professor Lori Beaman