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ALESSANDRA GAIA, PHD

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EDUCATION

2015 Ph.D. in Applied Sociology and Methodology of Social Research, University of Milan-Bicocca
2009 MSc in Economics and Social Sciences, Bocconi University
2006 BSc in Economics and Social Sciences, Bocconi University

RESEARCH VISITS

2019 Visiting Student, The National Institute for Demographic Studies. INED, Paris.
2013 – 2014 Visiting Student, Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex
2008 – 2009 Exchange student, Carlos III University of Madrid
2005 Exchange student, Erasmus University of Rotterdam

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

06/2018 – date Assegnista di ricerca, Department of Sociology, University of Milan-Bicocca.
03-2018-date Research Associate, Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER), University of Essex. (unpaid honorary position).
11/2017 – 05/2018 Research Fellow, European Social Survey Headquarters, Department of Sociology, City, University of London.
05/2016 – 09/2017 Research Officer, Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER), University of Essex.
11/2015 – 05/2016 Research Associate, Centre for Longitudinal Studies, UCL Institute of Education, University College London.

NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

07 – 09/2011 Research Assistant, Synergia S.r.l., Milan.
05 – 06/2011 Ethical Information Analyst. Covalence Ethical Quote. Geneva.
04/2010 – 04/2011 Research Assistant. Intesa Sanpaolo Research Centre, Milan.
01 – 04/2010 Project Officer. Project for People ONLUS, Milan.
06 – 08/2009 Research Assistant. United Nations Headquarter, Department of Economics and Social Affairs.
07 – 09/2008 Research Assistant. The World Food Programme of the United Nations.

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Peer-reviewed journal articles

Gaia, A., Sala E., and Cerati, G. 2020. Social Networking Sites use and life satisfaction. A quantitative study on older people living in Europe. *European Societies*. https://doi.org/10.1080/14616696.2020.1762910.

Sala, E., **Gaia, A.**, and Cerati, G. 2020. The grey digital divide in Social Networking Site use in Europe. Results from a quantitative study. *Social Science Computer Review*. https://doi.org/10.1177/0894439320909507.

Wenz, A., Al Baghal, T. and **Gaia, A.** 2020. Language proficiency among respondents: implications for data quality in a longitudinal face-to-face survey. *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*. DOI: 10.1093/jssam/smz045.

Sala, E., and **Gaia, A.** 2019. Older people's use of Information and Communications Technologies in Europe. The Italian case. *Autonomie Locali e Servizi Sociali*, 2, 163-183.

Gaia, A., and Al Baghal, T. 2019. The Longitudinal Item Count Technique: a new technique for asking sensitive questions in surveys. *Methods Data Analysis* 13(1): 111-37. DOI: https://doi.org/10.12758/mda.2018.09.

Thornby, M., Calderwood, L., Kotecha, M., Beninger, K., and **Gaia, A.** 2018. Collecting data linkage consents in a mixed mode survey: Evidence and lessons learnt from Next Steps. *Survey Methods: Insights from the Field (SMIF)*. doi: 10.13094/SMIF-2018-00004.

Book chapters

Gaia, A., forthcoming. The Item Count Technique. In P. A. Atkinson, A. Cernat, S. Delamont, J. W. Sakshaug, R. Williams (Eds.), *SAGE Research Methods Foundations*.

Gaia, A., forthcoming. Social Desirability Bias and Sensitive Questions in Surveys. In P. A. Atkinson, A. Cernat, S. Delamont, J. W. Sakshaug, R. Williams (Eds.), *SAGE Research Methods Foundations*.

Jäckle, A., **Gaia, A.,** Lessof, C. and Couper. M. P. forthcoming. "Improving survey measurement of household finances: A review of new technologies and data sources" in P. Lynn. Forthcoming. *Methodology of Longitudinal Surveys*, Wiley Series in Survey Methodology.

Book

Gaia, A. 2011. *Prevention of Child Abandonment, Analysis of a Development Project in Braşov, Romania*. Saarbrücken, Germany: Lambert Academic Publishing. ISBN: 978-3845472584.

Working papers and reports

Burton, J., Crossley, T. F., Fisher, P., **Gaia, A.**, Jäckle, A. 2020. Understanding and reducing income reporting error in household surveys. Colchester: Institute for Social and Economic Research.

Jäckle, A., **Gaia, A.**, Lessof, C., and Mick P. C. 2019. A review of new technologies and data sources for measuring household finances: implications for total survey error. Colchester: Institute for Social and Economic Research.

Gaia, A. 2017. The Effect of Respondent Incentives on Panel Attrition in a Sequential Mixed-mode Design. Colchester: Institute for Social and Economic Research.

Gaia, A. (ed.) 2017. Understanding Society Innovation Panel Wave 9: Results from Methodological Experiments. Colchester: Institute for Social and Economic Research.

Thornby, M., Calderwood, L., Kotecha, M., Beninger, K. and **Gaia, A.** 2017. Collecting Multiple Data Linkage Consents in a Mixed Mode Survey: Evidence and Lessons Learnt from Next Steps. London: Centre for Longitudinal Studies.

Jäckle, A., **Gaia, A.** and Benzeval, M. 2017. Mixing Modes and Measurement Methods in Longitudinal Studies. London: UCL Institute of Education.

Jäckle, A., **Gaia, A.** and Benzeval, M. 2017. The use of new technologies to measure socio-economic and environmental concepts in longitudinal studies. London: UCL Institute of Education.

User manuals

Jäckle, A., **Gaia, A.**, Al Baghal, T., Burton, J. and Lynn, P. 2017. *Understanding Society The UK Household Longitudinal Study Innovation Panel, Waves 1-9, User Manual*. Colchester: Institute for Social and Economic Research.

Villar, A., Sommer, E., Finnøy, D., **Gaia, A.,** Berzelak, N., and Bottoni, G. 2018. CROss-*National Online Survey (CRONOS) Panel Data and Documentation User Guide*. London: ESS ERIC.

TEACHING

2020-2021 University of Milan-Bicocca, Department of Sociology, Course lecturer for the course: "Laboratorio in Capitale Sociale e Sistemi Socio-Econmici Locali", Master of Science in "Analisi dei processi sociali".

2019 – 2020 University of Milan-Bicocca, Department of Sociology, "Cultore della materia" for the course: "Metodologia della Ricerca Sociale", Bachelor of Science in "Servizio Sociale".

2017 – 2018 City University of London, Department of Sociology. Course leader and lecturer for the Master of Science course: "Survey Research Methods".

2016 – 2017 University of Essex, Department of Sociology. Teaching Assistant for the Master of Science course: "Applied Sampling".

2015 – 2016 University of Milan-Bicocca, Department of Sociology. Teaching Assistant

2014 – 2015 University of Milan-Bicocca, Department of Sociology. Teaching Assistant

2014 – 2015 Essex Summer School in Social Science and Data Analysis, Teaching Assistant for the course: "Applied research methods with hidden, marginal and excluded populations".

2012 – 2013 University of Milan Bicocca, Department of Sociology, "Cultore della materia": "Metodologia della ricerca sociale" (Servizio Sociale) and "Metodologia della ricerca sociale ed organizzativa" (Scienza dell'Organizzazione).

Scientific organisation of conferences, conference sessions and workshops

Scientific organisation of the workshop "Older People, Social Networks and Well-Being" to be held at the University of Milan-Bicocca on 21st September 2020

Member of the local organizing team for the 9th European Survey Research Association Conference

CLOSER Workshop on "Mixing modes and measurement methods in longitudinal studies" 6th November 2016 (co-organized with A. Jäckle and M. Benzeval)

CLOSER Workshop on "New technologies to measure non-health topics in longitudinal studies" 4th May 2017 (co-organized with A. Jäckle and M. Benzeval)

"Measurement issues in household surveys" conference session organised for the 7th Conference of the European Survey Research Association(ESRA), 2017, Lisbon, Portugal

9th Conference of the European Survey Research Association (ESRA) 2021, Milan, Italy

SEMINARS, CONFERENCES, AND TALKS (SELECTION)

"Is life satisfaction associated with Social Media use? A study on the old age population in Italy" 13th ESPANET Italia Conference, 17th–19th September 2020 (scheduled), online.

"The Item Count Technique: a method to survey hard-to-reach populations" July 20th 2020 Essex Summer School in Social Science and Data Analysis.

"Le nuove tecnologie e il benessere degli anziani" Workshop: Anziani, nuove tecnologie, e relazioni sociali. Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca. 13th January 2020, Milan, Italy.

"L'utilizzo delle ICT da parte della popolazione anziana: Risultati di una ricerca svolta dal Dipartimento di Sociologia e Ricerca sociale dell'Università di Milano Bicocca" *Live webinar: Anziani online: accesso e uso, vantaggi, svantaggi e ruolo dell'alfabetizzazione digitale*. 29th May 2020.

Older people and Social Networking Sites Use. A study on older people's patterns of SNS use in Europe. *14th Conference of the European Sociological Association*, 20-23 August 2019, Manchester, UK.

An application of the Longitudinal Item Count Technique to measure sexual orientation in a large scale general population survey. *8th European Survey Research Association (ESRA) Conference.* 15-19 Jul 2019, Zagreb, Croatia.

The association between Social Networking Sites (SNSs) use and old people health and wellbeing. *8th European Survey Research Association (ESRA) Conference.* 15-19 Jul 2019, Zagreb, Croatia.

Is Social Networking Sites use associated with life-satisfaction? A quantitative study on older people living in Europe. *Workshop: "La qualità della vita interconnessa: generazioni a confronto", Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milan-Bicocca, 03 July 2019,* Milan, Italy.

Ageing in a networked society. *Departmental seminar: at The French Institute for Demographic Studies (INED) 21st May 2019,* Paris, France.

The effect of Social Networking Sites use on life-satisfaction among the older population in Europe (poster) *International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics for the European Region*, 23rd – 25th May 2019, Gothenburg, Sweden.

The use of Social Networking Sites among the Older Population in Europe: An Analysis of CSIS data (oral poster) *International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics for the European Region*, 23rd – 25th May 2019 Gothenburg, Sweden.

Talk in Campus. Society from below. Colloquium on: "The perils of perception" by Bobby Duffy. Department of Sociology and Social Research. University of Milan-Bicocca.

L'utilizzo dei Social Network tra la popolazione anziana: una analisi dei dati CSIS. Third meeting of the research group Ageing in a Networked Society. Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milan-Bicocca, 28 Sept 2018

A Comparison of Self-reported Sexual Identity Using Direct and Indirect Questioning. *7th European Survey Research Association (ESRA) Conference* 17-21 Jul 2017, Lisbon, Portugal.

Measuring income in household surveys: evidence from a collection of experiments. *7th European Survey Research Association (ESRA) Conference* 17-21 Jul 2017, Lisbon, Portugal.

A Comparison *of Self-reported Sexual Identity Using Direct and Indirect Questioning.* Understanding Society Conference 2017. 11-13 Jul 2017. Colchester, UK.

A Comparison of Self-reported Sexual Identity Using Direct and Indirect Questioning. *Research Network 21 (Quantitative methods) of the European Sociological Association (ESA)* 13 – 15 Oct 2016, Nikosia, Cyprus.

The influence on substantive results of the sampling strategies adopted in qualitative and quantitative paradigms: Evidence on men who pay for sex. *9th International Conference on Social Science Methodology, The International Sociological Association (ISA)* 11-16 Sept 2016, Leicester, UK.

InGrid Summer School "Reaching out to hard-to-survey groups among the poor" – Louvain, 2016: "Hard to reach populations and sensitive questions in surveys: evidence on self-reported sexual identity in the UK"

5th Panel Survey Methods Workshop – Berlin 2016: "Does the switch to a mixed-mode design increase panel attrition? Evidence from the UKHLS Innovation Panel"

12th Conference of the European Sociological Association – Prague 2015: "Estimating the correlation between sensible behaviours dealing with item missing data"

6th European Survey Research Association Conference – Reykjavik 2015: "Does the switch to a mixed-mode design increase panel attrition? Evidence from the UKHLS Innovation Panel"

Estimating the correlation between sensible behaviours dealing with item missing data. *6th European Survey Research Association (ESRA) Conference* 13-17 July 2015, Reykjavik, Island.

Understanding Society Conference 2015 – University of Essex: "Does the switch to a mixed-mode design increase panel attrition? Evidence from the UKHLS Innovation Panel"

Estimating the correlation of paying for sex and risky behaviours in presence of item missing data. Evidence from Natsal-2. University College London, Centre for Sexual Health & HIV Research. 25 May 2015, London, UK.

"L'effetto del passaggio ad un disegno di rilevazione multicanale (*mixed-mode*) sul logorio del campione" University of Milan-Bicocca, February 2015

"Does a mixed-mode design increase panel attrition? Evidence from the UKHLS Innovation Panel" Internet Survey Methodology Workshop, Bolzano, December 2014,

Escort's websites: A source of data for prostitution studies? *Workshop on Advanced Research Methods* 14 Sept 2012, Urbino, Italy.

DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES AND PRESS COVERAGE

Talk addressed to the general public: "Gli anziani e l'utilizzo delle tecnologie dell'informazione e della comunicazione", 14th, 21st, 28th October 2020, Università della terza età, Arcore, MB.

Gabriele Cerati, Alessandra Gaia, Emanuela Sala (2020, March 27th) "Rischio esclusione sociale per gli anziani senza rete" *La voce* Retrived from: https://www.lavoce.info/archives/64408/rischio-esclusione-sociale-per-gli-anziani-senza-rete/.

Talk to the general public: "La condizione della donna Indiana" (The status of women in India) The Italian secretary of medical students, Circolo la Giovane Italia, Parma, Italy, 11 Mar 2010.

Talk to the general public: "Prevention of child abandonment. Analysis of a development project implemented in Braşov, Romania". Giornata dei Talenti, Nuova Accademia delle Belle Arti, December 2009, Milan, Italy.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS (SELECTION)

"Premio Giovani Talenti 2019", third place, prize addressed to assegnisti di ricerca and researchers under the age of 36 to recognise the quality, originality and impact of scientific production (premio destinato a ricercatori al di sotto di 36 anni titolari di Assegno di Ricerca di tipo A o B, o di posizioni RTDA, RTDB e RU per riconoscere qualità, originalità e impatto della produzione scientifica) – €1000

ESRA Travel and Stay Grant 2019. Grant to attend the 8th Conference of the European Survey Research Association (ESRA) – €500

European Consortium for Social Research (ECSR) Internship grant. Grant to undertake a visiting period at INED – €1400

University of Essex – Proficio Course Development Grants (2016) grant to develop a 20 hours course in Research Methods – £1.800 – declined due to incompatibility

InGRID visiting grant (2015), grant to undertake a research visit at the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) of the University of Essex, with the project "A comparison of self-reported sexual identity using direct and indirect questioning" – €2.436 – declined due to incompatibility

European Commission, Erasmus for Traineeship Scholarship (2014) €1.440

As Principal Investigator: "A comparison of self-reported sexual identity using direct and indirect questioning", Understanding Society Innovation Panel Competition 2014 (with Noah Uhrig)

European Commission, Scholarship for Short Term Scientific Mission under the COST action IS1209 "Comparing European Prostitution Policies: Understanding Scales and Cultures of Governance" €2.000

University of Milan-Bicocca, Ph.D. in "Applied Sociology and Methodology of Social Research" scholarship (2011 – 2014)

REFEREE ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES TO THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY

International Journal of Social Research Methodology, Survey Research Methods, Social Science Computer Review, Archives of Public Health, Sexuality Research and Social Policy, and *CLS working paper series*.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

European Survey Research Association

ADDITIONAL TRAINING (SELECTION)

07/2019 "Advanced Social Network Analysis". Essex Summer School in Social Science and Data Analysis.

10/2018 "Multilevel modelling", University of Bristol, Online course

03/2017 "Question Testing Methods", University of Essex, Colchester.

06/2016 "Reaching out to hard-to-survey groups among the poor", InGrid Summer School, Leuven.

08/2015 "Item non response and multiple imputation", GESIS Summer School, Cologne.

02/2014 "Designing effective web surveys", Courses in Applied Social Surveys (CASS), London.

07/2012 "Applied research methods with hidden, marginal and excluded populations", Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, 1 week intensive course.

04/2011 "Human rights in Europe", Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI), Milan.

05/2006 "Africa economies, conflicts, reforms and cooperation in the African area". Bocconi University, Milan in collaboration with Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI), Milan, Italy.

SOFTWARES

Good knowledge of STATA, SPSS, and Qualtrics. Basic knowledge of R-Studio.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Italian: Mother tongue

English: Fluent (C1) *Cambridge First Certificate in English, The British Council, Milan, 2005. International English Language Test System. The British Council, Milan, 2008.*

Spanish: Fluent (C1)

Alessandra Gaia