

Elena Ashtari Tafti

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I am a Senior Economist at Amazon. My academic research focuses on topics at the intersection of innovation, health, and personnel economics, studying how new technologies shape worker skills, organizational performance, and healthcare delivery. I received my PhD in Economics from University College London in 2023 and previously served as an Assistant Professor of Economics at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich.

Education

2017–2023	University College London PhD in Economics
2013–2016	Bocconi University MSc in Economic and Social Sciences
2010–2013	Bocconi University BSc in Economics and Management

Work Experience

2024-	Amazon Senior Economist, Economic Decision Science Team
2023–2024	Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich Assistant Professor
2023	Amazon PhD Intern, Economic Decision Science Team
2018–2023	University College London Teaching Assistant, Advanced and Standard Microeconomic Theory; Health Economics; Game Theory
2020–2022	Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration (CReAM) Research Assistant
2017	Europe Economics Research Consultant
2016–2017	Competition and Markets Authority Graduate Research Intern, Chief Economist Team
2015–2016	European Central Bank Research Intern, DG Research
2015	European Commission Intern, DG Competition

Published Work

State Ownership Biases Government Support—Evidence from the Financial Crisis

with Klaus M. Schmidt and Clarissa Mang

The Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization, 2026

The Relationship Between Nurse Contact Time and Patient Outcomes: A Retrospective Observational Study Using Real-Time Location Data

with Ann-Marie Cannaby, Vanda Carter, and Stephenson Strobel

BMC Health Services Research, 2025

Measuring Nursing Movements Using Real-Time Tracking Data at the Royal Wolverhampton Hospital Trust

with Ann-Marie Cannaby, Vanda Carter, and Stephenson Strobel

Spatial and Spatio-temporal Epidemiology, 2022

The Feasibility and Validity of Using a Real-Time Location System (RTLS) to Measure Bedside Contact Time

with Ann-Marie Cannaby et al.

Journal of Research in Nursing, 2022

Work in Progress

Technology, Skills, and Performance: The Case of Robots in Surgery

NBER Economics of Health Meeting, 2023

Winner, Essen Health Economics Conference Best Paper Award

Killer Deals? The Impact of Hospital Mergers on Hospital Quality

with Thomas P. Hoe

Gender, Careers, and Peers' Gender Mix

with Mimosa Distefano and Tanya Surovtseva

Honors and Scholarships

2023	Best Paper Award Essen Health Economics Conference
2017–2023	Institute for Fiscal Studies Graduate Scholar
2021–2023	University College London Department of Economics Scholarship
2017–2021	Economic and Social Research Council ESRC Scholarship
2016	Competition and Markets Authority Employee Prize

Selected Seminars and Conferences

2024

IFO Digital Innovation and Transformation Seminar; ROCKWOOL Foundation Copenhagen; University of Konstanz; University of Turin and Collegio Carlo Alberto; ASHEcon Conference (San Diego); Essen Health Conference; UCL Alumni Conference

2023

NBER Health Economics Fall Meeting; Health Econometrics Workshop, Johannes Kepler University; Innsbruck University; Institute for Strategy, Technology, and Organization at LMU; European Health Economics Association Spring Seminar; Centre for Primary Care & Health Services Research at the University of Manchester; Essen Health Conference

2022

Tilburg University; Institute for Fiscal Studies

2021

Royal Economic Society Easter School

2020

Essen Health Conference; Judge Business School, University of Cambridge; American Society of Health Economists Conference; CeMMAP Econometrics School

2018

NBER Health Economics Bootcamp

Additional Information

Citizenship	Italian; UK settled status
Languages	Italian (native), English (fluent)
Programming	SQL, Python
Referee Service	Journal of the European Economic Association; Journal of Econometrics; International Journal of Health Economics and Management; Journal of the Royal Statistical Society