

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ITALY FROM THE MIDDLE AGES TO TODAY A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

**4 JUNE 2024**  
**9:15AM-6:00PM**

Bocconi University  
Room 22  
Via Sarfatti 25

Registration required.

[REGISTRATION FORM](#)

FOR INFORMATION

[dondenaresearch@unibocconi.it](mailto:dondenaresearch@unibocconi.it)

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**9:00AM**  
**REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS**

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**9:15AM**  
**WELCOME ADDRESS**  
**MARCO BONETTI**

Director, Dondena Center, Bocconi University

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**9:30-11:00AM**  
**SESSION I: REAL WAGES, POPULATION  
AND HEIGHTS**

CHAIR

**JACOB WEISDORF** (Sapienza University, Rome)

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**UNVEILING THE ROOTS OF REGIONAL  
DISPARITIES IN ITALY: EVIDENCE FROM  
REAL WAGES, 1300-1860**

**GABRIELE CAPPELLI** (University of Siena),

**LEONARDO RIDOLFI** (University of Siena),

**MICHELANGELO VASTA** (University of Siena)

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**POPULATION, URBANIZATION AND  
POPULATION DENSITY**

**GUIDO ALFANI** (Bocconi University),

**SONIA SCHIFANO** (Bocconi University)

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**THE HEIGHTS OF ITALIANS FROM THE  
MIDDLE AGES TO UNIFICATION**

**MAURO ROTA** (Sapienza University, Rome),

**FRANCESCO FIORE MELACRINIS** (Bocconi

University)

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**11:00-11:30AM**  
**COFFEE BREAK**

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**11:30AM-1:00PM**  
**SESSION II: SOUTHERN ITALY AND THE  
NORTH-SOUTH DIVIDE**

CHAIR

**GUIDO ALFANI** (Bocconi University)

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**GEO-DESTINY: NATURAL HABITATION AND  
ITALY'S NORTH-SOUTH DIVIDE**

**CARLA SALVO** (Sapienza University, Rome),

**JACOB WEISDORF** (Sapienza University, Rome)

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**POLITICAL ELITES, URBAN INSTITUTIONS  
AND LONG-RUN PERSISTENCE: THE KING-  
OWNED TOWNS OF SOUTH ITALY**

**ELISA BORGHI** (Bocconi University),

**DONATO MASCIANDARO** (Bocconi University),

**GUIDO ALFANI** (Bocconi University)

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**THE QUESTIONE MERIDIONALE: ELITES,  
EDUCATION AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

**GIOVANNI FEDERICO** (NYUAD),

**ALBERTO BISIN** (NYU)

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**1:00-2:00PM**  
**LUNCH BREAK**

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**2:00-4:00PM**

**SESSION III: HUMAN CAPITAL AND  
REGIONAL VARIATIONS: ITALY AND BEYOND**  
CHAIR

**MATTIA FOCESATO** (Bocconi University)

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**TWEAKING THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION:  
PRODUCTIVITY, LIVING STANDARDS, AND  
HUMAN CAPITAL**

**CORMAC Ó GRÁDA** (University College,  
Dublin)

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**HUMAN CAPITAL DYNAMICS IN POST-  
UNIFICATION ITALY**

**GUIDO ALFANI** (Bocconi University),

**SONIA SCHIFANO** (Bocconi University),

**SIMONE GHISLANDI** (Bocconi University)

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**LONG-RUN CONVERGENCE IN HABSBURG  
REGIONS, 1870-2018**

**PHILIPP E. ERFURTH** (United Nations, New York)

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**ECONOMIC GROWTH IN ITALY, 1300-1860:  
A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE**

**GIOVANNI FEDERICO** (NYUAD),

**ALESSANDRO NUVOLARI** (Scuola Superiore  
Sant'Anna, Pisa),

**LEONARDO RIDOLFI** (University of Siena),

**MICHELANGELO VASTA** (University of Siena)

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**4:00-4:30PM**  
**COFFEE BREAK**

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**4:30-5:30PM**

**SESSION IV: PLAUSIBLE DRIVING FORCES  
OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

CHAIR

**DONATELLA STRANGIO** (Sapienza University,  
Rome)

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**AGROTOWNS AND RURAL  
MANUFACTURING: DIRECT  
OCCUPATIONAL INSIGHTS FROM PRE-  
INDUSTRIAL ITALY**

**MATTIA FOCESATO** (Bocconi University),

**FRANCESCO BETTARINI** (Bocconi University),

**MICHELE BOLLA** (University of Cambridge)

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**THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIERARCHICAL  
NETWORKS OF COMMUNICATION IN ITALY  
FROM THE RENAISSANCE TO UNIFICATION**

**CARLO CICCARELLI** (Tor Vergata University,  
Rome),

**PETER GROOTE** (University of Groningen),

**DAVID CHILOSI** (King's College London)



Università  
Bocconi

DONDENA  
Carlo F. Dondena Center  
for Research on Social Dynamics  
and Public Policy