

2025 “Oxford in Varese”

Residence Week for Entrepreneurship Scholars

Venue: Villa Toeplitz, Varese (Italy)

Dear Visiting Scholars,

We are delighted to welcome you to this year’s event with an exciting group of scholars, some new and some seasoned hands. This is the first edition of the “Oxford in Varese” Residence Week for Entrepreneurship Scholars and we have been planning to make sure it will be as successful and stimulating as in previous years.

The Workshop will continue to function as a retreat for scholars in entrepreneurship and innovation to develop their own work, extend their collaborations and receive feedback on their ideas in an informal setting. We will seek a balance between junior and senior scholars and this year we will also interact with faculty and doctoral students at the University of Insubria. As in previous years, scholars will follow their own schedule for much of each day, with an organized programme to share new research ideas at 4pm each afternoon. The idea of the Workshop is that a small group in entrepreneurship and innovation scholars gather together with limited formal sessions and plenty of opportunities to discuss new ideas, work on their own projects, or collaborate with colleagues.

The main venue for the Workshop is Villa Toeplitz. There, we would have a large room to hold our seminars from 4pm, different rooms set up with internet and tables, and extensive gardens to sit in to work all day. The Villa is about a fifteen-minute by car from the hotel, and a transfer from the Palace Hotel to Villa Toeplitz and back has been organized every day in the morning and in the evening.

We attach a draft programme – as you can see, we will continue with a very light structure comprising private work/study until 4pm, and then informal presentations. The idea is to present work at a relatively early stage of development, so that people can comment and help you develop your ideas. We can hold up to four presentations per day, but presenting is not required; only do so if you want to do so. We are also planning presentations by PhD Students probably in one or more of the mornings.

We attach a list of participants that have confirmed their attendance, and the bios of the organizers.

We are very much looking forward to the week to come.

Janet, Maryann, Saul and Alessia

Yuan, Giorgio and Serena

Schedule (draft)

Day & date		Time	Activity	Location
Sunday	15/06/2025	18.00 - 20:00	Meet and greet “Aperitivo” time (welcome drink and light dinner)	The Grand Palace Hotel
Monday	16/06/2025	09:00 - 16:00	Independent work and conversations	Villa Toeplitz
		15:30 - 16:00	Introduction & welcome (TBC)	Villa Toeplitz
		16:00 - 18:00	Informal presentations	Villa Toeplitz
Tuesday	17/06/2025	09:00 - 16:00	Independent work and conversations	Villa Toeplitz
		16:00 - 18:00	Informal presentations	Villa Toeplitz
Wednesday	18/06/2025	09:00 - 16:00	Independent work and conversations	Villa Toeplitz
		16:00 - 18:00	Informal presentations	Villa Toeplitz
Thursday	19/06/2025	09:00 - 16:00	Independent work and conversations	Villa Toeplitz
		16:00 - 18:00	Informal presentations	Villa Toeplitz
		19:00 - 23:00	Gala Dinner (TBC)	The Grand Palace Hotel
Friday	20/06/2025	09:00 - 16:00	Independent work and conversations	Villa Toeplitz
		16:00 - 18:00	Informal presentations Recess	Villa Toeplitz

Note: Scholars have access to Villa Toeplitz each day from 08:30am.

Villa Toeplitz



Participants

First Name	Surname	Affiliation	Email
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Organizing committee			
Janet	Bercovitz	University of Colorado Boulder	janet.bercovitz@colorado.edu
Saul	Estrin	London School of Economics	s.estrin@lse.ac.uk
Maryann	Feldman	Arizona State University	maryann.feldman@asu.edu
Alessia	Pisoni	University of Insubria	alessia.pisoni@uninsubria.it
Giorgio	Di Fiore	University Cattolica del Sacro Cuore	giorgio.difiore@unicatt.it
Yuan	Hu	Imperial College	y.hu18@imperial.ac.uk
Serena	Valente	University of Insubria	svalente@uninsubria.it

Note: alphabetical order

About the Organizing Committee

Janet Bercovitz

Professor of Strategy, Entrepreneurship and Operations, Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado Boulder



- **Technology Transfer**
- **Interorganizational Relationships/Contracting**
- **Growth Strategies**

<https://www.colorado.edu/business/leeds-directory/faculty/janet-bercovitz>

Janet Bercovitz joined the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado Boulder in Fall 2017 as a Professor of Strategy & Entrepreneurship and was named the Deming Professor of Entrepreneurship in 2019. She previously taught at the Geis College of Business at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University. Professor Bercovitz's research program consists of two main research streams. The first concentrates on extending understanding of academic entrepreneurship and university-industry technology transfer. The second stream focuses on issues of organizational structure and inter-organizational contractual relationships. Her research has been published in major journals such as Organization Science, Strategic Management Journal, Management Science, Research Policy, and the Journal of Technology Transfer.

Professor Bercovitz currently serves on the editorial review boards of Academy of Management Review, Organization Science, Strategic Management Journal, and Research Policy. She is currently on the 5-year leadership team for the TIM (Technology and Innovation Management) Division of the Academy of Management.

Janet holds a B.S. degree in chemistry, an MBA, and a Ph.D. in Business and Public Policy from the University of California, Berkeley.

Saul Estrin

Emeritus Professor of Managerial Economics and Strategy, and founding Head of the Department of Management at London School of Economics



- **Entrepreneurial finance**
- **Institutions and entrepreneurship**
- **Social entrepreneurship**

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/management/people/emeriti/saul-estrin>

Saul ESTRIN is an emeritus Professor of Managerial Economics and Strategy and was the founding Head of the Department of Management at LSE. He was formerly a Professor of Economics, and Associate Dean (Faculty and Research), at London Business School. He also held the Adecco Professorship of Business and Society at London Business School and was the Research Director of its Centre for New and Emerging Markets. At LSE he is an Associate Fellow of the Centre for Economic Performance and a Visiting Professor at the Marshall Institute.

His research covers a range of subjects in international business and entrepreneurship, especially with reference to emerging and transition economies. He has analysed issues including the relative performance of state owned and private firms; FDI entry mode; the impact of business group affiliation on internationalisation; and emerging market multinationals. Much of his research interest has been with contextualising the performance of international firms, especially with respect to institutions, both formal and informal. Most of his work is empirical, drawing on both

archival data and surveys that he has been involved in collecting. He has published around 150 books and scholarly papers in these areas, in journals such as Journal of Economic Literature, Journal of International Business Policy, Journal of International Business Studies, Journal of Management Studies, Journal of World Business, Quarterly Journal of Economics and Strategic Management Journal. He has also published a number of monographs and edited volumes, including on privatisation in transition economies as well as a best-selling microeconomics textbook. His work has had a significant research impact, with a Google cite count of nearly 30,000.

Saul is a Fellow of the British Academy as well as a Fellow of the Academy of International Business, an Associate Fellow at Green Templeton College, Oxford as well as the IZA, Bonn and the DIW, Berlin. He has been a visiting Professor at Stanford University, Michigan Business School, Cornell University and the European University Institute. He is an Editor of Small Business Economics and has been on a number of important Editorial Boards of scholarly journals including the Journal of International Business Studies, Comparative Economic Studies and the Journal of Business Venturing. He was President of European Association for Comparative Economic Systems, 2014-16.

He also has considerable practitioner experience. He was a non-executive Board member of Barings Asset Management, Emerging Markets Trust and a member of the Academic Panel of the UK postal regulator, Postcomm. He has been a consultant to the World Bank, European Union and OECD, DfID and NERA and to a number of major global companies, and he has taught a wide variety of senior executive programmes.

Maryann Feldman

Professor of Public Policy, University of North Carolina, USA



- **Geography of innovation**
- **Third industrial revolution**
- **Decline of local industry, autonomy, and power**
- **Commercialization of academic research**
- **Technological change and economic growth**

<http://maryannfeldman.web.unc.edu/>

Maryann P. Feldman is the Watts Professor of Public Policy and Management at the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions at Arizona State University and research director at the Global Center for Technology Transfer.

Professor Feldman chairs the Policy Forum of the Science, Technology and Economic Policy Board of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine, where she also chairs a congressional mandated assessment of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program.

She is a senior fellow at Heartland Forward, a nonpartisan “think and do tank” focused on improving economic performance. Feldman serves on the advisory board of the Canadian Institute for Advance Research (CIFAR) global program on Innovation, Equity and the Future of Prosperity. She is a board member of the Ontario Brain Institute. Feldman is an editor of the journal Research Policy, the leading journal in the field of innovation studies.

Professor Feldman was a winner of the Global Award for Entrepreneurship Research for her contributions to the study of the geography of innovation, the commercialization of university research and the role of entrepreneurial activity in the formation of regional industry clusters. Feldman is a prolific and highly cited author. She received the Distinguished Scholar award from the Technology and Innovation Management division of the Academy of Management.

Her recent research focuses on place-based economic development and the factors that promote economic restructuring and resilience.

Alessia Pisoni

Professor of Management, Department of Economics, University of Insubria, Varese, Italy



- **Entrepreneurship**
- **Startups and scaleups ecosystems**
- **Business Model strategy for high-tech startups**
- **Open Innovation**

<https://uninsubria.unifind.cineca.it/get/person/006086>

Alessia Pisoni is Associate Professor of Management at the Department of Economics - University of Insubria, where she teaches Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship & Startup Lab. At the Department of Economics, she actively participates in several research- and teaching - quality assurance committees. Specifically, her attention is devoted to the Global Entrepreneurship, Economics and Management Master's Degree, with specific focus on international programs such as Erasmus+ and Double Degrees. She currently seats in the boards of the PhD in Methods and Models for Economic Decisions (University of Insubria) and of the PhD in Applied Economics and Management (UniPv and UniBG), where she also teaches modules related to Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

In 2008 she obtained her Ph.D. in Economics of Production and Development (Doctor Europeus) from the University of Insubria with a Thesis focused on the German Model of Corporate Governance. Thereafter, her research interests spanned from Business Strategy to Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management. With the aim to enrich her cultural and academic experience, she has been visiting scholar (research and teaching) in several universities/college and research institutions around Europe. She also regularly participates to international conferences to share insights on her research.

Since inception she has been part of the scientific committee of the Research Centre of Innovation and Life Science Management, for which she has coordinated several research projects focused on Biotech and Green Technologies. Since 2010, she has also been collaborating with Mind the Bridge research activities focused on open innovation (corporate-startup collaboration) and tech startup/scaleup ecosystems. Nowadays, her research interests are in the area of innovation, internationalization and entrepreneurship.

Yuan Hu

PhD Candidate in Economics at Imperial College Business School



- **Economics of innovation**
- **Green technology, climate change and sustainability**
- **Innovation in emerging markets**
- **Political Economy**

<https://yuan-h-u.github.io/>

Yuan Hu is a PhD Candidate in Economics at Imperial College Business School. Her research centres around innovation, particularly what inspires or hinders the creation of green technology, with a focus on the impacts of natural disasters and the role of individual researchers. Her job market paper, featured in the CEPR VoxEU talk *The Next Generation from the PSE-CEPR Policy Forum 2024*, studies how Hurricane Katrina — the costliest and one of the deadliest storms in U.S. history — shaped inventors' technological direction, specifically influencing green and non-green innovation. She finds that Hurricane Katrina reduced inventors' production of green patents while non-green patents were unaffected. The distance in technological expertise among inventors within a research team (knowledge

diversity) is greater in a green innovation team, which likely makes it more difficult to substitute for an affected inventor and continue their technological tasks, thus hindering the development of green technology.

Yuan is also interested in the intersection of international business and innovation, particularly in emerging economies. She has published a paper in PLOS One on how urban economic density shapes firm innovation in developing countries, and she has a paper under review at the Journal of Management exploring how export strategies affect innovation performance in African firms. Her earlier doctoral work explores how political institutions influence firms' R&D investment and broader economic growth. Yuan holds an MSc in Economics from the London School of Economics, and dual bachelor's degrees in Economics and Korean Language and Literature from Peking University.

Giorgio Di Fiore

PhD Candidate in Management and Innovation, Department of Economics and Business Management Sciences, University Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy



- **Open Innovation**
- **Innovation Ecosystems**
- **Ecosystem Orchestration**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/giorgiodifiore/>

Giorgio is a PhD Candidate at the PhD School of Management and Innovation at University Cattolica del Sacro Cuore. He is also lecturer in Innovation Management at the University of Insubria, where he previously earned his MSc degree in GEEM – International Business and Entrepreneurship. It was during this time that he developed an interest in research by exploring how tech startups transform their business models.

With a strong interest in qualitative methodologies and theory building, his current research focuses on Open Innovation and ecosystems. His doctoral thesis, grounded in the Resource Orchestration theory, adopts inductive and abductive reasoning to investigate how organizations approach Open Innovation and enact ecosystems.

Since the beginning of his doctoral journey, Giorgio has participated in several international conferences and workshops, where he presented working papers in the fields of strategy, innovation, and international business.

Serena Valente

PhD Candidate in Methods and Models for Economic Decisions, Department of Economics, University of Insubria, Varese, Italy



- **Entrepreneurship**
- **Entrepreneurial scaling**
- **Entrepreneurial and startup ecosystems**
- **Startup funding path**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/serenavalente/>

Serena Valente is a PhD Candidate in Methods and Models for Economic Decisions at University of Insubria. Her research interests lie in the fields of entrepreneurship, with a particular focus on startups and entrepreneurial scaling dynamics within entrepreneurial ecosystems, a framework that has emerged in recent decades. Her current research explores two complementary areas. On the one hand, she investigates the Italian scaleup ecosystem, adopting an ecosystem-based perspective to examine how equity funding influences the growth of scaleups. On the other hand,

she analyses the startup funding paths of European startups that received at least seed funding, with the aim of identifying and comparing diverse growth trajectories over time.

During her doctoral studies, she has strengthened her background in quantitative research and model estimation. She actively participates to workshops, conferences, and seminars at both national and international levels, contributing to and engaging in scholarly discussions. She holds a MSc in GEEM – International Business and Entrepreneurship from the University of Insubria (Varese, Italy), and a Double Degree in International Management from Hochschule Fulda – University of Applied Sciences (Fulda, Germany).
