

EMILIA DEL BONO

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Current position

2024-present Deputy Director of the Institute for Social & Economic Research (ISER), University of Essex
2020-present Director and PI of the ESRC Centre for Micro-Social Change (MiSoC), University of Essex
2014-present Professor of Economics, ISER, University of Essex

Previous employment

2005-2014 Reader (2012-2014); Senior Research Fellow (2011-2012); Research Fellow (2008-2011);
Senior Research Officer (2005-2008), ISER, University of Essex
2002-2004 Junior Research Fellow in Economics, The Queen's College, University of Oxford

Education

1999-2004 D.Phil. in Economics, The Queen's College, University of Oxford
1997-1999 M.Phil. in Economics, Pembroke College, University of Oxford
1997-2000 B.A. in Economics and Banking, University of Siena (*first class*)

Affiliations & memberships of learned societies

2024-present Fellow of the UK Academy of Social Sciences
2023-2024 President of the European Society for Population Economics
2018-2024 Member of the Royal Economic Society Council, Education & Training Committee
2012-2018 Member of the European Association of Labour Economists Executive Committee
2014-2017 Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Bergen
2005-present Institute for the Study of Labour (IZA) Research Fellow

Other roles

2024-2025 Guest editor of the European Economic Review, Special Issue on *Family Economics*
2018-2020 Research Director, Institute for Social & Economic Research, University of Essex
2014-2017 Associate Editor of the Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series A
2014-2015 Visiting Professor at University College London, Department of Economics
2004-2005 Visiting Scholar, Centre for Labor Economics, University of California, Berkeley

Publications

Del Bono, E., Pavan, R. and Kinsler, J. (2024) 'Skill formation and the trouble with child non-cognitive skill measures'. IZA Discussion Paper No. 13713, conditionally accepted at *Quantitative Economics*.
[Link](#) (2024 version).
Del Bono, E., Delavande, A. and Holford, A. (2025) 'Imprecise health beliefs and health behavior', *Journal of Health Economics*, 102, 103003. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhealeco.2025.103003>

- Del Bono, E., Kinsler, J. and Pavan, R. (2022) 'Identification of dynamic latent factor models of skill formation with translog production', *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, 37(6), pp. 1256–1265. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jae.2929>
- Blanden, J., Del Bono, E., Hansen, K. and Rabe, B. (2022) 'Quantity and quality of childcare and children's educational outcomes', *Journal of Population Economics*, 35, pp. 785–828. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00148-021-00835-4>
- Delavande, A., Del Bono, E. and Holford, A. (2022) 'Academic and non-academic investments at university: the role of expectations, preferences and constraints', *Journal of Econometrics*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeconom.2020.03.019>
- Del Bono, E. and Morando, G. (2021) 'For some luck matters more: the impact of the Great Recession on early careers of graduates from different socio-economic backgrounds', *Oxford Economic Papers*, 74, pp. 869–893. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oep/gpab053>
- Del Bono, E. and Vuri, D. (2018) 'Smoking behaviour and individual well-being: a fresh look at the effects of the 2005 public smoking ban in Italy', *Oxford Economic Papers*, 70(3), pp. 741–762. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oep/gpx039>
- Blanden, J., Del Bono, E., McNally, S. and Rabe, B. (2016) 'Universal pre-school education: the case of public funding with private provision', *The Economic Journal*, 126(592), pp. 682–723.
- Del Bono, E., Francesconi, M., Kelly, Y. and Sacker, A. (2016) 'Early maternal time investment and early child outcomes', *The Economic Journal*, 126(October), pp. F96–F135.
- Clark, D. and Del Bono, E. (2016) 'The long-run effects of attending an elite secondary school: evidence from the UK', *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 8(1), pp. 1–28.
- Del Bono, E., Winter-Ebmer, R. and Weber, A. (2015) 'Fertility and economic instability: the role of unemployment and job displacement', *Journal of Population Economics*, 28(2), pp. 463–478.
- Del Bono, E., Ermisch, J. and Francesconi, M. (2012) 'Intra-family resource allocations: a dynamic model of birth weight', *Journal of Labor Economics*, 30(3), pp. 657–706.
- Del Bono, E., Weber, A. and Winter-Ebmer, R. (2012) 'Clash of career and family: fertility decisions after job displacement', *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 10(4), pp. 659–683.
- Kelly, Y., Sacker, A., Del Bono, E., Francesconi, M. and Marmot, M. (2011) 'What role for the home learning environment and parenting in reducing the socioeconomic gradient in child development? Findings from the Millennium Cohort Study', *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, 96, pp. 832–837.
- Del Bono, E. and Vuri, D. (2011) 'Job mobility and the gender wage gap in Italy', *Labour Economics*, 18, pp. 130–142.
- Del Bono, E. and Weber, A. (2008) 'Do wages compensate for anticipated working time restrictions? Evidence from seasonal employment in Austria', *Journal of Labor Economics*, 26(1), pp. 181–221.

Work in progress

- Delavande, A., Del Bono, E., Holford, A., Sen, S. and Lesic, V. (2022) 'Expectations about the Productivity of Effort and Academic Outcomes: Evidence from a Randomized Information', *R&R Journal of Human Resources*. [Link](#) (2022 version)

- Del Bono, E., Etheridge, B. and Garcia, P. (2024) 'The economic value of childhood and adolescent socio-emotional skills', R&R *Journal of Labor Economics*. [Link](#) (2024 version)
- Delavande, A., Del Bono, E., Holford, A. and Nolen, P. (2024) 'Less Macho, More Mellow: the Malleability of Competitiveness', available on SSRN. [Link](#) (2024 version)
- Delavande, A., Del Bono, E., Holford, A. and Williams, K. (2025) 'Timetables, Attendance and Academic Achievement in Higher Education', IZA Discussion Paper No 17979. [Link](#)

Funded projects

- 2025 Co-I: "All women are born (un)equal: menopause, HRT and women's well-being", the Nuffield Foundation, duration 2 years (£295,386), [project page](#).
- 2024 PI: "The Research Centre on Micro-Social Change ([MiSoC](#))", Transition Funding, duration 3 years (£1,804,917).
- 2020 Co-I: "Mind the Gap: Educational Inequalities during Covid-19", with Birgitta Rabe (PI), funded by the UKRI, duration 18 months starting October 2020 (£139,365.6), [project page](#).
- 2019 PI: "The Research Centre on Micro-Social Change ([MiSoC](#))", funded by the ESRC, duration 5 years starting on October 2019 (£7,796,711).
- 2018 PI: "Reducing socio-economic inequalities in HE participation: the role of information, peers and mindset", funded by the Office for Students via NCOP, duration 2 years (£278,291). See report [here](#).
- 2017 Co-I: "Estimating the Technology of Child Development and Maternal Well-being", with Ronni Pavan (PI, University of Rochester), funded by the National Science Foundation, duration 3 years (\$195,291).
- 2015 Co-I and PI (since 2019): "Inequality in Higher Education Outcomes in the UK: Subjective Expectations, Preferences and Access to Information", with Adeline Delavande (PI), funded by the ESRC, starting date April 1st 2015 (£900,211).
- 2014 Co-I: "The Research Centre on Micro-Social Change (MiSoC): Understanding individual and family behaviours in a new era of uncertainty and change", with Mike Brewer (PI), funded by the ESRC, duration 5 years starting on October 2014 (£5,765,579).
- 2012 Co-I: "The Effect of Free Childcare on Maternal Labour Supply and Child Development", with Mike Brewer, Claire Crawford and Birgitta Rabe (PI), funded by the ESRC-SDAI (£184,102).
- 2011 PI: "Maternal Smoking and Low Birth Weight. Comparative Evidence from the Smoking Bans in Italy and the UK" with Cheti Nicoletti and Daniela Vuri, funded by the British Academy Small Grant Scheme (£6,638).
- 2009 PI: "The Effects of Breastfeeding on Children, Mothers and Employers", with Maria Iacovou, Birgitta Rabe and Almudena Sevilla-Sanz, ESRC grant RES-062-23-1693 (£194,600).
- 2006 PI: "The Impacts of Parental Behaviour on Birth Weight", with John Ermisch and Marco Francesconi, ESRC grant RES-000-22-2044 (£65,213).

Policy briefings, research reports and user engagement activities (since 2017)

- [Child development, education, childcare policies](#)

[Managing behaviour in schools, crime and child development – new research to inform school policies and practice](#), forthcoming MiSoC event – September 23, 2025, London

[Article in The Observer: Playground bullies do prosper – and go on to earn more in middle age](#) ;

[Article in The Telegraph: Playground bullies earn more than their victims in middle age](#); Radio 5 interview: Why bullies might enjoy advantages later in life; LBC radio interview: fate of schoolyard bullies later in life; [Article in the Daily Mail: Playground bullies earn more than socially awkward children and enjoy high-flying careers, research suggests](#); interview with Danish newspaper Weekendavisen: how our roles and status in childhood is connected to adult (socio-economic) outcomes – March/April 2024
[Support for childcare and the early years - written evidence to Education Committee Inquiry](#), with Birgitta Rabe), January 2023
How do schools add value?, invited talk at the workshop “How can we make schools work for disadvantaged children”, organized by the Economics Observatory and the Centre for Education Policy and Equalising Opportunities (CEPEO), University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, January 2023.
Free childcare and child development: the free childcare policy in England, [MiSoC Impact Case Study](#), March 2022. See the timeline of how research fed into policy [here](#).
Coping with school closures: changes in home-schooling during COVID-19, with Angus Holford, Laura Fumagalli and Birgitta Rabe, July 2021, download the report [here](#).
Nursery attendance and children's outcomes, CentrePiece - The Magazine for Economic Performance 524, 2018, Centre for Economic Performance, LSE, Spring 2018. [Link](#)
Modern Motherhood – new evidence for better policies, event organizer and presenter, Council Chamber, Broadway House, Tothill Street, London, November 2017.
[Modern Motherhood](#), Festival of Social Science, September 2017.
Maternal mental health and development - video [blog](#), for Econ Films in collaboration with the Royal Economic Society, June 2017.

- [Higher Education, early labour market careers of young adults](#)

University access: the role of background and Covid-19 throughout the application process, [MiSoC Explainer](#), November 2021, University of Essex.
Graduates' labour market and training expectations during COVID-19, [MiSoC Explainer](#), March 2021, University of Essex.
What are the prospects for young people joining the labour market now?, Economics Observatory. [Link](#)
Hard hit: Covid-19 has changed many lives, but ethnic minorities and women, especially lone mothers, have been particularly affected, Economics Observatory Magazine, 2021. [Link](#)
Graduate Employability in the aftermath of Covid-19, Academy of Social Science, January 2021, invited talk. [Link](#)
Graduate Employability, invited talk for the Campaign for Social Science Strategic Leadership Forum, December 2020.
Labour market scarring on young people - video [blog](#) for the ESRC Economics Observatory, October 2020.
[Tackling inequalities in Higher Education](#), invited talk at the 30th Anniversary Celebrations of the Institute for Social and Economic Research, British Academy, December 2019.
Students Preferences over Fees, Loans and Grants, [MiSoC Explainer](#), July 2018, University of Essex.
What explains ethnic and SES gaps in degree class and dropout?, [MiSoC Explainer](#), September 2018, University of Essex.
[Universities in the UK – who applies, who stays, who achieves – what makes a difference?](#), event organizer, November 2017, Broadway House, Westminster, London.

Book chapters, working papers and other outputs (not published elsewhere)

Licensing and regulation of the cannabis market in England and Wales: towards a cost-benefit analysis, 2013 with Mark Bryan and Steve Pudney, available at <https://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/d/153>.

Breastfeeding and child cognitive outcomes: Evidence from a hospital-based breastfeeding support policy, with Birgitta Rabe, Working Papers of the Institute for Social and Economic Research no. 2012-29, Colchester: University of Essex.

Inequality in Achievements during Adolescence, with John Ermisch, forthcoming in John Ermisch, Markus Jantti and Timothy Smeeding (eds.), *From Parents to Children: The Intergenerational Transmission of Advantage*, 2012, Russell Sage Foundation: New York.

Education Mobility in England. The link between the education levels of parents and the educational outcomes of teenagers, with John Ermisch and Lee Elliott Major, report for The Sutton Trust, April 2010.

La parità di genere nel lavoro? Ancora un miraggio, with Daniela Vuri, in *Vita e Pensiero*, 2010, vol. 2 (Marzo-Aprile), pp. 64-73.

Mobilità e differenziali salariali di genere in Italia, in Lorenzo Cappellari, Paolo Naticchioni and Stefano Staffolani (eds.), *Più uguali o disuguali? L'evoluzione delle disuguaglianze in Italia*, 2009. Carocci: Roma.

Early labour market experience and the timing of family formation, in *Changing Relationships*, Malcom Brynin and John Ermisch (eds.), 2008. Routledge: New York.

Older People: A Gendered Review and Secondary Analysis of the Data, with Emanuela Sala, Ruth Hancock, Caroline Gunnell and Lavinia Parisi, Equal Opportunities Commission Working Paper Series n. 62, 2007.

Keynotes

January 2025 [German Society for Empirical Educational Research, Mannheim](#)
 June 2024 [European Society of Population Economics, Presidential Address](#)
 November 2024 [Austrian Labour Market Workshop, Vienna](#)
 November 2019 [ZEW Workshop on the Economics of Higher Education, Mannheim](#)

Academic supervision and teaching

PhD students: Tina Rampino (2014), Angus Holford (2015), Laura Fumagalli (2015), Maria Elena Komodromou (2017), Greta Morando (2017), Franco Bonomi-Bezzo (second supervisor) (2020), Enrico Rubolino (2020), Josh Fullard (2020), Sonkurt Sen (2022), Tommaso Sartori (2025). External PhD examiner for: Ervin Prifti (University of Rome "Tor Vergata" 2013), Laura Gibson (University of Sheffield 2015), Sarah Sander (University of Copenhagen, 2018), Esmee Zwiers (Erasmus School of Economics 2019), Christian Crespo (LSE 2019), Maha Khan (University of York 2021), Flavia Cavallini (EUI 2022), Grace Chang (LSE 2022), Dilnoza Muslinova (Erasmus School of Economics 2023), Anusha Guha (UCL 2024), Rachel Tan (UCL 2025), Shengjuan He (Cambridge 2025).

Teaching: NCRM Modules on (i) Impact Evaluation, and (ii) Measuring and Analysing data on Subjective Expectations, Application of Data Analysis, EC959, University of Essex (2015-2018). Prior to joining the University of Essex I was a College Lecturer in Economics at the University of Oxford: The Queen's College (2002-2004), Christ Church College (2001-2002), Pembroke College (1999-2001).

Referee for scientific organizations

Economic and Social Research Council (Peer Review College), Italian Research Council, *Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del Sistema Universitario e della Ricerca* for the evaluation of Italian Universities in Economics, National Institute of Health (NIH, USA), National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), National Science Foundation (NSF, USA), Nuffield Foundation, Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), Swiss National Science Foundation, Vienna Science and Technology Fund (WWTF).

Referee for scientific journals

American Economic Review, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, British Journal of Sociology, Demography, Economics of Education Review, Economic Journal, European Economic Review, International Economic Review, Health Economics, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Economic Behaviour & Organization, Journal of Economic Inequalities, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Family and Economic Issues, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Population Economics, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society B, Industrial Relations, Labour, Labour Economics, Oxford Economic Papers, Oxford Review of Economic Policy, Review of Economic Studies, Review of the Economics of the Household, Scottish Journal of Political Economy.