

Irene Furlani

Digital Platform Ecosystem
Research Training Group and
Chair of Development Economics
University of Passau

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Relevant Experience

Doctoral Researcher DFG RTG 2720 Digital Platform Ecosystems April 2024 – Present
University of Passau, Chair of Development Economics (Prof. Dr. Michael Grimm) Passau, Germany

- Impact evaluation of digital technologies and platforms on information diffusion (India, Indonesia) and data quality (Ghana).

Research interests: Agricultural economics, gender, and health.

(Junior) Research Manager April 2023 – July 2024
Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED) Mannheim, Germany

- Project management, sampling and power calculations, surveys programming, data cleaning and analysis, planning, training and monitoring of data collection activities on the field in Malawi (around 90 enumerators and supervisors trained, and almost 4,000 respondents) and Ethiopia (1,700+ respondents), systematic literature reviews, report writing, proposal writing.

Quantitative Research Student Assistant September 2022 – March 2023
Chair of Econometrics at the University of Mannheim Mannheim, Germany

- Supporting with programming, reporting, literature reviews, and preparation of presentations for meetings.

Quantitative Research Student Assistant September 2022 – March 2023
Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED) Mannheim, Germany

- Literature review, report writing, preparing presentations for meetings or workshop.

Mentor for Freshmen Year Students September 2019 – June 2020
University of Rome Tor Vergata Rome, Italy

- Preparing and holding meetings to mentor students.

Teaching

Growth Inequality and Poverty October 2025 - February 2026
Exercise class for graduate students University of Passau, Germany

Growth and Development April - September 2025
Exercise class for undergraduate students University of Passau, Germany

Replicating Empirical Research in Public and Development Economics: Topics on Digitalization and Platforms April - September 2025
Seminar for graduate students University of Passau, Germany

SurveyCTO and Stata for Data in Social Sciences February 2025
Guest Lecture University Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Education

University of Passau April 2024 – Present
PhD in Development Economics Passau, Germany

University of Mannheim September 2020 – March 2023
M.Sc. in Economics Mannheim, Germany

Conferences and Workshops

2026 Africa Evidence Summit <i>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</i>	July 2026
1st European Development Economics Group (EDEG) Conference <i>Kiel, Germany</i>	June 2026
SITES-AICC conference 2026: Development and Climate Mitigation/Adaptation <i>Frascati (Rome), Italy</i>	May 2026
13th Micro Evidence in Innovation and Development (MEIDE) <i>Kerala, India</i>	December 2025
14th Workshop in Development Economics for Young Economists by SITES <i>Prato, Italy</i>	June 2025

Awards

SurveyCTO Research Grant 2025: Honorable mention project with the project *Safe Response: Impact of a Privacy-Enhancing Plug-in on Menstruation Stigma Response Patterns in Ghana*. Award: One-year free subscription to SurveyCTO. Approx. value 7,500 USD

Skills

Programming: Stata (advanced), R (proficient), Python (beginner), Matlab (beginner)
Survey Programming: Survey CTO (advanced), ODK (proficient)
Word Processing software: LaTeX/Overleaf (advanced)
Literature Review software: EPPI Reviewer, EPPI Mapper (good)
MS Office: Word, PowerPoint (advanced), Excel (intermediate)
Other: GitHub (intermediate)

Additional Training

Protecting Human Research Participants Online Training SBE <i>PHRP Online Training, Inc.</i>	2023
SurveyCTO Onboarding <i>Survey CTO (online)</i>	2023
BSAFE <i>United Nation Department of Safety and Security (online)</i>	2023

Languages

Italian (native), English (advanced), German (intermediate), Spanish (basic), Bahasa (basic - attending A1 level course), Kiswahili (basic)