

# Elisabetta Pietrostefani

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## Research Interests

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Geographic Data Science, Urban Economics, Inequalities and Displacement, Planning Policy Evaluation

## Professional Experience

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**Department of Geography and Environment, London School of Economics | London, UK** **2021-present**  
**LSE Fellow in Geographic Data Science**

- **Deputy Director** of MSc in Geographic Data Science
- **Course designer, convenor, and lecturer** – Applied Geographic Information Systems (QGIS and R)
- **Course convenor and lecturer** – Quantitative Methods in Geography
- **Lecturer** – Economics of Urbanisation (supporting Professor Vernon Henderson)
- Convenor of *Industry Talks in Spatial Data Science* series

**Institute for Global Prosperity (IGP), University College London | London, UK** **2018-present**  
**Research Consultant** **Sept 2018 - Oct 2019**

**Research Fellow – Data Team Lead, Prosperity Index for Lebanon Lead** **Nov 2019 – Aug 2021**

**Honorary Senior Research Fellow** **Sept 2021 - present**

- **Data Team Lead** – conducted and led quantitative analysis of large datasets (Arab Barometer, World Values Survey, Understanding Society) to identify well-being and inequality trends
- **Consolidation of Prosperity Index Lead** – collaborated with mixed methods research team on Prosperity Index co-designed with local communities but containing a cross-country comparable core for the United Kingdom, Lebanon, Tanzania and Kenya
- **Principal Investigator** on UCL Small Grants project *Assessing Vulnerabilities for urban recovery solutions in Beirut Post-Explosion*: <https://youtu.be/Oeqdpa2eC5w>
- **Co-Investigator** on Leverhulme project *Supporting Macroeconomic Stability and Prosperity in an Age of Mass Displacement* on informal labour markets assessing decision-making processes related to livelihood strategies and prosperity in the context of mass displacement. Project included a Discrete Choice Experiment and Agent-Based Model
- Conducted qualitative and quantitative data collection for the Prosperity Index in Lebanon. This included running interviews, focus groups, building field surveys and household surveys
- Fostered partnerships with key stakeholders such as the American University of Beirut, Beirut Urban Lab, UN-Habitat Lebanon and local NGO's and active groups on the ground

**Centre for Economics Performance, What Works Centre, LSE | London, UK** **2018**  
**Occasional Research Assistant (7 months)**

- Toolkit research focused on Economic Zones and Area Based Initiatives for the UK Government's Industrial Strategy

**Issam Fares Institute, American University Beirut | Beirut, Lebanon** **2017**  
**Research Consultant** for Social Justice and the City Program. Affordable Housing for Beirut project (6 months)

- Policy review of affordable housing case studies and interventions to respond to similar conditions in Lebanese context
- Translation of solutions with SJC team on the ground

**LSE Cities | London, UK** **2016-2017**  
**Project Coordinator** for Theatrum Mundi project (1.5 years)

- Assisted in the development of research programme and multi-year projects in diverse geographies
- Carried out budget management and evaluation of projects

**OECD & World Resources Institute | London, UK** **2016-2017**  
**Research Consultant** for the New Climate Economy Coalition for Urban Transitions project (6 months)

- Contributed to the creation of a meta-analysis on the costs and benefits of compact urban development.

## Teaching

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<b>London School of Economics, Geography &amp; Environment Department   London, UK</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>
<b>Lecturer and Course Convenor:</b> GY476 Applied Geographic Data Science Planning, GY245 Quantitative Methods in Geography	
<b>Lecturer:</b> GY400 Economics of Urbanization	
<b>Postgraduate Dissertation Supervisor</b> (MSc Geographic Data Science)	
<b>University College London, RELIEF Centre &amp; Institute for Global Prosperity   London, UK</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>
<b>Guest Lecturer:</b> BGLP0002 - Measuring Global Prosperity for MSc Global Prosperity – guest lectures on building composite indicators and working with urban micro-data	
<b>Postgraduate Thesis Supervisor:</b> covering quantitative and qualitative methods	
<b>University College London, RELIEF Centre &amp; Institute for Global Prosperity   Beirut, Lebanon</b>	<b>2018-2021</b>
<b>Workshop Series Convenor and Lecturer:</b> Workshop Series for Citizen Scientists working on constructing a Prosperity Index in Lebanon	
<b>London School of Economics, Geography &amp; Environment Department   London, UK</b>	<b>2017-2019</b>
<b>Guest Lecturer:</b> Geographical Information Systems (ArcGIS) course for MSc Regional and Urban Planning	
<b>London School of Economics, Geography &amp; Environment Department   London, UK</b>	<b>2016-2019</b>
<b>Graduate Teaching Assistant:</b> GY140 Methods in Spatial and Social Analysis (quantitative methods)	
<b>Guest Teacher:</b> GY140 Introduction to Geographical Research	

## Education

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<b>London School of Economics   London, UK</b>	<b>2015-2019</b>
<b>PhD Regional and Urban Planning</b>	
<b>Thesis Title:</b> <a href="#">Essays in Planning Policy and Urban Economics</a>	
Interdisciplinary PhD across the Economic Geography and Urbanisation, Planning and Development clusters	
<b>American University of Beirut   Beirut, Lebanon</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Visiting Researcher</b>	
Based at the Neighbourhood Initiative and affiliated with the Centre of Arab and Middle Eastern Studies	
<b>Sciences-Po   Paris, France</b>	<b>2012-2014</b>
<b>MSc in International Development. Concentrations in Development Economics &amp; Middle East Studies</b>	
MSc Dissertation award: <a href="#">Valuing Urban Heritage in a Development Perspective in Lebanon</a>	
<b>University College London (UCL)   London, UK</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>
<b>MA in Cultural Heritage</b>	
<b>Courtauld Institute of Art   London, UK</b>	<b>2008-2011</b>
<b>BA in History of Art</b> (focus on architectural history)	

## Certificates

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<b>CIVICA Data Science Summer School – Hertie School Data Science Lab</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education (Fellow)</b>	<b>2020</b>

## Publications

### Journal articles (peer-reviewed)

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<b>Pietrostefani, E.</b> (2022). <a href="#">Urban Transformations and Complex Values: Insights From Beirut</a> , <i>Urban Planning</i> , 7 (1), 1–13
<b>Mintchev, N., Daher M., Jallad, M., Pietrostefani, E., Moore, H.L., Ghamrawi, G., Al Harrache, A., Majed A., Younes Y.</b> , (2022) <a href="#">Sustained Citizen Science From Research to Solutions: A New Impact Model for the Social Sciences</a> , <i>International Journal of Qualitative Methods</i> , 21, 1-16

Jallad, M., Mintchev, N., Pietrostefani, E., Daher, M. & Moore, H.L., (2021) [Citizen Social Science and Pathways to Prosperity: Co-designing Research and Impact in Beirut, Lebanon](#), *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 25 (6), 769-782

Pietrostefani, E. & Holman, N. (2020) The politics of conservation planning: a comparative study of urban heritage making in the Global North and the Global South, *Progress in Planning*, 100505

Ahlfeldt, G. & Pietrostefani, E. (2019) The economic effects of density: a synthesis, *Journal of Urban Economics*, 111, 93-107.

Pietrostefani, E. (2015) Valuating Urban Heritage in the Perspective of Holistic Development: Illustrating the Lebanese Case, *La valeur économique du patrimoine, Techniques Financières et Développement*, Epargne Sans Frontière (ESF), N° 118 – Mars 2015

#### Under review

Boeri, F., Di Cataldo, M., Pietrostefani, E. [Localised Effects of Re-allocated Real Estate Mafia Assets](#). (Journal of Economic Geography: revise & resubmit)

Pietrostefani, E. Conservation Planning and Informal Institutions: heterogenous patterns in Italian cities. (Journal of Regional Science: submitted)

Pietrostefani, E., Sleiman, Y., Assessing Vulnerabilities in Post-Blast Beirut. (Annals of American Association of Geographers: submitted)

Pietrostefani E., Melios, G. Makki, D, Sleiman Y., & Moore H.L., (2021) Understanding livelihood-related choices between formal and informal labour markets in Lebanon (World Development: submitted).

#### Discussion Papers & Policy Reports

Pietrostefani, E., Dabaj, J., Jallad M., Maassarani S., Makki, D., Mersalli, T., Mintchev, N., Sleiman, Y., Sleiman, M., Moore, H.L., (2022) [Prosperity Report - El Mina, Tripoli](#). University College London and CatalyticAction.

Pietrostefani, E., Dabaj, J., Sleiman, Y., Jallad M., Maassarani S., and Charalambous E., (2022) [Assessing Vulnerabilities for Urban Recovery Solutions](#). University College London and CatalyticAction.

Melios, G., Pietrostefani E., Sleiman Y., (2021) Who needs Job Security in a crisis? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Lebanon. Working Paper.

Charalambous E., Pietrostefani E., Woodcraft S., (2021) [Ethnicity and prosperity in east London: How racial inequalities impact experiences of the good life](#). UCL Institute for Global Prosperity: London, UK.

RELIEF Centre & UN-Habitat Lebanon, (2020) [Hamra Neighbourhood Profile 2020](#), Beirut: UN-Habitat Lebanon.

Ahlfeldt, G., Pietrostefani, E., Schumann, A., Matsumoto, T. (2018) [Demystifying compact urban growth: Evidence from 300 studies from across the world](#), OECD Regional Development Working Papers, 2018/03, OECD Publishing, Paris

Ahlfeldt, G. & Pietrostefani, E. (2017) The compact city in empirical research: A quantitative literature review (SERC Discussion Paper)

#### Languages

French, English, Italian | trilingual  
Spanish | advanced (C1 CEFR)

Arabic MSA and Levantine | intermediate (B2 CEFR)

#### Software & Skills

R: proficient. Stata: proficient. Python: intermediate. ArcGIS/QGIS: proficient. LATEX: proficient. Office: proficient

#### Awarded Grants and Funding

**Excellence in Education award 2022**, London School of Economics, £3,000

**ESRC Grant**, Transforming Financial Inclusion to Finance Inclusive Prosperity in Ramallah, Palestine, UK, £675,000

**GCRF: University College London Small Grants Call**, *Assessing Vulnerabilities for urban recovery solutions in Beirut Post-Explosion*, UK, £100,000

**AISRe Giorgio Leonardi Best PhD Dissertation Award**, Italian Regional Science Association, Italy, £1,500

**RGS-IBG Postgraduate Research Award**, Royal Geographic Society, UK, £2,500

**LSE Regional and Urban Planning Studies (RUPS) PhD Travel Fund**, London School of Economics, UK - £1,000

**LSE PhD Studentship award 2015-2019**, London School of Economics, UK - £18,000 a year

## Journal Referee

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Habitat International; Journal of Labour Economics; Journal of Planning Education and Research; Journal of Urban Affairs, Land Use Policy; Papers in Regional Science; Regional Science; Policy and Practice; Regional Science and Urban Economics; Regional Science and Urban Economics; Journal of Economic Geography; Environmental Development

## Invited Talks and Conferences

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FOSS46   Florence, Italy	2022
Geographic Data Science Lab Seminar   Liverpool, UK	2022
Royal Geographic Society-IBG Annual International Conference   online	2021
Societa Italiana degli Urbanisti XXIII Annual Conference   online	2021
AISRe XLI Annual Conference   online	2020
ERSA 59th Congress   Vienna, Austria	2019
Urban Economics Association, 9 <sup>th</sup> European Meeting   Amsterdam, Netherlands	2019
City Debates: Urban Recovery at the Intersection of Displacement and Reconstruction   Beirut, Lebanon	2019
LSE Work-in-Progress Economic Geography Seminar   London, UK	2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
Beirut Design Week – Presenting <a href="https://urban-experiment.com/">https://urban-experiment.com/</a>   Beirut, Lebanon	2018
AESOP Annual Conference  Gothenburg, Sweden	2018
Urban Economics Association Summer School IEB  Barcelona, Spain	2018
Open Data for Cultural Heritage International Conference  Milan, Italy	2017
Urban Economics Association, 7th European Meeting   Copenhagen, Denmark	2017
LSE Work-in-Progress Urban Development Seminar   London, UK	2017
The Financialization of Housing and Real Estate in Lebanon   Beirut, Lebanon	2017
ERSA 56th Congress   Vienna, Austria	2016

## References

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Professor Steve Gibbons  
London School of Economics  
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Dr. Christopher Harker  
University College London  
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