

## **Application Early-Career Scholars Research Fund**

**Anna Noci**

Ph.D. Student at the University of Insubria, Italy

### **The Artist Economist and the Economics of the Arts**

The scope of my research is to collect useful material to complete my Ph.D. thesis on William J. Baumol. The thesis consists in a minimum of three papers and the third paper will be on the role of Baumol in the development of the economics of performing arts. Baumol, together with William G. Bowen, wrote the first book about the problem of the performing art sector. He was passionate about theater himself, but this interest was totally separate from his professional work as an economist. After the publication of the book, Baumol published many other studies on the economics and history of performing art sector, including amazing researches on Mozart and theaters in ancient Greece. He even started some concrete projects to overcome some problems that he discovered in his researches. For example, a project to make theater tickets cheaper in order to increase and diversify theater public. I want to reconstruct his path toward the writing of *Performing Art the Economic Dilemma* and the evolution of his studies on the economics of performing art sector, including the link between his professional work and his personal interests. This research will cover an unstudied subject in the history of economic thought and it will highlight the role and thought of an important economist like Baumol for contemporary economics.

In order to complete this research, I plan to visit the Economists' Papers Archive at Duke University, North Carolina (USA). The archive has been recently enriched with new materials about Baumol and the collection has been processed in order to be more accessible. Moreover, Baumol's archive is huge and I will have the chance to look at the boxes that I did not consult the last time I went to Duke as CHOPE Fellow, in 2018.

The expenses include the travel costs for 740€ (828,80\$<sup>1</sup>), accommodation for 500-700€(560-784\$) per month and healthcare insurance expenses for 300€ (340\$). The living costs are on average of 100€ (112\$) per week. I will not benefit of other grants or funds for this research. I will only benefit of the scholarship provided by the Italian Ministry of Education, for a total of 1125€ (1260\$) per month.

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<sup>1</sup> The exchange rate is the one of the May 15<sup>th</sup>.