

# Sandra Fortini

Department of Decision Sciences  
Bocconi University  
Via Röntgen 1, 20136 Milano, Italy  
[Sandra.fortini@unibocconi.it](mailto:Sandra.fortini@unibocconi.it)  
<http://faculty.unibocconi.it/sandrafortini/>



## Current Academic Position

MAY 2007 – *Associate Professor of Statistics, Bocconi University*

## Past Positions

MAY 1995 – MAY 2007 *Assistant professor of Statistics, Bocconi University*

MAY 1994 – APR 1995 *Researcher,*

*Institute for the Applications of Mathematics and Informatics, National Council of Research*

MAY 1990 – APR 1994 *Research fellow,*

*Institute for the Applications of Mathematics and Informatics, National Council of Research*

## Education

AUG 1993 *Master of Science in Applied Stochastic Systems – University College London*

JUL 1989 *Degree in Mathematics with honours (110/110 cum laude), University of Milano.*

## Editorial activity

JAN 2016 –

*Associate Editor, Sankhya – The Indian Journal of Statistics Series A – Mathematical Statistics and Probability*

## Main publications

- “Uncertainty directed factorial clinical trials”  
*Kotecha, G., Ventz S., Fortini S., Trippa L.*  
*Biostatistics.* Forthcoming.  
<https://academic.oup.com/biostatistics/advance-article/doi/10.1093/biostatistics/kxad036/7603506?login=true>
- Deep Stable neural networks: large-width asymptotics and convergence rates.  
*Favaro S., Fortini S., Peluchetti S.*  
*Bernoulli Journal*, 29, 1350-7265. 2023  
<https://projecteuclid.org/journals/bernoulli/volume-29/issue-3/Deep-stable-neural-networks--Large-width-asymptotics-and-convergence/10.3150/22-BEJ1553.full>

- “Prediction-based uncertainty quantification for exchangeable sequences”  
Fortini S., Petrone S.  
*Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, Series A*, **381**, 0142. 2023  
<https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/abs/10.1098/rsta.2022.0142>
- “Infinite-color randomly reinforced urns with dominant colors”  
Sariev, H., Fortini, S. and Petrone, S.  
*Bernoulli*, 29(1) 132-152. 2023.  
<https://doi.org/10.3150/21-BEJ1452>
- “Infinitely wide limits for deep Stable neural networks: sub-linear, linear and super-linear activation functions”  
Bordino, A., Favaro, S. and Fortini, S.  
*Transactions of Machine Learning Research*. 2022.  
<https://openreview.net/forum?id=A5tIluhDW6>
- “Approximating the Operating Characteristics of Bayesian Uncertainty Directed Trial Designs”  
Bonsaglio, M., Fortini, S., Ventz, S. and trippa, L.  
*Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference*, 221, 90-99. 2022  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jspi.2022.03.001>
- “Infinite-channel deep convolutional stable neural networks”  
Bracale, D. Favaro, S., Fortini, S. and Peluchetti, S.  
*Bayesian Deep Learning NeurIPS Workshop*. 2021  
<http://bayesiandeeplearning.org/2021/papers/4.pdf>
- Predictive constructions based on measure-valued Pólya urn processes  
Sariev H., Fortini, S. and Petrone, S.  
*Mathematics*, 9 (22), 2845. 2021  
<https://doi.org/10.3390/math9222845>
- “Large-width functional asymptotics for deep Gaussian neural networks”  
Bracale, D., Favaro, S., Fortini, S. and Peluchetti, S.  
*International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2021  
<https://openreview.net/pdf?id=0aW6lYOYB7d>
- “Stable behaviour of infinitely wide deep neural networks”  
Favaro S., Fortini, S. and Pelucchetti, S.  
*Proceedings of the 23rd International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics*. 2020.  
<http://proceedings.mlr.press/v108/peluchetti20b/peluchetti20b.pdf>
- “Quasi-Bayes properties of a procedure for sequential learning in mixture models”  
Fortini, S., Petrone S.  
*Journal of the Royal Statistical Society B*, 82(4), 1087-1114. 2020  
<https://rss.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/rssb.12385>
- "On a notion of partially conditionally identically distributed sequences"  
Fortini, S., Petrone S. and Sporysheva P.  
*Stochastic Processes and their Applications*. 128(3), 727- 1072. 2018.  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0304414917301631>

- "Predictive Characterization of Mixtures of Markov Chains"  
Fortini, S. and Petrone S.  
*Bernoulli Journal* 23(3), 1538-1565. 2017  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3150/15-BEJ787>
- "Predictive distribution (de Finetti's view)"  
Fortini, S., Petrone S.  
*Statsref-Statistics Reference Online*. Wiley. 2016  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/9781118445112.stat07831/abstract>
- "Hierarchical reinforced urn processes"  
Fortini, S., Petrone S.  
*Stat. Prob. Lett* 82, 1521 - 1529. 2012  
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0167715212001551>
- "Predictive construction of priors in Bayesian nonparametrics"  
Fortini, S., Petrone S.  
*Braz. J. Probab. Stat.* 6,4,423 - 449. 2012  
<https://projecteuclid.org/euclid.bjps/1341320251>
- "Central Limit Theorem with Exchangeable Summands and Mixtures of Stable Laws as Limits"  
Fortini, S., Ladelli L, Regazzini, E.  
*BUMI* 5,3, 515 - 542. 2012  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/1204.4357>
- "Recursive Equations for the predictive distributions of some determinantal processes" Cifarelli D.M., Fortini, S.  
*Stat. Prob. Lett.* 81, 8-15. 2011  
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0167715210002622>
- "A Poisson Approximation for Colored Graphs Under Exchangeability"  
Fortini, S., Cerquetti A.  
*Sankhya A* 68 183-197. 2006  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/25053492>
- "A characterization for mixtures of Semi Markov processes"  
Epifani I., Fortini, S. and Ladelli L.  
*Stat. Prob. Lett.* 60 (4): 445-457. 2002  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0167715202003243>
- "On mixtures of distributions of Markov chains"  
Fortini, S., Ladelli L., Petris G., Regazzini E.  
*Stoch. Proc. Appl.* 100, 147-165. 2002  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0304414902000935>
- "On the use of the concentration function in Bayesian robustness"  
Fortini, S and Ruggeri F.  
In *Robust Bayesian Analysis. Lecture Notes in Statistics*, pp.109-126. Springer-Verlag. 2000  
<https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9780387988665>
- "Exchangeability, predictive distributions and parametric models"  
Fortini, S., Ladelli L.  
*Sankhya, A*, Vol62-1, pp. 86-109. 2000  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/25051292>

- “On parametric models for invariant probability measures”.  
*Berti P., Fortini S., Ladelli L., Regazzini E., Rigo P.*  
*Quaderni di Statistica. Portici*, Vol. 2, pp. 39-57. 2000
- “Differential properties of the concentration function”.  
*Fortini S., Ruggeri F.*  
*Sankhya, A*, Vol. 59, pp. 345-364. 1997  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/25051164>
- “A central limit problem for partially exchangeable random variables”  
*Fortini S., Ladelli L., Regazzini E.*  
*Theory Probab. Appl.* Vol. 41, Num. 2, pp. 353-379. 1996  
<http://www.mathnet.ru/links/a4695b480973bab2a1d2dea68c0d048b/tvp2943.pdf>
- “Concentration function and sensitivity to the prior”  
*Fortini S., Ruggeri F.*  
*JISS*, Vol. 4, pp. 283-297. 1995  
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/BF02589116>
- “On defining neighborhoods of measures through the concentration function”  
*Fortini S., Ruggeri F.*  
*Sankhya, series A*, Vol. 56, Parte 3, pp. 444 - 457. 1994  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/25051010>
- “Concentration functions and Bayesian robustness”  
*Fortini S., Ruggeri F.*  
*J. Stat. Plann. Inference*, Vol. 40, Num. 2/3, pp. 205 - 220. 1994  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/037837589490121X>
- “Concentration function and coefficients of divergence for signed measures”  
*Fortini S., Ruggeri F.*  
*JISS* Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 17 - 34. 1993  
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/BF02589073>

### **Working papers**

- Leveraging External Data for Testing Experimental Therapies with Biomarker Interactions in Randomized Clinical Trials.  
*Ren, B. Ferrari, F. Fortini, S. Trippa, S., Vents, S.*
- Exchangeability, prediction and predictive modeling in Bayesian statistics.  
*Fortini, S., Petrone, S.*  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2402.10126>
- “Non-asymptotic approximations of Gaussian neural networks via second-order Poincaré inequalities”  
*Bordino, A., Favaro, S., Fortini, S.*  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2304.04010>

- “Large-width asymptotics for ReLU neural Networks with  $\alpha$ -stable initializations”  
Favaro, S., Fortini, S., Peluchetti, S.  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2206.08065>

### Recent talks, events and seminars

*Un'introduzione ai limiti di scala delle reti neurali artificiali*  
UMI-PRISMA Webinar – 5-2-2024.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5puCfBWCdRA>

*Predictive constructions based on Measure-valued Pólya urn processes.*  
King's College Webinar  
31-3-2022.

*Making AI for everyone: the case of business and media*  
Bocconi Hephaestus event  
10 April 2024.

*Dialogo sui fondamenti della Probabilità*  
Round Table – Bocconi University  
16 March 2023

*Large-width asymptotics for ReLU neural networks with  $\alpha$ -stable initializations*  
IMS International Conference on Statistics and Data Science  
Lisbon, 18-21 December 2023

*Prediction-based uncertainty quantification in learning models*  
European Meeting of Statisticians  
Warsaw, 2-7 July 2023

*Stochastic Approximation Techniques for Bayesian Uncertainty Directed Trial Designs*  
IMS Meeting  
London, 27-30 June 2022

*Machine Learning: come le macchine apprendono dai dati*  
MeetMeTonight19  
Milano 27-28 September 2019

### Research groups

- 2022 PRIN-PNRR – *Measuring Biodiversity via Bayesian Nonparametrics: Estimation, Clustering and Uncertainty Quantification*
- 2017 – 2020 PRIN – *Modern Bayesian nonparametric methods*
- 1996 – 1998 PRIN – *Decisioni statistiche: teoria e applicazioni.*
- 1998 – 2000 PRIN – *Modelli statistici: basi probabilistiche e procedure per l'inferenza e le decisioni.*
- 1993 – 1994 PRIN – *Inferenza statistica: basi probabilistiche e sviluppi metodologici.*

## Scientific Societies

*Institute of Mathematical Statistics,  
International Society for Bayesian Analysis,  
Italian Statistical Society,  
Italian Mathematical Society.*

## Main teaching activities

### **Bachelor**

2020 – *Probability BAI*  
2007 – 2020 *Quantitative Methods for Finance CLEF*

### **Master**

2023 – 2024 *Statistics and Probability DSBA*  
2007 – 2021 *Financial Econometrics and Empirical Finance CLEFIN.*

### **PhD**

2005 – *Probability I, PhD Statistics*  
2018 – *Stochastic Processes I, PhD Statistics*  
2006 – *Probability, PhD in Economics and Finance*

## Main teaching publications

Fortini, S., Gaffi F. Introduction to Probability – *BAI Series, Volume 2*, EGEA 2023

Fortini, S. Modelli Statistici per le Applicazioni Finanziarie. EGEA 2010