

SARA ZANOTTA

Contact details:

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Affiliation: Università degli Studi di Pavia

EDUCATION

PhD candidate (ABD) in History, 10/2021 – ongoing

Università degli Studi di Pavia – Pavia, Italy

Research project on the transborder connections of the Iranian Constitutional Revolution, joining together constitutional, intellectual, and global history. I investigate the role of Iranian communities abroad in connecting Iran with other ongoing constitutional developments across Asia. Supervisor: Professor Massimo Zaccaria. Funded by a full PhD scholarship of Università degli Studi di Pavia (competitive).

Visiting doctoral fellow, scheduled 01/2024 – 03/2024

Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Freie Universität Berlin – Berlin, Germany

Research activities supervised by Professor Ulrike Freitag, professor of Islamic history.

Visiting PhD student, 04/2023 – ongoing

Department of Iranian Studies, Institute of Oriental Studies, Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg – Bamberg, Germany

Research activities supervised by Professor Christoph U. Werner, professor of Iranian studies. Funded by the International Mobility Grant of Università degli Studi di Pavia (competitive).

Erasmus+ visiting PhD student, 01/2023 – 03/2023

Central European University – Vienna, Austria

Research activities supervised by Professor Nadia al-Baghdadi, professor of modern Islamic history. Funded by the Erasmus+ scholarship and the International Mobility Grant of Università degli Studi di Pavia (competitive).

MA in International Relations, 09/2019 – 07/2021

Università degli Studi di Milano – Milano, Italy

Final mark: 110/110 cum laude (honors). Curriculum: International politics and regional dynamics (entirely taught in English). Regions: MENA and Sub-Saharan Africa. Thesis in History and Politics of North Africa and the Middle East: *Hoping for another “Islamic Awakening”? The reaction of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Arab Uprisings*. Supervisor: Professor Elisa Giunchi; co-supervisor: Professor Alessandro Colombo.

BA in International Studies and European Institutions, 09/2016 – 07/2019

Università degli Studi di Milano – Milano, Italy

Final mark: 110/110 cum laude (honors).

Erasmus+, 09/2018 – 01/2019

Sciences Po Lille – Lille, France

Average mark of the validated exams: 30/30 cum laude. Selected on a competitive basis by the University of Milan for the Erasmus+ scholarship.

COURSES

Entangled Histories of Concepts in the Bengal to Balkans Complex, scheduled 09/2023 – *Orient-Institut Istanbul* – Istanbul, Turkey

Intensive course of Persian, 10/2021 – 07/2022 – *Dehkhoda Lexicon Institute and International Center for Persian Studies* – Teheran, Iran

Summer school TOMidEast, 07/2021 – 07/2021 – *Università degli Studi di Torino* – Torino, Italy

Diploma in Geopolitics and Global Security, 03/2020 – 07/2020 – *ISPI-Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale* – Milano, Italy

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Teaching assistant of History and Politics of North Africa and the Middle East, 09/2021 – ongoing, *Università degli Studi di Milano* – Milano, Italy

Teaching assistant of Comparative Constitutional Law, 03/2022 – 09/2022 and 12/2022 – ongoing, *Università degli Studi di Milano* – Milano, Italy

Teaching assistant of History and Institutions of Islamic Countries, 07/2020 – 09/2021, *Università degli Studi di Milano* – Milano, Italy

Teaching assistant of the BA in International Politics, Law and Economics, 02/2021 – 07/2021 *Università degli Studi di Milano* – Milano, Italy

Assistance to the professors during the lectures. Selected on a competitive basis.

Invited lectures:

- “Women and transborder networks in the Iranian Constitutional Revolution”, 2-hour lecture for the *PhD in History*, 21 February 2023 – University of Pavia, Italy.
 - “The heritage of Karbala: The Sunni-Shia divide between religion and politics”, 2-hour lecture in the course of *History of Islam in Africa* (MA course) on invitation by Prof. Massimo Zaccaria, 18 November 2022 – University of Pavia, Italy.
 - “The Iranian Constitutions: Variations in the Iranian Institutional Structure from 1906 to the Islamic Republic”, 2-hour lecture in the course of *Comparative Constitutional Law* (BA course) on invitation by Dr. Arianna Angeli, 25 March 2022 – University of Milan, Italy.
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Deputy chief of the editorial staff, 07/2021 – ongoing – *Nuovi Autoritarismi e Democrazie: Diritto, Istituzioni, Società* – Milano, Italy

Research fellow, 12/2020 – ongoing – *The Square – Mediterranean Centre for Revolutionary Studies* – Milano, Italy

Supervisor of the editorial staff for the regions MENA, Africa, and Asia, 07/2019 – ongoing – *Osservatorio su Nuovi Autoritarismi e Democrazie* – Milano, Italy

Research trainee (program Mediterranean, Middle East, and Africa), 04/2021 – 07/2021 – *IAI-Istituto Affari Internazionali* – Roma, Italy

Member of the editorial staff, 07/2019 – 07/2021 – *Nuovi Autoritarismi e Democrazie: Diritto, Istituzioni, Società* – Milano, Italy

Research trainee (area MENA), 09/2020 – 10/2020 – *CESPI-Centro Studi Problemi Internazionali* – Sesto San Giovanni, Italy

Research trainee (History of International Relations), 05/2020 – 07/2020 – *Villa Vigoni-Centro Italo-Tedesco per il Dialogo Europeo* – Menaggio, Italy

LANGUAGES

Italian: native

English: ●●●●● – IELTS 8.5

French: ●●●●● – DALF C2

Persian: ●●●●○ – Certificate by Dekhoda ICPS – advanced 1

German: ●●●●○ – OnSET Deutsch B2

Spanish: ●●●○○

Ottoman Turkish: ●●○○○

Turkish ●○○○○

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

2023 – *Travel grant (300 CHF)* to take part in the workshop “Mobile Actors in Global History” at the Graduate Institute of Geneva, funded by Fondation Pierre Du Bois. Competitive.

2023 – *International mobility grant* – Università degli Studi di Pavia (two months at Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg). Competitive.

2023 – *International mobility grant* – Università degli Studi di Pavia (one semester at Central European University of Vienna). Competitive.

2023 – *Erasmus+ scholarship* – Università degli Studi di Pavia (one semester at Central European University of Vienna). Competitive.

2022 – *Award (\$500) of the ECMC Chair in Islamic Studies Mojtaba Mahdavi for the first best paper presented at the International Graduate Student Virtual Symposium: Rethinking MENA and the Muslim World* – University of Alberta (Edmonton, Canada). Competitive.

2022 – *Funding for the organization of an international winter school* – GLOBEC - Center for Global Strategic Engagement, PhD in History of Università degli Studi di Pavia and Collegio Ghislieri – with my PhD colleagues Sofia Miola (project manager), Giacomo Casucci, and Pietro Repishti. Competitive.

2021 – 2024 – *Full PhD scholarship* – Università degli Studi di Pavia. Competitive.

2020 – 2021 – *Partial exemption of the second instalment on account of merit* – University of Milan.

2018 – 2019 – *Erasmus+ scholarship* – Università degli Studi di Milano (one semester at Sciences Po Lille). Competitive.

2017 – 2019 – *Partial exemption of the second installment on account of merit* – Università degli Studi di Milano.

2016 – 2017 – *Total exemption of the second installment on account of merit* – Università degli Studi di Milano.

PUBLICATIONS

- “Iraniani ‘oltre confine’: il ruolo degli iraniani a Istanbul nell’emergere del movimento costituzionale” (in English: “Iranians ‘beyond border’: the role of the Iranians in Istanbul in the emergence of the constitutional movement”), under review (proceedings of the conference *Il confine: divergenze, relazioni, sconfinamenti e ibridazioni* held 20-21 October 2022 at the University of Calabria).
- “In support of a constitutional government: Women’s voices in the Iranian Constitutional Revolution”, in *Afriche e Orienti*, under review
- “Oil, water, and the veil: A history of the recent Iranian waves of protests”, in G.M. Arrigo and J. Franceschini (eds.), *Revolutionary Times. Mediterranean Perspectives*, Aracne, Roma, forthcoming (2023)
- Review of “Davoudi, Leonardo. *Persian Petroleum. Oil, Empire and Revolution in Late Qajar Iran*, I.B. Tauris, 2021, 240 pp.”, in *Maydan. Rivista sui mondi arabi, semitici e islamici*, Vol. 2, 2022.
- “Constitution-making in Libya after the fall of Gaddafi: the role of national and transnational actors”, in *Nuovi Autoritarismi e Democrazie: Diritto, Istituzioni, Società*, V. 3 N. 2 (2021), pp. 26-48, <https://riviste.unimi.it/index.php/NAD/article/view/16732> (blind peer-review)
- “Religion and the State: from the margins to the Arab Mashreq’s centre”, review of Aziz Al-Azmeh, Harith Hasan, Harout Akdedian, Nadia al-Baghdadi (eds.), “Striking from the margins: State, religion and authority in the Middle East”, in *The International Spectator*, September 2021, <https://www.theinternationalspectator.com/post/short-review-religion-and-the-state-from-the-margins-to-the-arab-mashreq-s-political-centre>
- “Managing expectations from Iran’s upcoming presidential vote”, in *IAI Commentaries*, 21130, Istituto Affari Internazionali, June 2021, pp. 1-6, <https://www.iai.it/en/pubblicazioni/managing-expectations-irans-upcoming-presidential-vote>
- “The Guardian Council and its role in Iranian elections”, in *Osservatorio su Nuovi Autoritarismi e Democrazie*, March 2020. <http://nad.unimi.it/the-guardian-council-and-its-role-in-iranian-elections/>
- “The evolution of the *pasdaran*: from a revolutionary militia to a political actor”, in *Osservatorio su Nuovi Autoritarismi e Democrazie*, gennaio 2020. <http://nad.unimi.it/the-evolution-of-the-pasdar-an-from-a-revolutionary-militia-to-a-political-actor/>

I have also written short articles relating to constitutions, protest movements and elections in the Middle East and North Africa for *Nuovi Autoritarismi e Democrazie: Diritto, Istituzioni, Società*, *Osservatorio su Nuovi Autoritarismi e Democrazie*, *theSquare*, *In Terris*, *Opinio Juris – Law and Politics Review*, and *CESPI*.

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

Speaker in academic conferences, seminars and roundtables:

- “Voices at a distance: Iranians in the Ottoman empire and their activism in spreading news about the Constitutional Revolution”, in *Turkologentag 2023 – Fourth European Convention of Turkic, Ottoman and Turkish Studies*. Forthcoming 21-23 September 2023 – Universität Wien, Austria (selected – call for papers)
- “Doing the revolution from abroad: the ‘diplomatic activities’ and the transborder networks of the Iranian *anjomans*”, in *10th European Conference of Iranian Studies*. Forthcoming 21-25 August 2023 – Universiteit Leiden (selected – call for papers)
- “Joining a wave of constitutional developments: Iranians, print media, and the establishment of transnational networks in the late 19th and early 20th centuries”, in *Global History Student Conference*. Forthcoming 1-2 July 2023 – Freie Universität Berlin (selected – call for papers)
- “Constitutionalists at a distance: the role of Iranian networks across Asia in the Constitutional Revolution”, in *Mobile Actors in Global History*. Forthcoming 3-4 April 2023 – Graduate Institute of Geneva and Fondation Pierre Du Bois, Switzerland (selected – call for papers)
- “Reflecting on constitutionalism from Istanbul, Temir Khan Shura and Calcutta: Iranian publishing activities and the emergence of Iranian-Asian constitutional connections”, in *NTU Postgraduate History Workshop*. 14 February 2023 – Nanyang Technological University of Singapore (selected – call for papers)
- “Paving the way for legal transformations in 19th-century Iran. Mirza Malkom Khan and his treatises on the necessity of law”, in *Cambridge Legal and Social History Workshop*. 7 February 2023 – University of Cambridge (selected – call for papers)
- “Constitutionalists at a distance: the role of Iranians abroad in adopting a constitution for late Qajar Iran”, *Research seminar of the Department of History*. 30 January 2023 – Central European University, Austria (invited)
- Roundtable “New Directions and ‘Newness’ in Global History Research”, in *Edinburgh Centre for Global History Graduate Workshop*. 14 December 2022 – University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom (invited)
- “Mirza Malkom Khan and his proposals for legal transformation in 19th-century Iran”, in *Legal orders under pressure: Non-Western experiences of legal transformations in the 19th and early 20th centuries*. 7-9 December 2022 – University of Vienna, Max-Planck-Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory, and Max-Planck-Research Group “Translations and Transitions: Legal Practice in 19th Century Japan, China, and the Ottoman Empire” (selected – call for papers)
- “The Asian ‘print connections’ of the Iranian constitutional movement: a global history perspective”, in *Edinburgh Centre for Global History Graduate Workshop*. 2 November 2022 – University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom (selected – call for papers)
- “Iranians ‘beyond border’: the role of the Iranians in Istanbul in the emergence of the constitutional movement” (in Italian, “Iraniani ‘oltre confine’: il ruolo degli iraniani a Istanbul nell’emergere del movimento costituzionale”), in *Il confine: divergenze, relazioni, sconfinamenti e ibridazioni*. 20-21 October 2022 – University of Calabria (selected – call for papers)
- “Which religious minorities? A comparative study of the Iranian constitutions of 1906-1907 and 1979” (in French, « Quelles minorités religieuses ? Une étude comparée des constitutions iraniennes de 1906-1907 et du 1979 »), in *9^{es} Journées d’études de la Halqa « Marges, Marginalités, Minorations et Minorités dans les mondes musulmans contemporains (XIX^e-XXI^e siècle) »*. 9-10 June 2022 – École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, France (selected – call for papers)
- “Rethinking the diffusion of constitutional ideas in the Islamic world”, in *Graduate Student Virtual Symposium: Rethinking MENA and the Muslim World*. 31 May 2022 – University of Alberta, Canada (selected – call for papers) – winner of the award for the first best paper

- *Trasformazioni politiche ed equilibri internazionali ai tempi del Covid-19*. 16 July 2020 – University of Milan, Italy (invited)

Speaker in events for a non-specialist audience:

- *Iran, la questione femminile dagli anni '70 ad oggi*. 21 November 2022 – MSOI Milano (branch of the United Nations Youth Association of Italy). With Prof. Elisa Giunchi and Dr. Rassa Ghaffari. Invited.
- *Hijab. La condizione femminile in Iran*. 11 November 2022 – Forum di Omegna. With Giacomo Longhi, translator of Persian literature. Invited.

Member of the organizing committee:

- *Circulating histories. Forms and limits of exchange from ancient times to the contemporary age*. 5-6 June 2023 – University of Pavia, Italy
- *Entangled Food Histories. Mobility in food cultures from ancient history to contemporary times*. 12-16 and 21 December 2022 – University of Pavia & Collegio Ghislieri, Italy
- *By what authority? The historical narration as a (de)legitimizing instrument*. 23-24 May 2022 – University of Pavia, Italy
- *Global Labour Scapes*. 13-17 December 2021 – University of Pavia, Italy

Bamberg, 8th May 2023