

# Fabrizio Mazzonna

Università della Svizzera Italiana  
Department of Economics (IdEP)  
Blue Building  
via G. Buffi 13, 6900 Lugano

Phone: +41 58.666.4787  
Email: [fabrizio.mazzonna@usi.ch](mailto:fabrizio.mazzonna@usi.ch)  
Homepage: [personal webpage](#)

## Personal

Born on June 24, 1981

Italian Citizen

## Employment

*Professor*, Università della Svizzera Italiana (USI) (2022–present)

*Associate Professor*, Università della Svizzera Italiana (USI) (2018–2022)

*Assistant Professor*, USI (2013–2017)

*Post-doctoral Researcher in Health Economics*, MEA–MPISOC (2011–2012)

## Other Positions

Chair, Department of Economics (IdEP) at USI (2022–present)

Research Fellow, IZA (Institute of Labor Economics) (2020–present)

Director, Center for Economic and Political Research on Aging (CEPRA) (2018–present)

Founder and Board Member, Swiss Society of Health Economics (SGGÖ) (2016–present)

Research Fellow, Munich Center for the Economics of Aging (MEA) at Max Planck Institute for Social Law and Social Policy (2013–present)

Director, SSPH+ Summer School in Public Health Policy, Economics and Management (2015–2019)

Academic Director, SSPH+ International Doctoral Courses in Health Economics and Policy (2014–2017)

## Education

*Ph.D. in Econometrics and Empirical Economics* (2011), Tor Vergata University, Rome

*Visiting Student*, University College London (UCL) (2010)

*Master in Economics, Quantitative Methods* (2007), Tor Vergata University, Rome

*Laurea (MA) in Economics* (2006), Tor Vergata University, Rome

## Publications

### *Journal Articles*

- “Are Older People Aware of Their Cognitive Decline? Misperception and Financial Decision Making” with Peracchi F. (2024). *Journal of Political Economy*, 132(6): 1793-1830 (lead article)
- “What Drives the Substitutability Between Native and Foreign Workers? Evidence About the Role of Language” with Gentili E. (2024). *Economica*, 91 (361): 210–237
- “Unhealthy Immigrant Sleep Assimilation” with Billari F., Giuntella O., and Stella L. (2024). *European Sociological Review*, 40 (5): 917–931
- “Cultural Differences, Intergenerational Contacts, and the Spread of COVID-19: Evidence from Swiss Language Regions” with Gatti N. (2023). *Population Studies*, 77(1): 111–121
- “The Effect of Absolute Versus Relative Temperature on Health and the Role of Social Care” with Masiero G. and Santarossa M. (2022). *Health Economics*, 31: 1228–1248
- “Immigration Policy and Immigrants’ Sleep: Evidence from DACA” with Giuntella O., Lonsky J., Stella L. (2021). *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 182: 1–12
- “Cultural Differences in COVID-19 Spread and Policy Compliance: Evidence from Switzerland” (2020). *Covid Economics*, CEPR, Issue 33 (pre-print vetted papers)
- “Sunset Time and the Economic Effects of Social Jetlag: Evidence from US Time Zone Borders” with Giuntella O. (2019). *Journal of Health Economics*, 65: 210–226
- “Immigration and the Reallocation of Work Health Risk” with Giuntella O., Nicodemo C., and Vargas Silva C. (2019). *Journal of Population Economics*, 32: 1009–1042
- “Can a Smoking Ban Save Your Heart?” with Salari P. (2018). *Health Economics*, 27(10): 1435–1449
- “The Role of Culture in Long-term Care” with Gentili E. and Masiero G. (2017). *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 143(C): 186–200
- “Circadian Rhythms, Sleep, and Cognitive Skills: Evidence from an Unsleeping Giant” with Giuntella O. and Han W. (2017). *Demography*, 54(5): 1715–1742
- “Macroeconomic Crises During Working Years and Health Outcomes Later in Life” with Antonova L. and Bucher-Koenen T. (2017). *Social Science and Medicine*, 187: 134–143
- “Unhealthy Retirement?” with Peracchi F. (2017). *Journal of Human Resources*, 52(1): 128–151
- “Do Immigrants Bring Good Health?” with Giuntella O. (2015). *Journal of Health Economics*, 43: 140–153
- “Can We Trust Older People’s Statements on Their Childhood Circumstances? Evidence from SHARE-LIFE” with Havari E. (2015). *European Journal of Population*, 31(3): 233–257
- “The Long Lasting Effect of Family Background: A European Cross-country Comparison” (2014). *Economics of Education Review*, 40: 25–42
- “The Long Lasting Effects of Education on Old Age Health: Evidence of Gender Differences” (2014). *Social Science and Medicine*, 101: 129–138
- “Aging, Cognitive Abilities, and Retirement” with Peracchi F. (2012). *European Economic Review*, 56(4): 691–710
- “The Effect of Education on Old Age Cognitive Abilities: Evidence from a Regression Discontinuity Design” with Banks J. (2012). *Economic Journal*, 122(560): 418–448

### Book Chapters

“The Economics of Cognitive Aging” with Peracchi F. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Economics and Finance*. Oxford University Press

“Pattern of Cognitive Aging” with Peracchi F. (2013). In *Active Ageing and Solidarity Between Generations in Europe*, Börsch-Supan A., Brandt M., Litwin H., and Weber G. (eds.): 199–208

“The Recent Economic Crisis and Old-age Health in Europe” with Bucher-Koenen T. (2013). In *Active Ageing and Solidarity Between Generations in Europe*, Börsch-Supan A., Brandt M., Litwin H., and Weber G. (eds.): 233–242

### Working Papers

“Cognitive Decline and Financial Decision Making” with Orsenigo A. and Peracchi F. (2026). EIEF WP 26/05.

“Physician Prescribing Style and the Economic Cost of Hospitalization” with Bakx P., Cavallini F., and Hek K. (2026). IDEP DP-1/26.

“Labor Market Consequences of Low-value Care: The Role of Practice Style” with Albertini M. and Bakx P. (2025). IZA DP-17771.

“Opening the Labor Market to Qualified Immigrants in the Absence of Linguistic Barriers” with Gatti N., Parchet R., and Pica G. (2022). IZA DP-15631. *R&R ILR Review*.

“Retirement, Sleep, and Health” with Giuntella O. and Stella L. (2021).

“Happy Pills? Mental Health Effects of the Dramatic Increase of Antidepressant Use” with Masiero G. and Steinbach S. (2020). IZA-DP 13727. *R&R Economic Journal*.

“What Drives the Rise of Antidepressant Consumption? Evidence from Switzerland” with Masiero G. and Verbeek O. (2018). IDEP-WP 2018/01.

### Teaching

Aging Economics, PhD course (joint with Jonathan Skinner), Lugano 2025

Microeconomics, Master in Economics and International Relationship (MEPIN), the Faculty of Economics, USI, 2024–present

Public Economics, Bachelor of the Faculty of Economics, USI, 2019–present

Causal inference for Policy Evaluation, Master in Economics, USI, 2019–present

Fundamentals of Economics, Bachelor of the Faculty of Communication Sciences, USI, 2014–2024

Principles of Economics and Health Economics, Master of Advanced Studies in Economics and Health Management (NET-MEGS), USI, 2013–present

Public Economics and Policy, Master in Public Policy and Management, USI, 2013–2014 and 2021

Health Policy, SGGÖ PhD Course (joint with Andrew Street), Lugano, 2020, 2022, 2024, 2026

Microeconomics, Master in Public Policy and Management, USI, 2013

## Awards and Grants

Project Leader, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) Grant (2022–2026), “Health and Economic Consequences of Low-value Mental Health Care: The Case of Benzodiazepines” (co-applicant: Joachim Marti). Grant Value: CHF 735,000

Project Leader, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) Grant (2015–2019), “Antidepressant Medication, Mental Health, and Economic Crisis” (co-applicants: Giuliano Masiero and Massimo Filippini). Grant Value: CHF 212,000

Winner, SSPH+ Assistant Professorship Program (2013–2016)

PhD Thesis Selected for Publication in the *Book of Short Papers PhD Theses in Statistics and Applications*, Italian Statistics Society, Vol. 3

## Referee for Scholarly Journals

*Economics*: American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review, American Economic Review: Insights, American Journal of Health Economics, Economics of Education Review, Economic Journal, Economics & Human Biology, European Economic Review, Health Economics, IZA Journal of Labor & Development, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Population Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Labour Economics, LABOUR, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Swiss Journal of Economics and Statistics, The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy, The Journal of the Economics of Aging, The Review of Financial Studies

*Others*: Advances in Life Course Research, Ageing & Society, American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Demography, Health Policy, International Journal of Health Economics and Management, International Journal of Public Health, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series A, Lancet Public Health, PNAS, PLOS ONE, Science, Social Science and Medicine, The European Journal of Population

## Conferences, Workshops, and Seminars

### *Organization of Academic Workshops*

CEPRA-NBER Workshop on Aging and Health, Lugano, June 15-16, 2025. Joint with Kosali Simon, Kathleen McGarry, and Jonathan Skinner

CEPRA-NBER Workshop on Aging and Health, Lugano, June 19-20, 2023. Joint with Kosali Simon, Kathleen McGarry, and Jonathan Skinner

Max Planck-NBER Workshop on Aging and Health, Munich, June 9-10, 2022. Joint with Jonathan Skinner and Axel Börsch-Supan

CEPRA-NBER Workshop on Aging, Cognitive Ability, and Decision-making, Lugano, April 1-2, 2022. Joint with Jonathan Skinner and Kathleen McGarry

CEPRA-NBER Workshop on Aging and Health, Lugano, June 14-15, 2019. Joint with Jonathan Skinner and Axel Börsch-Supan

MEA-NBER Workshop on Aging and Health, Munich, June 6-7, 2018. Joint with Jonathan Skinner and Axel Börsch-Supan

Workshop on Aging, Health, Disability, and Wellbeing, Lausanne, June 12-13, 2017. Joint with Jurgen Maurer

CEPRA-NBER Workshop on Aging and Health, Lugano, June 2-3, 2017. Joint with Jonathan Skinner and Massimo Filippini

SSPH+ Summer School in Public Health Policy, Economics, and Management, Lugano (2015–2019)

### *Invited Speaker*

Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany (November 2025)

Queen Mary University of London, UK (November 2024)

Copenhagen Business School, Denmark (September 2024)

University of Tokyo, Japan (July 2024)

IHEA/VERB Webinar (November 2023)

ZEW and University of Mannheim, Germany (October 2023)

University of Bath, UK (May 2023)

*Keynote Speaker*, Understanding Voluntary and Forced Migration Conference, Lille, France (2022)

Institute for Economic and Social Research (IESR), Jinan University, Guangzhou, China (online 2021)

University of Basel, Switzerland (2021)

University of Pittsburgh, USA (online 2020)

University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy (2019)

*Keynote Speaker*, CINCH+ Economics of Mental Health Workshop, Essen, Germany (2019)

Catholic University, Milan, Italy (2018)

European Commission DG JRC, Ispra, Italy (2018)

CERGE-EI, Prague, Czech Republic (2017)

University of Lucerne, Switzerland (2017)

ETH Zurich, Switzerland (2017)

Research Institute for the Evaluation of Public Policies (FBK-IRVAPP), Trento, Italy (2019)

LMU-University of Munich, Germany (2012 and 2016)

University of Economics Prague, Czech Republic (2016)

University of Lausanne, Switzerland (2016)

University of Southern Denmark, Aarhus, Denmark (2015)

Erasmus School of Economics, Rotterdam, The Netherlands (2015)

University of Oxford, United Kingdom (2015)

MEA, Germany, (Mannheim 2010 & 2013, and Munich 2015)

Université Paris Dauphine, France (2014)

DIW Berlin, Germany (2014)

USI, Lugano, Switzerland (2012)

University of Augsburg, Germany (2012)

TU-Darmstadt, Germany (2012)

### *Conference Presentations (Selected)*

CEPR, Health Economics Conference, Toulouse (2024)

Essen Health Conference, Essen (2024)

CEPRA-NBER Workshop on Aging and Health, Lugano (2023)

NBER Summer Institute – Aging, Cambridge, USA (2022)

American Society of Health Economics, Virtual Meeting (2021) and University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (2016)

International Health Economics Association (iHEA), Virtual Meeting (2021), Basel (2019), Boston (2017), and Milan (2015)

ASSA Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association, Virtual Meeting (2021), Atlanta (2019), and San Diego (2013)

Alpine Population Conference (2020), La Thuile, Italy

NBER Summer Institute – Aging, Cambridge, USA (2018)

Health Econometrics Workshop, University of Bari, Italy (2016)

Workshop on the Law and Economics of the Health Care, VSE, Prague, Czech Republic (2016)

European Workshops on Econometrics and Health Economics, Paris, France (2015)

Annual Congress of the International Institute for Public Finance (IIPF), Lugano, Switzerland (2014)

Royal Economic Society Annual Conference, Manchester (2014) and London (2011), UK

PhD Seminar on Health Economics and Policy, Grindelwald, Switzerland (2014 and 2013)

Ifo-CESifo & University of Munich & MEA, “Empirical Health Economics”, Munich, Germany (2013)

Brucchi Luchino Labor Economic Workshop, Bank of Italy, Rome, Italy (2011 and 2009)

Italian Congress of Econometrics and Empirical Economics (ICEEE) (2011 and 2009)

European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society, EIEF, Rome, Italy (2010)

Workshop on Comparative International Research Based on HRS, ELSA, and SHARE, RAND, Santa Monica, USA (2010)

### *Organization of Outreach Activities*

CEPRA Lecture “Aging, Interest Rates and the Macro-Economy” Webinar (October 6, 2020)

CEPRA Lecture “Sistemi Pensionistici nella Transizione Demografica: Il Racconto di Due Paesi” (May 27, 2019)

CEPRA Lecture “Alfabetizzazione Finanziaria e Decisioni Consapevoli” (November 26, 2018)

CEPRA and BANCASTATO Lecture “In Pensione Più Tardi: Vincoli Economici e Costi Sociali” (May 28, 2018)

CEPRA and Gamma Foundation Lecture “Sistemi Pensionistici Sotto i Riflettori: Sfide Attuali e Soluzioni per il Futuro” (May 16, 2017)

CEPRA Lecture “New and Old Threats to Universal Health Coverage” (May 16, 2017)

### PhD and Post-doc Supervision

Lorenzo de Menech (PhD candidate 2025–)

Alessandro Steccanella (PhD candidate 2023–)

Flavia Cavallini (Post-doc, 2023–2026), Bank of Italy

Mattia Albertini (PhD 2025), postdoc at IRE (USI)

Nicolò Gatti (PhD 2023), postdoc at Catholic University, Milan

Sara Rellstab (Post-doc, 2020–2022), Data Scientist at gfs.bern, Bern

Olaf Verbeek (PhD 2022) Data Scientist at Dutch Healthcare Authority (NZA), Utrecht

Elena Gentili (PhD 2019), Bank of Italy, Bologna

Paola Salari (PhD 2016), Scientific Project Officer at the European Commission

Last updated: April 1, 2026