

Laura Comini

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Relations, International Political Economy, Environmental Politics, Multinational Corporations, Political Risk, Firm-level Trade and Investment, Supply Chains, Disasters, Lobbying, Large-N Data

EDUCATION

University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, USA PhD in Political Science	2021–Present
University of Essex, UK MSc in Political Science with Distinction	2018–2019
Hochschule fuer Musik - Detmold, Germany Master of Music Diploma of Music	2008–2013

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Working Papers

“Cautious Giants: Firm Size and Political Risk in Foreign Direct Investment”
“How Disasters Drive Action: Subsidiaries, Supply Chains, and Climate Lobbying”, with Hao Zhang. Under Review

Work in Progress

“Natural Disasters and International Treaty Networks”, with Margaret Kenney
“Climate Risk and Foreign Direct Investment”
“US Multinationals and the US-China Trade War”

TEACHING

POLSCI 992 - Preparing for a Career in Political Science. Course chair: Prof. Mark Dincecco. University of Michigan

POLSCI 993 - Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) Training. Course chair: Prof. Mark Dincecco. University of Michigan

POLSCI 140 - Introduction to Comparative Politics. Graduate Student Instructor. Course chair: Prof. Allen Hicken. University of Michigan

INTLSTD 301 - Political Economy of Development. Graduate Student Instructor. Course chair: Mark Dincecco. University of Michigan

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Rackham Doctoral Intern Fellowship, \$27,540

Rackham Conference Travel Funding, \$2,050

DGS Travel Grant, \$2,300

Pre-Candidate Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, \$1,500

First Year Fellowship, University of Michigan, \$25,167

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

2026 American Political Science Association (APSA), Boston (USA)

4th Annual Conference on the Political Economy of Climate and Environment (PECE 2026), Harvard (USA)

2026 16th Annual MSU/UM Energy & Environmental Economics Day, Lansing (USA)

2026 Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Chicago (USA)

2026 “Shifting Sands and Uncharted Waters: Navigating Political and Policy Changes Amid Complex Crises and Disasters” Conference Within Conference, Southern Political Science Association (SPSA), New Orleans (USA)

2025 Global Research in International Economy (GRIPE), online seminar

2025 “Climate Change, Inequality, and Policy Contestation” Workshop, London School of Economics (LSE), London (United Kingdom)

2025 International Political Economy Society Conference (IPES), Los Angeles (USA)

2025 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (APSA), Vancouver (Canada)

2024 International Studies Association Annual Convention (ISA), San Francisco (USA)

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES & SOFTWARE

R (advanced), STATA (intermediate), $\text{\LaTeX}$

LANGUAGES

Italian (native), English (advanced), German (advanced)

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Prior to my doctoral studies, I was a professional classical violinist performing with leading European ensembles, including a long-term position with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and engagements with the Wiener Symphoniker, Camerata Bern, the Münchner Kammerorchester, and the Mozarteumorchester Salzburg. In these roles, I worked within large, highly coordinated transnational organizations, performing in major international venues and festivals across Europe, Asia, and the Americas, including the BBC Proms and the Edinburgh International Festival. Beyond performance, I participated in organizational governance through service on orchestra committees and board-level bodies, engaging in collective decision-making processes involving budgeting, personnel policy, and institutional strategy. This experience provided sustained exposure to issues of coordination, incentives, and governance within complex organizations operating across national and institutional contexts.

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Iain Osgood, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan, iosgood@umich.edu

Christopher J. Fariss, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan, cjfariss@umich.edu

Mark Dincecco, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan, dincecco@umich.edu

James Morrow, A.F.K. Organski Professor of World Politics, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan, jdmorrow@umich.edu