Roberto Di Mari, Ph.D.

Department of Economics and Business, University of Catania
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Nationality: Italian
Date of birth: November 26, 1988
Family status: Married
Children: 3 (2019, 2021, 2023)

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Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=zXGImzUAAAAJ&hl=it

Current Position and Institutional Responsibilities

- *Associate Professor* of Statistics at the Department of Economics and Business, University of Catania (Italy), since June, 2024.

  Member of the Executive Board (Giunta) of the Department of Economics and Business, University of Catania, since September, 2024.

  Member of the Board, Ph.D. in Economics, Management, and Decision Making, University of Catania, since March, 2021.

  Member of the Evaluating Committee for Admissions to the MSc in Corporate Finance, University of Catania, since July, 2019.

  Member of the Board for Quality Assessment of the MSc in Corporate Finance, University of Catania, since April, 2019.

  Member of the Board, Third Mission of the Department of Economics and Business, University of Catania, since January, 2020.

  Vice-Chair of the Master in Corporate Finance, University of Catania, since February, 2024.

  Member of the Board for Quality Assessment of the Department of Economics and Business, University of Catania, since April, 2024.

Past Positions

- *Assistant Professor with tenure (RTD-B)* of Statistics at the Department of Economics and Business, University of Catania (Italy), from May, 2021, to June, 2024.

  National Scientific Qualification to function as Associate Professor of Statistics, Academic Recruitment Field (13D1), since May, 2022.

  National Scientific Qualification to function as Associate Professor of Econometrics, Academic Recruitment Field (13A5), since January, 2023.

  National Scientific Qualification to function as Full Professor of Econometrics, Academic Recruitment Field (13A5), since November, 2023.

[1] Last update: June 6, 2026.

- *Assistant Professor without tenure (RTD-A)* of Statistics at the Department of Economics and Business, University of Catania (Italy), from May, 2018 to May 2021.

- *Postdoctoral researcher* in Statistics at the Department of Economics and Business, University of Catania (Italy), from November, 2016 to May, 2018.
  Lecturer (Cultore della Materia) since September, 2017.

Education

- *Ph.D.* (with distinction) in Economics and Finance, 2017, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy; Ph.D. thesis on *Finite Mixture Models*, supervised by Prof. R. Rocci (University of Rome Tor Vergata) and co-supervised by Prof. J. K. Vermunt (Tilburg University).

- One-year graduate program at the Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance (EIEF), Bank of Italy, academic year 2013-2014.

- *Visiting PhD student*, 2015, at the Department of Methodology and Statistics of Tilburg University (Tilburg, Netherlands).

- *Master of Science* in Economics, 2011-2013, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy; final dissertation in Statistics, on *Finite Mixtures of Linear Models: Numerical Evidences and Application to SHIW Data*, supervised by Prof. R.Rocci (University of Rome Tor Vergata) with final grade: 110/110.

- *Bachelor Degree* in Economics, 2011, University of Catania, Italy; final dissertation in Statistics, *Peer effects on academic outcome* supervised by Prof. S.Ingrassia (University of Catania).

- *Erasmus Exchange Student*, 2009 - 2010, University of Lille 1, France.

Ph.D Courses Taught

- *Advanced Statistical Inference*, Ph.D. in Economics, Business, and Decision Making, University of Catania. Since the academic year 2025/2026.

- *Introduction to R: from zero to hero*, module on advanced topics, Ph.D. in Economics, Business, and Decision Making, University of Catania. Since the academic year 2025/2026.

- *Statistical learning with high dimensions with R*, Ph.D. in Economics, Business, and Decision Making, University of Catania. For the academic years 2021/2022–2024/2025.

Ph.D thesis supervision

- Johan Lyrvall (defended in December 2025).

- Simone Di Bella (ongoing).

Research Interests

Born in 1988, Roberto Di Mari has already published in top methodological journal, such as Psychometrika, Structural Equation Modeling, Journal of Econometrics, and Journal of Business & Economics Statistics. His scientific activity is devoted to latent variable models for cross-section, longitudinal, and time series (mostly non-continuous) data, with a strong computational flavor. He is also strongly interested in applications in several areas, such as economics, finance, political sciences, psychology, and social sciences.

Funded Research Projects

- Senior researcher for the Research Unit (RU) of Catania of the PRIN 2022 project “The SMILE project: Statistical Modeling and Inference to Live the Environment”, Principal Investigator Prof. A. Maruotti, Associated Investigator of the Catania’s RU Prof. A. Punzo.

- Senior researcher of the European Research Counsil (ERC) project “Political Representation in the Digital era" (PRD), Grant ID number 101077659, Principal Investigator Prof. Jennifer Oser.

- Principal investigator of the project “Starting Grant - PIA.CE.RI. 2020/2022" (Università di Catania): *FIxed and Random Effect modelling of individual cross–national survey data: a unifying approach (FIRE)*.

- Member of the research project “PIA.CE.RI. 2020/2022" (Università di Catania): *Sostenibilità sociale: GENEre, governance e contesto Istituzionale (GENE.SI)* (Principal Investigator: Dr. L. Bonaventura).

- Principal investigator of the research project “PTR 2016 – 2018 II Annualità" (Università di Catania): *Analisi multidimensionale della corruzione percepita*.

- Member of the research project “PTR 2016 – 2018 I Annualità" (Università di Catania): *Academic Analytics per la costruzione di indicatori di performance* (Principal Investigator: Prof. A. Mazza).

Editorial Services

Editorial Board Memberships

- *Statistical Analysis and Data Mining*: Associate Editor, 2024 to present.

- *Statistical Methods and Application*: Associate Editor - methods section, 2026 to present.

- *Behavior Research Methods*: Consulting Editor, 2020 to 2024.

Refereeing Activities

- *Annals of Applied Statistics*, *Advances in Data Analysis and Classification*, *Artificial Intelligence in Medicine*, *Behavior Research Methods*, *Biometrical Journal*, *BMC Medical Rsearch Methodology*, *Computational Statistics*, *Computational Statistics and Data Analysis*, *Econometrics and Statistics*, *Emerging Markets Finance and Trade*, *European Journal of Operational Research*, *Health Economics*, *Journal of Classification*, *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series C* , *Journal of Statistical Computation and Simulation*, *Metron*, *Multivariate Behavioral Research*, *Statistics and Computing*, *Statistical Methods and Applications*, *Statistical Modelling*, *Structural Equation Modeling*.

Scientific and Organizing Committee Activities

- 8th International Workshop on *MBC^2: Models and Learning in Clustering and Classification*, Catania (Italy), August, 2026 (Scientific Program Committee and Local Organizer).

- 7th International Workshop on *MBC^2: Models and Learning in Clustering and Classification*, Catania (Italy), August, 2024 (Local Organizer).

- 14th Scientific Meeting of the "Classification and Data Analysis Group (Cladag) of the Italian Statistical Society", Salerno (Italy), September 11–13, 2023, (Member of the Scientific Program Committee).

- 6th International Workshop on *MBC^2: Models and Learning in Clustering and Classification*, Catania (Italy), September, 2022 (Local Organizer).

- Talk Session on *Measurement uncertainty in complex models* at the 15th International Conference of the ERCIM WG on Computational and Methodological Statistics, London (UK), 2022.

- Talk Session on *Dynamic models for discrete time series and longitudinal data* at the 24th International Conference on Computational Statistics, Bologna (Italy), 2021.

- 5th International Workshop on *MBC^2: Models and Learning in Clustering and Classification*, Catania (Italy), September, 2020 (Local Organizer).

- 4th International Workshop on *MBC^2: Models and Learning in Clustering and Classification*, Catania (Italy), September 5–7, 2018 (Local Organizer).

- 3rd International Workshop on *MBC^2: Models and Learning in Clustering and Classification*, Catania (Italy), September 5–7, 2016 (Local Organizer).

- 2nd International Workshop on *MBC^2: Models and Learning in Clustering and Classification*, Catania (Italy), September 3–5, 2014 (Local Organizer).

- International Workshop on *MBC^2: Models and Learning in Clustering and Classification*, September 5–7, 2012 (Local Organizer).

Membership in Professional Societies

- Italian Statistical Society (SIS), Psychometric Society, Classification and Data Analysis Group of the Italian Statistical Society (CLADAG).

List of Publications

A. Peer-Reviewed Articles

1. Di Mari, R., and Kuha, J. (2026). Estimating the variance-covariance matrix of two-step estimates of latent variable models: A general simulation-based approach. *Statistical Analysis and Data Mining, in press*.
2. Lyrvall, J., Di Mari, R., Bakk, Z., Oser, J., and Kuha, J. (2025). Multilevel latent class analysis: state-of-the-art methodologies and their implementation in the R package multilevLCA. *Multivariate Behavioral Research, 60(4), 731-747.*
3. Fabbricatore, R., Bakk, Z., Di Mari, R., de Rooij, M., and Palumbo, F. (2025). Students' proficiency evaluation: a non-parametric multilevel latent variable model approach. *Studies in Higher Education, 50(7), 1528-1555.*
4. Lyrvall, J., Bakk, Z., Oser, J., and Di Mari, R. (2024). Bias-adjusted three-step multilevel latent class modeling with covariates. *Structural Equation Modeling: A Multidisciplinary Journal, 31(4), 592-603.*
5. Di Mari, R., Bakk, Z., Oser, J., and Kuha, J. (2023). A two-step estimator for multilevel latent class analysis with covariates. *Psychometrika, 88(4), 1144-1170.*
6. Di Mari, R., Ingrassia, S., and Punzo, A. (2023). Local and Overall Deviance R-Squared Measures for Mixtures of Generalized Linear Models. *Journal of Classification, 40(2), 233-266.*
7. Di Mari, R., Punzo, A., and Bakk, Z. (2023). Embedding latent class regression and latent class distal outcome models into cluster-weighted latent class analysis: a detailed simulation experiment. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Statistics, 65(3), 213-233.*

8. Di Mari, R., Rocci, R., and Gattone, S. A. (2023). LASSO–penalized clusterwise linear regression modelling: a two–step approach. *Journal of Statistical Computation and Simulation, 93(18), 3235-3258.*
9. Oser, J., Hooghe, M., Bakk, Z., and Di Mari, R. (2023). Changing citizenship norms among adolescents, 1999-2009-2016: A two-step latent class approach with measurement equivalence testing. *Quality & Quantity, 57(5), 4915-4933.*
10. Bakk, Z.,Di Mari, R., Oser, J., and Kuha, J. (2022). Two-stage multilevel latent class analysis with covariates in the presence of direct effects. *Structural Equation Modeling: A Multidisciplinary Journal, 29(2), 267-277.*
11. Di Mari, R., Dotto, F., Farcomeni, A., and Punzo, A. (2022). Assessing measurement invariance for longitudinal data through latent Markov models. *Structural Equation Modeling: A Multidisciplinary Journal, 29(3), 381-393.*
12. Di Mari, R., and Maruotti, A. (2022). A two-step estimator for generalized linear models for longitudinal data with time-varying measurement error. *Advances in Data Analysis and Classification, 16(2), 273-300.*
13. Catania, L., Di Mari, R., and Santucci de Magistris, P. (2022). Dynamic discrete mixtures for high-frequency prices. *Journal of Business & Economic Statistics, 40(2), 559-577.*
14. Catania, L., and Di Mari, R. (2021). Hierarchical Markov-switching models for multivariate integer-valued time-series. *Journal of Econometrics, 221(1), 118-137.*
15. Di Mari, R., Bakk, Z., and Punzo A. (2019). A random-covariate approach for distal outcome prediction with latent class analysis. *Structural Equation Modeling: A Multidisciplinary Journal, 27(3), 351-368.*
16. Di Mari, R., Rocci, R., and Gattone, G. A. (2019). Scale-constrained approaches for maximum likelihood estimation and model selection of clusterwise linear regression models. *Statistical Methods and Applications. 29, 49-78.*
17. Di Mari, R., and Bakk, Z. (2018). Mostly harmless direct effects: a comparison of different latent markov modeling approaches. *Structural Equation Modeling: A Multidisciplinary Journal*, 25(3), 467-483.
18. Rocci, R., Gattone, S. A., and Di Mari, R. (2018). A data driven equivariant approach to constrained Gaussian mixture modeling. *Advances in Data Analysis and Classification, 12(2), 235-260.*
19. Di Mari, R., Rocci, R., and Gattone, G. A. (2017). Clusterwise linear regression modeling with soft scale constraints. *International Journal of Approximate Reasoning, 91, 160-178.*
20. Di Mari, R., Oberski, D.L, and Vermunt, J.K. (2016). Bias-adjusted three-step latent Markov modeling with covariates. *Structural Equation Modeling: A Multidisciplinary Journal, 23(5), 649-660.*

B. Book chapters

21. Rocci, R., Di Mari, R., and Gattone, S.A. (2023). Penalized Estimation of a Finite Mixture of Linear Regression Models. In: "Garc ía-Escudero, L.A., et al. *Building Bridges between Soft and Statistical Methodologies for Data Science. SMPS 2022. Advances in Intelligent Systems and Computing*", vol 1433. Springer, Cham.
22. Fabbricatore, R., Di Mari, R., Bakk, Z., de Rooij, M., and Palumbo, F. (2023). A Three-Step Rectangular Latent Markov Modeling for Advising Students in Self-learning Platforms. In: "Wiberg, M., Molenaar, D., González, J., Kim, JS., Hwang, H. (eds) *Quantitative Psychology. IMPS 2022. Springer Proceedings in Mathematics & Statistics*", vol 422. Springer, Cham.
23. Di Mari, R., Gattone, S.A., and Rocci, R. (2021). Penalized Versus Constrained Approaches for Clusterwise Linear Regression Modeling. In: "Balzano, S., Porzio, G.C., Salvatore, R., Vistocco, D., Vichi, M. (eds) *Statistical Learning and Modeling in Data Analysis. CLADAG 2019. Studies in Classification, Data Analysis, and Knowledge Organization*". Springer, Cham.

24. Di Mari, R., Ingrassia, S., and Punzo, P. (2021). A generalized coefficient of determination for mixtures of regressions. In: "Chadjipadelis T. et al (Eds), *Data Analysis and Rationality in a Complex World*", Springer, Cham.
25. Di Mari, R., Rocci, R., and Gattone, S.A. (2021). Penalized Versus Constrained Approaches for Clusterwise Linear Regression Modeling. In: "Balzano S. et al. (Eds.), *Statistical Learning and Modeling in Data Analysis*", Springer, Cham.
26. Di Mari, R., Rocci, R., and Gattone, S.A. (2017). Finite Mixture of Linear Regression Models: An Adaptive Constrained Approach to Maximum Likelihood Estimation. In: "Ferraro M. et al. (Eds.), *Soft Methods for Data Science. Advances in Intelligent Systems and Computing*", vol. 456. Springer, Cham.

C. Short papers in conference proceedings

27. Di Mari, R., Rocci, R., and Gattone, S.A. (2021). Lasso-penalized clusterwise linear regression modeling with a two-step approach. In: "Ingressia S. et al (Eds), *Book of Short Papers of the 5th international workshop on Models and Learning for Clustering and Classification (MBC2 2020, Catania, Italy)*", LEDIpublishing, ISBN 978-8-855-26539-3.
28. Di Mari, R., Ingrassia, S., and Punzo, A. (2020). Local and overall coefficients of determination for mixtures of generalized linear models. In: "Pollice A. et al. (Eds.), *Book of short papers SIS 2020*", Pearson, ISBN 9788891910776.
29. Di Mari R., Gattone, S.A., and Rocci R. (2019) Penalized vs. contrained approaches for clusterwise linear regression modeling. In: "Porzio G.C. et al. (Eds.), *Book of Short Papers CLADAG 2019*", ISBN 978-88-8317-108-6.
30. Di Mari, R., Maruotti, A. and Punzo, A. (2018). Covariate measurement error in generalized linear models for longitudinal data: a latent Markov approach. In: "Greselin F. et al. (Eds.), *Book of Short Papers SIS 2018*", Pearson, ISBN 978-88-919102-33-0.
31. Di Mari R., Bakk, Z. (2017). Stepwise latent Markov modeling with covariates in the presence of direct effects. In: "Greselin F. et al. (Eds.), *Book of Short Papers CLADAG 2017*", ISBN 978-88-99459-71-0.

D. Submitted Articles

1. Di Mari, R., Farnè, M., and Vouldis, A. (2026). endogeNOVA: a latent variable approach to assess endogenous bank performance from ECB supervisory data.
2. Fabbricatore, R., Di Mari, R., Bakk, Z., de Rooij, M., and Palumbo, F. (2026). A time-heterogeneous rectangular latent Markov model with covariates and informative dropout: an application to students' ability assessment.

Presentations and Posters

In Seminars

- Seminar on *LASSO-penalized clusterwise linear regression modelling with Local Least Angle Regression (L-LARS).* Department of Statistical Sciences, University of Rome la Sapienza (IT) - January 2020.

- Seminar on *Three-step approach in the context of latent Markov modeling with covariates.* Department of Economics and Finance, University of Rome Tor Vergata (IT) - December 2015.

- Seminar on *Three-step approach in the context of latent Markov modeling with covariates.* Department of Economics and Business, University of Catania (IT) - June 2015.

- Seminar on *Finite mixture of linear regression models: an adaptive constrained approach to maximum likelihood estimation.* Department of Economics and Finance, University of Rome Tor Vergata (IT) - November 2014.

In Invited Sessions

- Talk on *Modeling and testing for endogenous covariate effects: a hierarchical mixture approach*. Session's title: *Advances in finite mixture models* in "19th conference of the International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS)", 14-16 July 2026, Milan, Italy.

- Talk on *Two-step estimators for latent variable modes: recent advances and future perspectives*. Session's title: *Statistical Analysis of Complex Structured Data: Clustering, Dimension Reduction, and Smoothing* in "The 16th International Conference of the ERCIM WG on Computational and Methodological Statistics (CMStatistics 2023)", 16-18 December 2023, Berlin, Germany.

- Talk on *Psycho COVID-19: Evaluating the risk of the psycho-physical impact of the pandemic*. Session's title: *Latent variable and psychometric modelling* in "The 24th International Conference on Computational Statistics (COMPSTAT 2022)", 23-26 August 2022, Bologna, Italy.

- Talk on *LASSO-penalized clusterwise linear regression modelling with Local Least Angle Regression (LLARS).* Session's title: *New proposals for clustering complex data structures* in the "4th International Conference on Econometrics and Statistics (EcoSta 2021)" virtual conference, HKUST (Honh Kong), June 24-26, 2021.

- Talk on *Penalized vs constrained maximum likelihood approaches for clusterwise linear regression modeling,* in the "CLAssification and Data Analysis Group (CLADAG) 2019" conference, Cassino (Italy), September 11-13, 2019.

- Talk on *Time-varying measurement error in generalized linear models for longitudinal data: A two-step latent Markov approach.* Session's title: *Advances in mixtures with covariates*, in the "The 11th International Conference of the ERCIM WG on Computational and Methodological Statistics (CMStatistics 2018)", 14-16 December 2018, Pisa, Italy.

- Talk on *Generalized linear models with measurement error in the covariates: a latent Markov approach.* Session's title: *Recent Advances on Clustering and Classification*, in the "49th Meeting of the Italian Statistical Society", 20-22 June 2018, Palermo, Italy.

- Talk on *Handling missing data with multiple imputation using LC models to investigate predictors of HPV infection*. Session's title: *Recent developments in latent class analysis and its applications*, in "The 22nd International Conference on Computational Statistics (COMPSTAT 2016)", 23-26 August 2016, Auditorium Principe Felipe, Oviedo, Spain.

In Contributed Sessions

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- Talk on *Combined Bayesian–frequentist two–step multilevel latent class analysis with covariates*. Session's title: *Mixture Models and Bayesian Nonparametrics* in "53rd SIS and 1st FENStatS Scientific Meetings", 22-25 June 2026, Rome, Italy.

- Talk on *Latent Markov Modeling With Covariates in the Presence of Direct Effects,* in the "CLAssification and Data Analysis Group (CLADAG) 2017" conference, Milan (Italy), September 13-15, 2017.

- Talk on *Latent Markov Modeling With Covariates in the Presence of Direct Effects,* in the "International Meeting of the Psychometric Society (IMPS) 2017" conference, Zurich (Switzerland), July 18-21, 2017.

- Talk on *Finite mixture of linear regression models: an adaptive constrained approach to maximum likelihood estimation,* in the “Soft Methods in Probability and Statistics" conference, Rome (Italy), September 12-14, 2016.

- Talk on *Three-step approach in the context of latent Markov modeling with covariates,* in the “Flemish Dutch Classification Society Meeting", Nijmegen (Netherlands), May 29, 2015.

Posters

- Poster on *Finite mixture of linear regression models: an adaptive constrained approach to maximum likelihood estimation,* in the “MBC2 Model-Based Clustering and Classification" workshop, Catania, September 5-7, 2016.

Teaching Activities

Lectureship

- *Lecturer* of the course *Statistical Models for Economics and Finance* (60 hours) for the Master (*Laurea Magistrale*) in Corporate Finance at the Department of Economics and Business of the University of Catania. Since the academic year 2018/2019.

- *Lecturer* of the course *Statistics* (60 hours) for the Bachelor (*Laurea Triennale*) in Business Economics at the Department of Economics and Business of the University of Catania. Since the academic year 2020/2021.

- *Lecturer* of the course *Statistics* (60 hours) for the Bachelor (*Laurea Triennale*) in Economics at the Department of Economics and Business of the University of Catania. Since the academic year 2024/2025.

Tutorials

- *Tutorial instructor*, May 2018. R tutorial for clustering and visualization of complex data at the Summer School on Clustering, Data Analysis and Visualization of Complex data in Catania (Italy), jointly organized by the International Association for Statistical Computing (IASC), European Courses in Advanced Statistics (ECAS), and the classification group of the Italian Statistical Society (CLADAG).

- *Tutorial instructor*, May 2017. R tutorial for clustering methods at the Summer School on Clustering and Classification, organized in Rimini (Italy) by the classification group of the Italian Statistical Society (CLADAG).

- *Tutorial instructor*, September - October 2014. Tutorials for the course in Statistics of Prof. M. Mezzetti for Master MEI at University of Rome Tor Vergata, consisting of 12-hour teaching duties and office hours.

- *Tutorial instructor*, September - October 2014 Teaching assistance for the course in Statistical Computing (Matlab) of Dr. A. Ramponi for Master MEI at University of Rome Tor Vergata.

Languages

- Italian (mother tongue), English and French (fluent), Spanish (Basic).

Computer Skills

R, Matlab, SPSS, Stata, Latent GOLD, LateX, Ms Office Suite, Unix-based distributions (Mac OsX and Linux), Windows.

Interests

Family, Computers, Books, Comics, Martial Arts, Outdoor Activities.