

Elisabetta Pietrostefani

Geographic data scientist & urban geographer

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EDUCATION

PhD, Regional and Urban Planning 2015 – 2019

London School of Economics. Thesis: *Essays in Planning Policy and Urban Economics*. Interdisciplinary PhD across the Economic Geography and Urbanisation, Planning & Development clusters. AISRe Giorgio Leonardi Best PhD Dissertation Award (Italian Regional Science Association).

Visiting Researcher 2018

American University of Beirut – Neighbourhood Initiative, affiliated with the Centre of Arab and Middle Eastern Studies.

MSc International Development 2012 – 2014

Sciences-Po, Paris. Concentrations in Development Economics and Middle East Studies. MSc dissertation award for *Valuating Urban Heritage in a Development Perspective in Lebanon*.

MA Cultural Heritage 2011 – 2012

University College London.

BA History of Art 2008 – 2011

The Courtauld Institute of Art, London.

Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education (HEA Fellowship) 2021

EMPLOYMENT

Senior Lecturer in Geographic Data Science (Associate Professor) 2023 – present

Department of Geography and Planning, University of Liverpool. Deputy Lead of the Geographic Data Science Lab. Course convenor and lecturer: *ENVS363/563 Geographic Data Science*, *ENVS456 Web Mapping & Visualization*, *ENVS418 Population Data Science*, *ENV162 Human Geography through Merseyside*. Tutorial and dissertation supervisions across ENVS100, ENVS203, ENVS321, ENVS492.

Visiting Research Fellow / LSE Fellow in Geographic Data Science 2021 – present

Department of Geography and Environment, London School of Economics. Visiting Research Fellow since January 2023; LSE Fellow (September 2021 – January 2023). Deputy Director of MSc in Geographic Data Science. Course designer and convenor: Applied Geographic Information Systems (QGIS and R), Quantitative Methods in Geography. Convenor of the *Industry Talks in Spatial Data Science* series. LSE Excellence in Education Award 2022.

Honorary Senior Research Fellow / Research Fellow, Data Team Lead 2018 – present

Institute for Global Prosperity, University College London. Honorary Senior Research Fellow since September 2021; Research Fellow – Data Team Lead, Prosperity Index for Lebanon (2019 – 2021); Research Consultant (2018 – 2019). PI on the UCL Small Grants project *Assessing Vulnerabilities for Urban Recovery Solutions in Beirut Post-Explosion*; Co-I on the Leverhulme project *Supporting Macroeconomic Stability and Prosperity in an Age of Mass Displacement*. Led quantitative analysis of large well-being datasets and consolidation of the Prosperity Index across the UK, Lebanon, Tanzania and Kenya.

Occasional Research Assistant

2018

Centre for Economic Performance, What Works Centre, LSE. Toolkit research on Economic Zones and Area-Based Initiatives for the UK Government's Industrial Strategy.

Research Consultant

2017

Issam Fares Institute, American University of Beirut. Affordable Housing for Beirut project, Social Justice and the City programme.

Project Coordinator

2016 – 2017

LSE Cities – *Theatrum Mundi* project.

Research Consultant

2016 – 2017

OECD & World Resources Institute – New Climate Economy Coalition for Urban Transitions.

GRANTS & AWARDS

- Research England, **FloodTraces: Integrating Traditional and Digital Trace Data for Real-Time Humanitarian Decision-Making**, £43,962 – Dec 2025 – Jul 2026.
- Research England, **Dynamic Estimates of Displacement in Conflict Regions: A Policy-Driven Framework Triangulating Data**, £54,509 – Nov 2024 – Jul 2025.
- UKRI ESRC, **SDR UK Imagery Data Service for Sustainability, Prosperity and Wellbeing (IMAGO)**, £6,788,643 (54 months) – Sept 2024 – Sept 2029.
- Research England, **Harnessing Satellite and GPS Phone Data for Policy-Driven Assessment of Internal Population Displacement in Ukraine**, £9,244 – May – Jul 2024.
- ESRC, **Transforming Financial Inclusion to Finance Inclusive Prosperity in Ramallah, Palestine**, £675,000 – Oct 2024 – Dec 2026.
- Leverhulme Trust, **Supporting Macroeconomic Stability and Prosperity in an Age of Mass Displacement**, £250,012 – from Jan 2020.
- GCRF / UCL Small Grants, **Assessing Vulnerabilities for Urban Recovery Solutions in Beirut Post-Explosion**, £99,987 – Jan – Aug 2021.
- RGS-IBG Postgraduate Research Award, **Geospatial Analysis of Housing Insecurity and Resident Value of Neighbourhood Amenities in Beirut**, £2,500 – Jan – Aug 2018.
- LSE Excellence in Education Award, £3,000 – 2022.
- LSE PhD Studentship, £18,000/year – 2015 – 2019.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles (peer-reviewed)

1. Iradukunda, R., Rowe, F., & Pietrostefani, E. (2025). **Estimating internal displacement in Ukraine from high-frequency GPS mobile phone data**. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 12(1), 1863.
2. Mintchev, N., Daher, M., Jallad, M., Zaher, R., Pietrostefani, E., Ghamrawi, G., Al Harrache, A., Majed, A., & Moore, H.L. (2024). **Citizen Social Science for Improved Quality of Life: Research, Interventions, Evaluations**. *International Review of Qualitative Research*. SAGE.
3. Boeri, F., Di Cataldo, M., & Pietrostefani, E. (2024). **Localized effects of confiscated and re-allocated real estate mafia assets**. *Journal of Economic Geography*, 24(2), 219 – 240.
4. Pietrostefani, E. (2022). **Urban Transformations and Complex Values: Insights from Beirut**. *Urban Planning*, 7(1), 1 – 13.
5. Mintchev, N., Daher, M., Jallad, M., Pietrostefani, E., Moore, H.L., Ghamrawi, G., Al Harrache, A., Majed, A., & Younes, Y. (2022). **Sustained Citizen Science From Research to Solutions: A New Impact Model for the Social Sciences**. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 21, 1 – 16.
6. Jallad, M., Mintchev, N., Pietrostefani, E., Daher, M., & Moore, H.L. (2022). **Citizen Social Science and Pathways to Prosperity: Co-Designing Research and Impact in Beirut, Lebanon**. *International*

7. **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.
8. Ahlfeldt, G., & **Pietrostefani, E. (2019).** *The economic effects of density: a synthesis.* *Journal of Urban Economics*, 111, 93 – 107.
9. **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, n° 118.

Under review / Revise & resubmit

1. **Pietrostefani, E.** Conservation Planning and Informal Institutions: Heterogeneous Patterns in Italian Cities. *Regional Studies* (under review).
2. **Pietrostefani, E., & Sleiman, Y.** Assessing Vulnerabilities in Post-Blast Beirut. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* (under review).
3. Melios, G., **Pietrostefani, E., & Sleiman, Y.** Who Needs Job Security in a Crisis? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Lebanon. *Journal of Development Studies* (R&R).
4. **Pietrostefani, E., Makki, D., & Sleiman, Y.** (In)formal Employment — Default or Choice: A Mixed-Methods Investigation. *World Development* (R&R).
5. Kenyon, G., **Pietrostefani, E., Robinson, C., & Gkountouna, O.** The Price of Cool: Using Hedonic Modelling to Assess Spatial Inequalities of Air Conditioning in Madrid. *The Geographical Journal* (R&R).
6. **Pietrostefani, E., Mason, M., & Rowe, F.** Policy-Oriented Data Pipelines for Dynamic Estimation of Disaster-Induced Displacement. *Vienna Yearbook of Population Research* (submitted).
7. Garofani, G., & **Pietrostefani, E.** The Urban Promise? Diverging Economic Perceptions of Opportunity Around the World. *Urban Studies* (submitted).

Book chapters & reports

1. **Pietrostefani, E., Mason, M., Iradukunda, R., Tran-Jones, H., Loktieva, I., & Rowe, F. (2025).** Dynamic Estimates of Displacement in Disaster Regions: A Policy-Driven Framework Triangulating Data. *IOM: Geneva*.
2. **Pietrostefani, E., Garofani, G., & Melios, G. (2024).** Spatial Polarisation of Labour Markets: A Comparative Approach. In *Handbook on Labour Markets in Transition*. OECD.
3. **Pietrostefani, E., Dabaj, J., & Boano, C. (2023).** Rethinking 'Spaces of Exchange' for Future Cities. In *Future Cities — City Futures: Emerging Urban Perspectives* (pp. 208 – 215). TU Delft.
4. Ahlfeldt, G. M., & **Pietrostefani, E. (2022).** Revisiting the Economic Effects of Density in the Wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic. In *European Cities After COVID-19: Strategies for Resilient Cities and Real Estate* (pp. 95 – 106). Springer.
5. Ahlfeldt, G. M., & **Pietrostefani, E. (2021).** Die ökonomischen Effekte urbaner Dichte: Eine Bestandsaufnahme im Lichte der Corona-Pandemie. In *Die Europäische Stadt nach Corona: Strategien für resiliente Städte und Immobilien* (pp. 111 – 124). Springer.

Pre-prints & working papers

1. Ahlfeldt, G. M., **Pietrostefani, E., & Zhang, A. (2026).** The Economics of Architecture.
2. Woodcraft, S., Izcue-Gana, J., Melios, G., Tzivanakis, N., **Pietrostefani, E., Chan, G., Hasan, Z., & Perez, J. (2024).** *Prosperity in and around London's Olympic Park: Findings from the Prosperity in East London 2021 – 2031 Longitudinal Study.* UCL Institute for Global Prosperity.
3. Woodcraft, S., Izcue-Gana, J., Melios, G., Tzivanakis, N., **Pietrostefani, E., Chan, G., Hasan, Z., & Perez, J. (2024).** *Prosperity in the Teviot Estate and Coventry Cross Estate, Tower Hamlets.* UCL Institute for Global Prosperity.

4. Ahlfeldt, G. M., & **Pietrostefani, E.** (2023). “Quality Sells”: High-Quality Baukultur as a Success Factor for the Construction and Real Estate Industry. Swiss Federal Office of Culture.
5. **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**. UCL and CatalyticAction.
6. **Pietrostefani, E.**, Dabaj, J., Sleiman, Y., Jallad, M., Maassarani, S., & Charalambous, E. (2022). **Assessing Vulnerabilities for Urban Recovery Solutions**. UCL and CatalyticAction.
7. 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.
8. RELIEF Centre & UN-Habitat Lebanon (2020). **Hamra Neighbourhood Profile 2020**. UN-Habitat Lebanon.
9. 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.
10. Fawaz, M., Salamé, I., Serhan, D., **Pietrostefani, E.**, Abdo, N., & Feghali, D. (2017). You Can Stay in Beirut: Towards Inclusive Urban Housing Policy. American University of Beirut, Social Justice and the City (AUB Policy Institute Brief #8/2017).
11. Ahlfeldt, G., & **Pietrostefani, E.** (2017). The Compact City in Empirical Research: A Quantitative Literature Review. SERC Discussion Paper.

INVITED TALKS

- Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge — 2025.
- Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis, UCL — 2025.
- Royal Geographic Society-IBG Annual International Conference, London — 2024.
- University of Genoa, Italy — 2024.
- GISRUK, Leeds — 2024.
- Utrecht Economic Geography Research Group, Netherlands — 2024.
- Centre for Policy and Urban Science, Delft — 2024.
- Regional Studies Association Professional Development Seminar Series — 2023.
- Royal Geographic Society-IBG Annual International Conference, London — 2023.
- University of Bristol, Quantitative Spatial Research Group — 2023.
- Regional Studies Europe Summer College for PhDs (GSSI), L'Aquila — 2023.
- GISRUK, Glasgow — 2023.
- FOSS4G, Florence — 2022.
- Geographic Data Science Lab Seminar, Liverpool — 2022.
- Royal Geographic Society-IBG Annual International Conference — 2021.
- Società Italiana degli Urbanisti XXIII Annual Conference — 2021.
- AISRe XLI Annual Conference — 2020.
- ERSA 59th Congress, Vienna — 2019.
- Urban Economics Association, 9th European Meeting, Amsterdam — 2019.
- City Debates: Urban Recovery at the Intersection of Displacement and Reconstruction, Beirut — 2019.
- LSE Work-in-Progress Economic Geography Seminar — 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019.
- Beirut Design Week — 2018.
- AESOP Annual Conference, Gothenburg — 2018.
- Urban Economics Association Summer School (IEB), Barcelona — 2018.
- Open Data for Cultural Heritage International Conference, Milan — 2017.
- Urban Economics Association, 7th European Meeting, Copenhagen — 2017.
- The Financialization of Housing and Real Estate in Lebanon — 2017.
- ERSA 56th Congress, Vienna — 2016.

PHD SUPERVISION

- Yuta Sato (2024 –).
- Camila Amaya Jimenez (2025 –).
- Giada Garofani (2023 –).
- Rodgers Iradukunda (2023 –).
- Annabelle Flores (2022 –), University of Reading.
- Gladys Kenyon (2020 – 2025), graduated.

SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

- ADR-UK Expert Reviewer – January 2026 – present.
- Co-Director, **IMAGO** Data Service for Imagery, SDR UK – May 2025 – present.
- Deputy Lead, Geographic Data Science Lab, University of Liverpool – June 2023 – present.
- Advisory board member, *Data Disparity*, Snowflake Inc. – June 2024 – present.
- ESRC Peer Review College – April 2024 – present.
- Swiss Federal Council's National Research Programme Peer Review College – June 2024 – present.
- Committee member, Royal Geographical Society Quantitative Methods Research Group – August 2023 – present.
- Deputy Director, MSc in Geographic Data Science, London School of Economics – 2021 – 2023.
- Data Team Lead, Institute for Global Prosperity, UCL – 2019 – 2021.

INDUSTRY & POLICY COLLABORATION

- Dynamic Estimates of Displacement in Disaster Regions workshops with **IOM-DTM**, other UN agencies and UK government ministries – June 2024 – present.
- White Paper for *Data Disparity*, in collaboration with **Snowflake Inc.** – June 2024 – present.
- GIS in R workshops, **Bank of France** – 2022 – 2023.
- GIS in R workshops, **French Ministry of Education** – 2022 – 2023.
- “Quality Sells”: *High-Quality Baukultur as a Success Factor for the Construction and Real Estate Industry*. **Swiss Federal Office of Culture** – 2022.
- *Hamra Neighbourhood Profile 2020*. **UN-Habitat** – 2022.
- *Affordable Housing Options for Beirut*. **Issam Fares Institute** – 2017.
- *The Effects of Compact Urban Development: An Evidence Review*. **OECD and World Resources Institute** – 2016 – 2017.