

Riccardo Di Cato

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Placement Director: Prashant Bharadwaj

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Education

University of California San Diego 2021–present
Ph.D. in Economics (expected 2027)

Research areas: Development Economics and Political Economy

Advisors: Sara Lowes and Samuel Bazzi (co-chairs); Paul Niehaus, Gaurav Khanna, and Craig McIntosh

University of Bologna 2018
M.Sc. in Economics, LMEC (*summa cum laude*)

University of Pavia 2016
B.A. in Economics

Job Market Paper

Seeds of Market-Based Capitalism: Christian Missionaries and China's Modernization *with Jiachen Li*

Work in Progress

Religious Broadcasting and Politics in Italy *with Mattia Albertini*

The Adult Film Industry and Violence Against Women *with Santiago Cantillo*

Increasing Female Employment in the Automotive Sector in India *with Garima Sharma, Anant Nyshadham, and Achyuta Adhvaryu*

Religious Broadcasting and Belief Formation in Tanzania *with Mattia Albertini*

Employment

National Bureau of Economic Research 2022
Research Assistant (Prof. Samuel Bazzi)

Bocconi University 2019–2021
Research Associate (Prof. Nicola Limodio and Prof. Filippo De Marco)

Harvard University 2018–2019
Field Research Associate in the DRC (Profs. N. Nunn, J. A. Robinson, S. Lowes, and J. Weigel)

Entrepreneurial Venture 2015–2020
Founded and managed a hospitality business operating three tourist residences in Italy

Presentations

SIOE Conference, INSEAD	2026
HHDI-NIDE Workshop, Belfast	2026
IRES Workshop, Chapman University	2026
ASREC Conference, Chapman University	2026
ASREC Conference, George Mason University	2025
SOCAR Conference, UCLA	2025
DevPEC Conference, UC Berkeley	2025
University of Bologna WiP Seminar	2025
Migration and Development Conference, Bologna	2024
Boston University Center for the Study of Asia	2024

Teaching Experience

University of California San Diego	2021–present
<i>Graduate:</i> Financial Accounting; Quantitative Methods II; Quantitative Methods III	
<i>Undergraduate:</i> Microeconomics (principles and intermediate); Financial Accounting; The Indian Economy	
Bocconi University	2020
<i>Undergraduate:</i> Financial Markets and Institutions; Public Finance	

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

Cindy Vojtech Summer Research Prize in Economics, UC San Diego (\$1,667)	2026
IHS Research & Travel Grant (\$2,500)	2026
Summer Research Grant, UC San Diego (\$2,600)	2024–2025
Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics (\$6,885)	2023
21st Century India Center Travel Grant, UC San Diego (\$8,500)	2023
TRELS Grant, UC San Diego (\$1,000)	2022
Overseas Scholarship, Université de Montréal	2018
Erasmus Scholarship, Université Pierre Mendès France	2015

Referee Service

Journal of Development Economics; Economic Development and Cultural Change

Mentoring and Community Involvement

Co-founder, Undergraduate–Graduate Economic Research Lab, UC San Diego

Co-founder and co-host, Backstory Podcast at UC San Diego

Organizer and director, church summer camp, Omegna, Italy; college-student mentor

Co-founder, “Yes, I Care” community-meeting project; volunteer with Suñu Diwaan, Senegal

Additional Information

<i>Programming</i>	Stata, R, ArcGIS, $\LaTeX$, GeoODK (advanced); Python (intermediate); Matlab (basic)
<i>Languages</i>	<i>Native:</i> Italian. <i>Fluent:</i> English, French. <i>Intermediate:</i> Spanish.
<i>Citizenship</i>	Italian citizen; U.S. permanent resident
<i>Personal life</i>	Father of three children (ages 6, 3, and 1); married to a Spanish-American