





Sofia Badini

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Education

- 2021 – present* Ph.D. Environmental Economics
Environmental Economics and Natural Resources Group
Graduate school: Wageningen Institute for Environment and Climate
Research (WIMEK)
Wageningen University, The Netherlands
- Sept.–Dec. 2024* Visiting researcher
Environmental Markets Lab, University of California Santa Barbara
Hosted by Kathy Baylis
- 2018 – 2021* MSc. Economics (*sehr gut*)
University of Bonn, Germany
- Sept.–Dec. 2017* Visiting student
Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 2015 – 2018* BSc. Economics and Finance (*cum laude*)
University of Bologna, Italy

Working Papers

Information frictions, overconfidence, and learning:

Experimental evidence from a floodplain

[PDF](#) | [PAP](#) | [Data](#) | [Replication package](#) and [documentation](#) (also in [PDF](#)) | Talk  

I use an online experiment to study whether offering information to floodplain residents is sufficient to change their perceived risk exposure and demand for insurance. The participants are offered information on the flood risk profile at their address and on the rules over compensation of flood damages. I find that respondents tend to misperceive their risk category according to publicly available flood maps, but express high levels of confidence in their guesses. When not prompted to engage with the information they are offered, one third of them read nothing. Respondents who are asked to read information on their risk profile tend to stop reading any further and report a lower willingness-to-pay for insurance. However, this effect does not seem to be driven by respondents learning more from the information they are provided with, at least based on how they update their beliefs. Instead, I find suggestive evidence of backlash to information among residents of high risk areas and individuals who initially underestimated their risk category.

Household adaptation is misaligned with publicly available flood maps in high-risk communities

(with Anna Abatayo and Andries Richter)

Climate change will increase the frequency and intensity of flooding, requiring effective adaptation measures across all levels of society, including from households. We study the relationship between household adaptation measures and exposure to flooding, which aids in evaluating where household adaptation lies within the spectrum between “random adaptation” and “optimal (risk-based) adaptation”. We focus on the southern-most province in the Netherlands, a best case scenario due to the availability of accurate flood risk information and recent flood experiences. Using street-level publicly available flood maps, a national hydraulic model, and a large-scale geolocated survey, our study links objective measures of flood exposure to the distribution of adaptation measures. Results reveal heterogeneous spatial patterns of flood risk even at neighborhood scale, random household-level investments in private adaptation measures, and a mismatch between objective and subjective flood risk exposure. These findings enhance our understanding of effective adaptation strategies, that are essential for managing floods and mitigating their economic impacts.

Expanding horizons: A randomized controlled trial on adolescents’ career information acquisition

(with Esther Gehrke, Friederike Lenel, Claudia Schupp)

[PDF](#) | [PAP](#)

We implement a randomized controlled trial to investigate whether students in lower-secondary school more effectively acquire information about potential career paths if this information is preceded by a task that allows students to explore their own interests and the career information is presented in personalized order. We find that self-exploration in combination with the personalized display increases students’ information acquisition. Students also read about more diverse career paths and shift their focus from occupations that require university education towards those that require a high-school degree.

Work in Progress

Unequal adaptation to droughts in Brazil, 1985-2020

(with Klaus Fonseca Hoeltgebaum)

Can you engineer a Silicon Valley? Long-run effects of the BioRegio-contest on innovation

(with Lorenzo Romero)

Employment History

2020 – 2021 Institute for Applied Microeconomics, Bonn
Research Assistant at [Covid-19 Impact Lab](#), developer of the [Covid Impact Lab Data Explorer](#)

2019 – 2021 briq Institute on Behavior and Inequality, Bonn
Research Assistant

Sept.–Dec. 2019 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Bonn
Intern at Adaptation Programme – Impacts, Vulnerability and Risks

Teaching Experience

2021 – 2024 Climate Governance (MSc.), tutor and lecturer
Wageningen University

Grants

2021 SurveyCTO Data Collection Research Grant, honourable mention

Conferences and Seminars

2024 LSE Environment Camp, Monte Verità Conference on Sustainable Resource Use and Economic Dynamics (SURED), 29th Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE), Wageningen University Development Economics seminar

2023 Wageningen University EconMonday seminar, Wageningen University Development Economics seminar, Dutch Environmental and Resource Economists (DEARE) Day, Young Economists' Meeting, 24th Annual BIOECON Conference

2022 Wageningen University EconMonday seminar, Wageningen University Development Economics seminar, EAERE Summer School

Professional Activities

2020 – 2021 Contributor of *respy*
[respy](#) is an open source framework written in Python for the simulation and estimation of some finite-horizon discrete choice dynamic programming models.

Other Information

Languages Italian (native), English (fluent), German (basic)

Programming Python, R, \LaTeX , Google Earth Engine, HTML, CSS