Research topics for internships with lecturers from the SEA Department AA 2025/2026

Economia e Management

dei Sistemi Alimentari Sostenibili

Simone Aiolfi

Prof. Simone Aiolfi



Corso di «Digital e Content Marketing»

The new frontiers of communication
- Digital Advertising and Social Media
- Marketing
- Influencer Marketing and Virtual Influencers
- Advertising Artificial Intelligence

The Metaverse
- The drivers of the Metaverse
- Metaverse retailing
- Consumer/Avatar Behaviour in the Metaverse

Digital innovation, sustainability and Conscious Shopping
- Conscious Shopping
- Digital Nudging and Sustainability

Communication strategies for promoting sustainable and conscious behaviour
- The role of apps and new technologies (IoT, AI/AR and machine learning) in developing sustainable behaviour

Filippo Arfini

Prof. Filippo Arfini



Corso di
«VALORISATION OF LOCAL AGRI-FOOD PRODUCTS»

The sustainability accountability of agri-food SMEs and rural areas.

- The definition of sustainability reporting according to the MEF guidelines for agri-food SMEs (for different food supply chains).
- The use of sustainability indicators (SAFA, MAPA, LM3, etc.) for sustainability analysis at the firm, system and territorial level.

Local food policies

- Definition of a food policy for the city of Parma
- The promotion of local supply chains (Biodistretto, food procurement (schools and canteens), farmers' markets).
- Sustainability assessment of organic, GI and agroecological supply chains
- Identifying and mapping good practices to improve the sustainability of GIs

Quantitative and qualitative assessment of the sustainability of GIs

- The new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
- The evolution of the CAP: analysis and reflections
- The use of FADN data in ex-post agricultural policy analyses

Donatella Baiardi

Prof. Donatella Baiardi



Environmental economics and policy

Climate change and environmental concern

- Climate change: recent trends and the effectiveness of environmental policies
- Climate change: recent trends and its effects on agriculture
- Climate change: recent trends and climate migration

The transition to a cleaner energy era

- The transition from non-renewable to renewable energy sources
- The transition to a cleaner energy era: The case of China
- The transition to a cleaner energy era: The European Union

Circular economy

- Circular economy and climate change
- Circular economy and agriculture
- Circular economy and the trade-off between economic growth and the environment

Simone Baglioni

Prof. Simone Baglioni



Corso di
«Socio-Economic Analysis of the Agrifood Systems»

Political consumerism/Critical consumption

- Case study of critical/political consumption (Gas, DES, Boycott-buycott campaigns, culture jamming, ecovillages)
- Sustainability models in agri-food production

Food sovereignty at the "micro" level (examples and local case studies)

- Food consumption between economy and society
- Consumption as a tool for social control (the performance and well-being society, surveillance capitalism)
- Food poverty: what are the solutions?
- Food waste/food surplus
- Food production: who are the workers in the agri-food sector?
- Study on food districts and the workforce (immigrants/centre-periphery-mountain areas)

Deborah Beghè

Prof. Deborah Beghè



Corso di
« Herbs, Spices,and Nervine Plants»

Agrobiodiversity

- Underutilised plant species in Italy as a potential source of income: case studies.
- Monumental chestnut trees and the recovery of traditional supply chains: a model for the sustainable enhancement of inland areas.
- Einkorn wheat as a model of sustainable agriculture: analysis of opportunities and challenges.

Oil supply chain

- Oil tourism as a tool for sustainable development in rural areas of Italy.
- Biodiversity conservation and enhancement of the territory

Prof. Lisa Baldi



«Modelling Agricultural and Environmental Policies »

Enhancing Policy Scenario Communication in a Farm Agent-Based Model Using GAMS MIRO

- Apply an existing PMP-calibrated farmer ABM to evaluate a set of simple agri-environmental scenarios (e.g., eco-scheme payment, fertilizer reduction target, biodiversity set-aside).
- Structure and extract model outputs relevant for assessing trade-offs between farm income, production choices, and environmental outcomes.
- Develop a MIRO dashboard to display scenario results interactively through tables, plots, scenario comparisons, and distributional visualizations.

From Negotiation Table to Model Structure: Aligning a Farm Agent-Based Model with the Future Post-2027 CAP

- Analyse how the different stakeholders (Commission, Parliament, Council, civil society, farm organisations) envision the future CAP—especially tensions between competitiveness, budget constraints, and environmental/ climate ambition.
- Identify which of these contested dimensions (e.g. redistribution of direct payments, level of green conditionality, role of eco-schemes, pesticide/inputs reduction, crisis support) are currently under-represented or missing in the ABM.
- Develop a set of "CAP-ready" scenario that could simulate alternative post-2027 CAP compromises (green-ambitious vs. productivity-focused vs. budget-driven).

Barbara Bompani

Prof. Barbara Bompani



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS IN THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

AFRICA IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

- Mining, agricultural and forestry resources: potential and geopolitical interests
- The African diaspora in Italy and Europe: remittances, finance, knowledge exchange, development projects

DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION PROJECTS

- Food security, water resources, migration, climate change and other “Global Challenges” in Africa
- Sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- NGOs, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations, the EU and related interventions in African contexts.

BETWEEN EMILIA-ROMAGNA AND AFRICA

- Regional or local companies present in Africa: exploring new markets?
- Competitive and sustainable supply chain projects in African countries
- Agrifood technology and green economy in Africa

+ PROPOSALS FROM STUDENTS INTERESTED IN PROJECTS FOCUSING ON AFRICA

Andrea Cilloni

Prof. Andrea Cilloni



«SUSTAINABILITY ACCOUNTING»

Budgeting with Business Intelligence

1. 'The implementation of Business Intelligence tools in the budgeting process: advantages and operational challenges'
2. 'The digitisation of budgeting: a comparative analysis of Business Intelligence software'
3. 'Business Intelligence as a strategic lever for improving the financial forecasting process'
4. 'Agile budgeting: the role of Business Intelligence platforms in responding to market volatility'
5. 'The impact of Artificial Intelligence and Business Intelligence on predictive corporate budget management'

Procurement and Product Cost in Food Manufacturing Companies

1. 'Sustainable procurement strategies and their impact on product cost in the food sector'
2. 'Product cost analysis: a comparison of traditional and innovative approaches in food manufacturing companies'
3. 'The role of the supply chain and procurement in controlling product costs in food companies'
4. 'Data-driven procurement: how data analysis reduces product costs in the food sector'
5. 'The impact of local sourcing policies on product cost and quality in the food sector'

Benedetta Maria Crivelli

Prof. Benedetta Maria Crivelli



Corso di
«Economic History of Europe and European food »

Food and beverage commodities
- International trade
- Production, distribution and consumption in a global system

Rural history
- Mechanization and technological development in agriculture
- Agricultural development in postcolonial contexts
- Food safety in the agriculture

Food industry
- Food industry banking financing
- Made in Italy in the food sector

Food as a cultural heritage
- Food in migrants and diasporic communities in the historical perspective
- Building cultural identity through food
- Food-related cultural practices

Rosalia Filippini

Prof. Rosalia Filippini



Corso di
«Food Policy and Sustainability»

Organic farming & GI
- Supply chain and foodshed analysis
- Territorial and sustainability analysis
- Geographical indications, indicator analysis

Food security
- Food policy e urban food policy
- Food environment
- Public procurement

Innovation
- Agri-food innovation in products
- Social innovation
- Supply chain innovations

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Fabrizio Laurini

Prof.
Fabrizio Laurini



Economic Statistics
(mutuato)

- Analysis of company financial statements for forecasting insolvencies and bankruptcies
- Predictive models for customer churn
- Calibration of segmentation and clustering methods for market profiling
- Dynamic forecasting of ecological and environmental indicators with applications to agriculture
- Control of FSDA/MATLAB library development environments with GitHub
- Construction of databases for economic research

Emanuela Maio

Prof.ssa Emanuela Maio



Corso di
«European and Global food law»

The sustainable reuse of by-products in the food industry.
The principle of sustainability in the European and Italian systems.
The New Green Deal and food upcycling.
Reduction, reuse and recycling of food waste.

Geographical indications on labels in the new European regulatory context.
Collective marks and intellectual property
Regulation (EU) No 1143/2024 on geographical indications and the Italian protection system
GI-Group and geographical indications

Technological innovation and anti-counterfeiting
Made in Italy and Italian sounding
Smart Labels and Blockchain
Food fraud and liability profiles

CECILIA MANCINI

Prof. Cecilia Mancini



Corso di

Economics of value chains

Management of food quality schemes

Market power and value distribution

- Measuring the price and added value captured by different players.
- Impact of large-scale retail concentration on producer remuneration.

Economic performance of certified products

- Premium price: how real is it, how is it transferred along the supply chain, who benefits from it.
- Reputation effect of local brands and economic return for rural communities.

Governance of consortia and control systems

- Consortium governance models and collective action problems.
- Role of certification bodies in ensuring quality and trust.

Innovation and FQS

- How to integrate process and product innovations while maintaining compliance with specifications.
- Sustainability in FQS (new EU standards 2024–2025)Assessment of the integration of environmental/social parameters into PDO/PGI specifications.

Consumer behaviour and perceived value

- Willingness to pay for PDO/PGI/Organic vs private claims (free-from, sustainable, local).
- Effect of quality signals on trust and purchasing decisions.

Tatiana Mazza

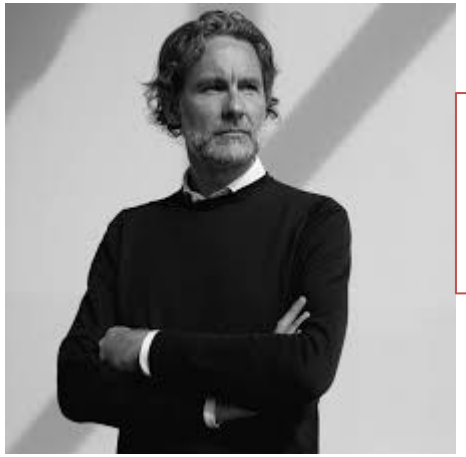
Prof.
Tatiana Mazza



«Management and Sustainability accounting»

- Corporate social responsibility and accounting sustainability in large samples (e.g. all Italian listed non-financial firms);
- Corporate governance (board of directors, control systems) in large samples;
- IAS/IFRS financial statement disclosure in large samples.

Prof.
Gianluca Morelli



Contact the lecturer to plan internships related to the course subject.

DATA MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT