

FRANCESCO LOIACONO

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CURRENT POSITION

2023-present Principal Economist, EBRD

DOCTORAL STUDIES

IIES, Stockholm University, 2023

Thesis Title: “*Firms and Labor Markets: Essays in Development Economics*”

Visiting Graduate Student, Chicago Booth School of Business, 2019-2020

RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary fields: Development Economics

Secondary fields: Labor Economics, Political Economics

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT

2024-2026 Visiting Researcher at Business School of Imperial College London
2014-2016 Research Fellow, Stockholm University and BRAC Uganda, REU
2013-2014 Research Assistant, Bocconi University
2013 Short-Term Consultant, World Bank, Development Impact Evaluation Unit (DIME)
2012 Research assistant, Bocconi University

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2025 PEDL Research Grant, **PI**, £30,000
“AI and Early Stage Entrepreneurship”
2025 IGC Research Grant, co-PI, £35,000
“Digital Credit and Financial Behavior”
2022 IGC Small Grant, **PI**, £20,000
“Household Welfare Socioeconomic Status and Access to Service in Kachin State”
2020 IGC Research Grant, **co-PI**, £35,000
“Do Corruption Perceptions Kill Competition?”
2020 JPAL JOI, **PI**, \$35,793
“Improving Refugees’ Labor Market Integration in Developing Countries”
2020 PEDL ERG Full Grant, **PI**, \$50,000
“Engaging the Private Sector in the Refugee Crisis: Evidence from Uganda”
2019 IPA Peace & Recovery Initiative Full Grant, **PI**, \$50,000
“Improving Refugees’ Livelihoods: Evidence from Uganda”
2019 IGC Small Grant, **PI**, £20,000
“Improving Refugees’ Livelihoods: Evidence from Uganda”
2019 PEDL MRG, **co-PI**, £386,475.28
“Information Frictions in Government-Firms Relationships”
2019 Hedelius Research Fellowship, *SEK*400,000

2018	IPA Peace & Recovery Initiative Exploratory Grant, PI , \$50,000 “Improving Refugees’ Livelihoods: Evidence from Uganda”
2017	J-PAL Governance Initiative Travel Grant, PI , \$10,000 “Corruption, Firm Performance, and Worker Productivity: Evidence from Myanmar”
2016	IGC Research Grant, co-PI , £98,164 “The Private Sector Response to Government Audits”
2016	IGC Small Grant, co-PI , £20,000 “The Private Sector Response to Government Audits”
2011-2013	Partial Merit Award, Bocconi University

WORKING PAPERS

“*Workplace Contact and the Hiring of Refugees: Evidence from Randomize Internships*” (w. Mariajose Silva-Vargas)

“*Contact in the Workplace and Social Cohesion: Experimental Evidence from Uganda*” (w. Mariajose Silva-Vargas)

“*Do Information Frictions and Corruption Perceptions Kill Competition? A Field Experiment On Public Procurement in Uganda*” (w. Emanuele Colonnelli and Edoardo Teso)

“*Credit Contracts, Business Development and Gender: Evidence from Uganda*” (w. Andreas Madestam, Selim Gulesci, and Miri Stryjan)

“*Economic Success Through Salvation? Experimental Evidence from the Evangelical Movement*” (w. Andreas Madestam and Jakob Svensson)

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

“*AI and Early-Stage Entrepreneurship*”, w. Claude Raisaro

“*Missing beliefs about the price of digital credit: Evidence from an experiment with market traders in Maputo*”, w. Vitor Cavalcante and Mattia Fracchia

POLICY

EBRD Transition Report (2025), Chapter 3: “Demographic Change and th Quest for Talent”

EBRD Transition Report (2024), Chapter 4: “Industrial Policy Supporting Firms”

Min Zar Ni et al (2020). “Artisanal jade mining in Myanmar: Livelihood challenges and opportunities”. IGC Myanmar

Loiacono and Silva-Vargas (2019). “Improving Refugees’ Access to Labor Markets”. IGC Uganda

PRESENTATIONS (including scheduled)

2026:

Paris Sorbonne

Rockwool Foundation, “*Rockwool Migration Workshop*”

World Bank, “*Urbanization and Development Conference*”

Cardiff Business School, “*Trade, Firms, and Global Economic Dynamics*”

Nova Lisbon, “*Novafrica Conference on Economic Development*”

British International Investment, “*Startups Ecosystem in Africa and Asia*”

2025:

ASWEDE Annual Conference, Göteborg University

“New Thinking in Industrial Policy”, Columbia University

ELMI, University of Warsaw

Guest Lecturer, PhD level course in Development Economics, Geneva Graduate Institute

Workshop on Discrimination, Social Inclusion, and Development, Milan Bicocca

Guest Lecturer, PhD level course in Development Economics, IE Madrid

IE Madrid

CSAE Oxford

2024:

University of Innsbruck

Brunel University of London

ASWEDE Annual Conference, Uppsala University

Economics of the Public Sector and Institutions Conference, Bank of Italy

British International Investment Conference on Flexible Finance for Development

Novafrica Conference in Economic Development, Nova School of Business and Economics

Conference on Immigration in Frontline States, Identity and Conflict Lab, Yale

Expert Group for Aid Studies, Stockholm

Midwest International Economic Development Conference, University of Chicago

Royal Economic Society Annual Conference, Queen’s University Belfast

Guest Lecturer, PhD level course in Development Economics, Imperial College London

Applied Economics Workshop, Ozyegin University

GIGA University of Hamburg

2023:

FCDO, British High Commission in Kampala

CESIfo Junior Workshop on Migration Research, Ifo Institute Munich

AfE University of Chicago

EEA Meeting Barcelona

Workshop on Firms, Labor Markets and Development, Collegio Carlo Alberto

Adam Business School – University of Glasgow

Central Bank of Spain

Universidad del Rosario

European Bank of Reconstruction and Development

Göttingen University

LEAP (Bocconi)

2022:

EWMEs, Humboldt University
ASWEDE Annual Conference, Stockholm University
Helsinki PhD Workshop, UNU-WIDER
NEUDC, Yale University
OXDEV, Oxford University
Novafrika Conference in Development Economics, Nova
NCDE, Aalto University
AFE, University of Chicago

2020 and before:

Northwestern University, Development Lunch Seminar (2020)
Private Sector Development Research Network (2019)
UNHCR Livelihoods and Education workshop, Uganda (2019)
ASWEDE Annual Conference: Orebro University (May 2017), Uppsala University (May 2018)

Uganda Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority (2017)

REFEREEING ACTIVITY

Journal of Law and Economics, Journal of European Economic Association, Journal of Development Economics

MENTORING ACTIVITY

2023-2026 Mentor, PhD students, Association for Mentoring & Inclusion in Economics (AMIE)

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

Italian (native), English (fluent), French (advanced), Spanish (advanced), Swedish (beginner)