

Sofiana Sinani

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References

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Andreas Menzel
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Enkelejda Havari
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Research Interests

Applied Microeconomics; Labor, Culture, and Development Economics

Education

CERGE-EI¹ , PhD in Economics. <i>Topic:</i> Essays in Applied Microeconomics	2027 (expected)
visiting Kiel Institute for the World Economy , host: Cathrin Mohr	June 2026
visiting University of Padova , host: Andreas Menzel	May 2025, June 2026
visiting CEBI, University of Copenhagen , host: Mette Gørtz	Sep - Nov 2024
integrated MA in Economics	2022
Charles University , MA in Economic Research	2022
Joint program with CERGE-EI, Summa Cum Laude	
Epoka University , Bachelor in Economics	2020
Summa Cum Laude	

Research

In progress

The Effect of Longer Maternal Care on Children's Occupation Choices [[WP link](#)]

This paper studies whether extended maternal full-time childcare affects children's occupational preferences. Exploiting a Czech reform that extended parental allowances by one year and increased mothers' time out of the labor market, I use a regression discontinuity design and university application data to measure long-run effects. I find that boys exposed to the reform in early childhood were 20% less likely to apply to stereotypically feminine fields, with no corresponding effect for girls. There is no evidence of changes in academic ability or math- and research-oriented preferences, suggesting that prolonged exposure to a stay-at-home mother may reinforce traditional gender roles and reduce boys' openness to care-oriented careers.

Faith, Interrupted: Identity and Behavior After Forced Atheism with [Enkelejda Havari](#) and [Michela Giorcelli](#)

When and where can governments intervene in identity? This paper studies Albania's 1967 Cultural Revolution, when religion was criminalized and a secular "pure Albanian" identity was promoted. Exploiting this nationwide shock to religiosity and combining administrative and survey data in a residualized event-study design, we show large declines in religious naming and participation alongside increases in secular Albanian naming. Effects were strongest in more illiterate districts, yet religious minorities showed persistent resistance. While observable religious behavior changed markedly, core beliefs and broader political values remained unaffected.

¹CERGE-EI is a joint workplace of Charles University in Prague and the Economics Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic

Demand Shocks and Firm Growth: Evidence from Good Harvests in India with [Andreas Menzel](#)

This paper examines whether medium-run demand shocks lead to sustained changes in firm size. We exploit exogenous fluctuations in agricultural output driven by rainfall variation to identify demand shocks to local village economies. Combining firm and household survey data with geographically detailed crop production, we show that favorable rainfall periods generate positive demand shocks that increase firm size, raise household consumption, and improve local economic outcomes.

Published

Gender Gap in Reported Childcare Preferences among Parents with [Michal Šoltés](#) and [Filip Pertold](#), *Review of Economics of the Household* (2025) [[Article link](#)]

The child penalty explains the majority of gender employment and wage gaps. However, less is known about the factors driving the child penalty itself. In this paper, we explore the gender gap in childcare preferences, a potential contributor to the child penalty. We surveyed parents of young children and elicited the minimal compensation they would require to stay home to care for a child. Mothers require less compensation for childcare than fathers; the estimated gender gap in childcare preferences is CZK 2500 monthly (EUR 100), 7.6% of the median female wage, and cannot be explained by gender differences in labor market opportunities or prosocial motives to care for a family member. We further document a widespread misperception of fathers' preferences, as respondents incorrectly expect fathers to require less compensation to care for a child than to care for an elderly parent.

Experience

Instructor for Labor Economics (Academic Experience Prague)	Spring 2026
Junior Researcher , CERGE-EI	2025 -
Research Assistant	
for CERGE-EI Teaching Foundation	Oct - Dec 2025
for Michela Giorcelli (UCLA) & Enkelejda Havari (IESEG)	Jan - Mar 2025
for Andreas Menzel (University of Padova)	2022 - 2024
Moody's Analytics , Researcher & Data Scientist Intern in ESG modelling	Jun - Dec 2023
Teaching Assistant in Development Economics	Fall 2022

Presentations (including scheduled)

2026

Talk: ASREC North America (California), CERGE-EI Applied Seminar (Prague), Kiel Institute for the World Economy (Berlin)

2025

Talk: EWMES (Nicosia), ASREC Europe Graduate Workshop (Copenhagen), CERGE-EI Applied Micro Seminar (Prague); **Poster:** 4th International Workshop on Migration and Family Economics (Paris); RES Annual Conference (Birmingham)

2024

Talks: Dissertation Workshop at CERGE-EI (Prague); 3rd Rare Voices in Economics Conference (Geneva); 3rd NSE PhD and Postdoc Workshop (Naples); PhD seminars at the University of Copenhagen and CEBI lunch seminars (Copenhagen); 49th SAEe (Palma de Mallorca); **Poster:** Danish Graduate Programme in Economics network workshop 2024 (Middelfart)

Grants and Awards

Royal Economic Society Best Conference Poster Prize	2025
Charles University POINT grant Supporting my presentation at the ASREC 2025 graduate workshop	2025
Charles University Grant Agency no. 151123 (464,000 CZK) Supporting my paper “The Effect of Longer Maternal Care on Children’s Occupation Choices”	2023 - 2025
Honourable Recognition for an Excellent Paper (6,000 CZK) by the President of the Czech Economic Society in the Young Economist of the Year award	2024
Charles University & CERGE-EI Research Stay Grant (~ 3,600 USD) Supporting my stay at CEBI, the University of Copenhagen	2024
Master’s scholarship at CERGE-EI and Charles University	2020 - 2022

Other Professional and Volunteering Experience

Member of the Econometric Society	2025 -
Member of the Royal Economic Society	2025 -
Member of the Spanish Economic Association	2024 -
Member of the Czech Economic Society	2024 -
The Ritz-Carlton CA , hospitality industry	Jul - Oct 2019
AIIESEC , various roles in finance, marketing, and teaching	2018 - 2019

Skills

Datasets worked with:

Administrative: Higher Education Admission Data (Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports), Wage and Occupation microdata (Albanian General Directorate of Taxation)

Surveys: Labor Force Survey, Population Census, Economic Census, World Values Survey, Demographic and Health Survey, Life in Transition Survey

Geospatial: Night lights data (NOAA), Crop suitability (FAO-GAEZ)

Self-designed survey: Parental childcare preferences and willingness (Pertold, Sinani, & Šoltés, 2025)

Technical:

Proficient: \LaTeX , R, Stata, RMarkdown, Microsoft Office

Familiar: SPSS, Nesstar, EViews, QGIS

Languages

Albanian (native), English (near-native proficiency), Spanish (beginner), Czech (beginner)

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