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University of Naples “L’Orientale”  
Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies  
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## Curriculum Vitae

Rome (Italy), 13 February 1983  
Nationality: Italian, Swiss

Habilitation (Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale) as Associate Professor of East Asian History  
issued by the Italian Ministry of University on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Education:

- 2016, March 9    PhD, East & South Asian Studies  
[thesis: ‘Confucian World Order: Kang Youwei’s *Datongshu*’]  
Advisor: Prof. Dr. Donatella Guida (*Chinese History*)  
Dept. of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies  
University of Naples “L’Orientale” (Italy)
- 2015, July        “ToChina Summer School”, Workshop on Contemporary China  
Dept. of Cultures, Politics and Society  
University of Turin (Italy)
- 2009, Jan-Dec    Postgraduate Specialization Course,  
International Protection of Human Rights,  
Dept. of Political Science  
Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)
- 2008, July        MA *cum laude*, Oriental Languages and Cultures  
[thesis: ‘Political History of Amdo-Qinghai, 1916-1932’]  
Dept. of Oriental Studies  
Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)
- 2004, Dec        BA *cum laude*, Oriental Languages and Cultures  
[thesis: ‘Japan and the Chinese Revolution of 1911’]  
Dept. of Oriental Studies  
Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)
- 2001, July        High School Diploma, 100/100  
Liceo Classico Giulio Cesare, Rome (Italy)

### **Employment:**

- 2020, Nov – present      *Ricercatore* – Assistant Professor of Chinese History  
**University of Naples “L’Orientale”** (Italy)
- 2017, Oct – 2020, Sep      *Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter* – Postdoc researcher in Sinology  
**Friedrich-Alexander University in Erlangen** (Germany)
- 2017, Apr - July      *Professore a contratto* – Adj. Professor of East Asian Religions  
**Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna** (Italy)
- 2017, Apr – May      *Professore a contratto* – Adj. Professor of Chinese History  
**International University of Languages and Media** (Italy)
- 2017, Feb - July      *Professore a contratto* – Adj. Professor of Chinese Culture  
**D’Annunzio University in Chieti-Pescara** (Italy)

### **Research Fellowships & Grants:**

- 2024, March-June      Fulbright Visiting Research Scholar.  
Project title: “Conceptualizing American Federalism in 20th-century China & Taiwan”  
**University of Chicago** (USA)
- 2023, March-July      Visiting Researcher.  
Project title: “Translating The Polis: Intellectuals In Republican China And The Reception Of Ancient Greek Political Concepts”  
**Centre for Advanced Studies**, Sofia (Bulgaria)
- 2023, January      Young Talents Research Grant (10000€)  
**University of Naples “L’Orientale”** (internal competition)
- 2022, March – July      Research Fellow.  
Project title: “Chinese Narratives on the Collapse of Yugoslavia”  
**Polish Institute of Advanced Studies**, Warsaw (Poland)
- 2021, May – June      Research Fellow.  
Project title: “A Conceptual History of Federalism in 20th-century China”  
**European Institute for Chinese Studies**, Paris (France)

### **Memberships & Affiliations**

- 2023, January – present      Non resident Senior Fellow  
**ChinaMed Project – Torino World Affairs Institute**
- 2022, June – present      Fellow  
**Royal Historical Society**

2022, January – present    Board Member  
**European Association for Chinese Philosophy**

**Editorial Duties:**

2016, Jan - present        Managing Editor, *Ming Qing Yanjiu*,  
University of Naples “L’Orientale” / Brill

**Research Interests:**

Chinese political thought; Intellectual, political and religious history of late Qing and Republican China; Conceptual History in China; Global Conceptual History; Chinese Historiography and Philosophy of History; Chinese Federalism; Utopianism in East Asia.

**Languages:**

Italian (*native*)  
English (*TOEFL iBT 112/120*)  
Standard Chinese (*very good command*)  
German (*fluent*)  
French (*conversational*)  
Japanese (*basic*)

**List of Publications:**

- Monographs:

*Confucian Concord: Reform, Utopia and Global Teleology in Kang Youwei's Datong Shu*. Leiden: Brill, 2020. ISBN: 978-90-04-43444-8

- Edited Volumes:

*Oriens Extremus 59*, special issue on “Chinese Political Thought: Global Perspectives”, co-edited with Lisa Indraccolo. 2022.

- Articles and Book Chapters:

“Lo ‘specchio americano’ di Wang Huning (1955-): il disincanto della democrazia e la guerra dei sogni. In Marco Fumian (ed), *Leggere la Cina, capire il mondo*, Milano: Mimesis, 2025, pp. 139-165.

“Compare to Compete: Wang Huning’s Political Thought and the 21st-century Geopolitics of Concepts”, *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies* 26.2, 2024, pp. 1-18.

“Between Modernism and Utopianism: The Philosophies of Kang Youwei and Liang Qichao”. In Selusi Ambrogio and Dawid Rogacz (eds), *Chinese Philosophy and its Thinkers. From Ancient Times to the Present Day*, London: Bloomsbury, 2024, vol. 3, pp. 91-105.

(with Anne Schmiedl and Phillip Grimberg), “Of Words, Change, and Transplantations. Reshaping Chinese Concepts between Empire and Modernity”, *Contributions to the History of Concepts*, 18 (2), 2023, pp. 18-27. <https://doi:10.3167/choc.2023.180202>

“From Modern to Feudal: Conceptual Articulations of Federalism in Republican China”, *Contributions to the History of Concepts*, 18 (2), 2023, pp. 64-79. <https://doi:10.3167/choc.2023.180205>

“A Federal Nightmare: The People’s Republic of China and the Breakup of Yugoslavia”, *Global Perspectives*, 4 (1), 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1525/gp.2023.75315>

“Il Centro, il Potere, la Tecnica: lo Han Feizi e la “forza” secondo Xi Jinping (Centre, Power, Technique: the Han Feizi and Xi Jinping’s concept of “strength”)”, *Sulla via del Catai*, XV, 27, 2022, pp. 13-32.

“Bridging Chinese and global intellectual history: four utopian impulses against boundaries” (Review Essay of Peter Zarrow’s *Abolishing Boundaries*), *Global Intellectual History Journal*, 7 (6), 2022, pp. 1065-1069.

“Swiss Enchantment. Modern Chinese Intellectuals and a Federal Utopia”, *Asian Studies*, 9.2, 2021, pp. 145-164.

“Hong Kong, the Chinese Myth of Unity and the Failure of Federalism”. EURICS Briefs, 7, 2020. [http://www.eurics.eu/upload/document/20201218061204\\_eurics-december2020.pdf](http://www.eurics.eu/upload/document/20201218061204_eurics-december2020.pdf)

“The Vital Centre: Understanding the Concept of Yao 要 in the *Han Feizi* 韓非子”, *Asiatische Studien*, 74.3, 2020: pp. 635-654.

“Russia, China, and the universalism of modernity: the “account of the reforms of Peter the great” by Kang Youwei”, *Journal of Modern Chinese History*, 14.1, 2020, pp. 1-22.

“A Harmonious Dialectic. Tang Yijie 汤一介 (1927-2014) and the ‘confucianization’ of Marxism”, *Oriens Extremus*, 57/58, 2018-19, pp. 71-86.

(with Chiara Ghidini) “Cosmopolitismo, Nazionalismo e Religioni nella Cina tardo-imperiale”, *Quaderni di Studi e Materiali di Storia delle Religioni*, 18, 2017, pp. 440-449.

“L’Impero invisibile: il ‘nazionalismo tradizional-socialista’ come cifra culturale della presidenza Xi?”, *Geopolitica*, 6.1, 2017, pp. 9-22.

“If China had a Pope’: Catholicism and the Political Role of Religion in Kang Youwei’s Italian Journal (*Yidali youji*)”. Francesco Guardiani et al (eds), *Italy and China: Centuries of Dialogue*, Florence: Franco Cesati Editore, 2017, pp. 233-249.

“Transforming Benevolence: Classicism, Buddhism and Politics in Kang Youwei’s Lecture on ‘Ren’ 講仁字”, *Archiv orientální* 85, 2017, pp. 99-117.

“‘You Don’t Wear a Fur in Summer’ : Kang Youwei’s ‘Impartial Words on Republicanism’ (1917) and the Fate of Chinese Democracy”, *Asiatische Studien*, 71.1, 2017, pp. 5-30.

“A Tale of Two Utopias: Kang Youwei’s Communism, Mao Zedong’s Classicism and the ‘Accommodating Look’ of the Marxist Li Zehou”, *Asian Studies*, 5.1, 2017, pp. 103-122.

“‘Poisoning China’: Kang Youwei’s ‘Saving the Country’ and His Stance Against Han Nationalism”, *Ming Qing Yanjiu*, 18, 2014, pp. 133-158.

#### - Book Reviews:

Review of 张翔: 《大同立教——康有为政教思想研究》(Zhang Xiang: Establishment of Confucianism on Datong: A Study of Kang Youwei’s Political and Religious Philosophy). *European Research Centre for Chinese Studies*, February 2024 [online]. <https://ercs.hypotheses.org/2112>

Thomas Tanase, *“Jusqu’aux limites du monde” : la papauté et la mission franciscaine, de l’Asie de Marco Polo à l’Amérique de Christophe Colomb* (École française de Rome, 2013) . *Ming Qing Yanjiu*, 18, 2014, pp. 191-192.

Gang Zhao, *The Qing Opening to the Ocean. Chinese Maritime Policies, 1684-1757* (Honolulu, University of Hawaii Press, 2013) . *Ming Qing Yanjiu*, 18, 2014, pp. 192-195.

Peter Zarrow, *After Empire: The Conceptual Transformation of the Chinese State, 1885-1924* (Stanford University Press, 2012) . *Ming Qing Yanjiu*, 18, 2014, pp. 195-197.

Claudine Salmon (ed.), *Literary Migrations: Traditional Chinese Fiction in Asia (17th - 20th Centuries)*, (Iseas Publishing, 2013) . *Ming Qing Yanjiu*, 18, 2014, pp. 197-198.

#### **Conference Presentations, Talks and Lectures:**

“From “Self-Determination” to “Secession”: what the Chinese Communist Party learned from Kosovo”.

International Convention of Asia Scholars ICAS, Airlangga University, **Surabaya**, 28-31 August 2024.

“Huang Zunxian (1847-1905) as a “Confucian federalist”? Provincial self-government in China and the global circulation of political models”.

Inaugural Conference of the Society for Global Nineteenth-Century Studies, **Singapore** Management University, 19-22 June 2023.

“Conceptualizing Self-government in Republican China: Three Essays by Zhang Weici”.  
Conference of the British and Irish Association for Political Thought, University of **Oxford**, 5-7 January 2023.

“Building Sovereignty Through Names: The Concept of Ming 名 in the Han Feizi 韩非子”.  
Workshop “The Power of Language: Correcting Names in Chinese Thought and Society Past and Present”, University of **Prague**, 17-19 November 2022.

“Weaving the Periphery into the Centre: A Sociological Gaze on the Political Philosophy of Kang Youwei (1858–1927)”.  
International Conference “Sociological Approaches to Modern Confucian Philosophy”, University of **Basel**, 29–31 August 2022.

“Han Fei and Thomas Hobbes: A Trans-Chronic Dialogue on Free Will, Power and Politics”.  
International Conference “Beyond Free Will: Variety in Understanding of Choice, Luck, and Necessity”, University of **Vilnius**, 21 June 2022.

“Translating Federalism in Republican China: A Conceptual Analysis of Chen Jiongming’s Modest Proposal for the Unification of China”.  
Conference “From Empire to Federation: Ideas and Practices of Diversity Management in Eurasia, 1905–1950”, **Heidelberg** University, 23-24 May 2022 [online].

“Race, Reproduction, Resources: Kang Youwei’s *Datongshu* as a 20th-century Global Prophecy”.  
Lecture at the Seminar on Neo-Confucian Studies, **Columbia** University, 1 April 2022 [online].

“Self-government (*zizhi*) in China from the late Qing to the Republic: a contested concept in the search for political modernity”.  
Lecture in the Series “New Perspectives on Modernity in China”, CEMEAS, University of **Göttingen**, 28 January 2022.

“A Man Beyond the Race: Kang Youwei’s (1858-1927) Prophecy of Ethnic Assimilation, Between Stereotypes and Universal Aspirations”.  
International Workshop “The Other in Chinese History and Thought: Territory, Race, Culture, Philosophy, Religion”, **Ghent** University, 15-16 November 2021 [online].

“Centralization, Secrecy and Technique: The Pre-imperial Legalist School of Thought and its Authoritarian Legacy in China”.  
Workshop “Authoritarian Moments”, MANCEPT Conference on Political Theory, University of **Manchester**, 7 September 2021 [online].

“Revolutionary Change vs Harmonious Transformation: Ai Siqi, Mao Zedong, Tang Yijie: Chinese Interpretations of Marxist Dialectics”.  
NACS Biennial Conference, University of **Helsinki**, 10 June 2021 [online].

“Why did Chinese Federalism fail? Conceptual Analysis and Global Perspectives”.  
Invited Speaker, Lecture Series in Global History, Vrije Universiteit **Amsterdam**, 25 March 2021 [online].

“A Great Concord Beyond the Nations: the Chinese Global Utopia of Kang Youwei (1858-1927)”.

International Thought Network Conference, “States, Empires, Global Spaces. Visions of order beyond liberal internationalism”, University of **Manchester**, 8 November 2019.

“The Imperial Algorithm: Han Fei’s “techniques” (*shu* 術) and the Politics of Artificial Intelligence”.

European Association for Chinese Philosophy, Third Biennial Conference, University of **Ghent**, 5-7 September 2019.

“From Modern to Feudal: The Conceptual Rejection of Federalism in Republican China” (panel organizer: “Across Imperial Boundaries: Reshaping Chinese Concepts between Tradition and Modernity”).

22nd International Conference on the History of Concepts - Beyond Borders: Conceptualizing Boundaries, Crossings and Disruptions, El Colegio de **México**, 25-27 July 2019.

“The Will and the Centre: Understanding *Yao* 要 in the Han Feizi”. (Panel co-organizer with Lisa Indraccolo, University of Zürich).

ISCP 21st International Conference on Chinese Philosophy, University of **Bern**, 2-5 July 2019.

“Globalizing Confucianism, Confucianizing Marxism. Philology and Politics in the Philosophy of Tang Yijie 汤一介 (1927-2014)”.

ULB-EASt Conference – 20<sup>th</sup> century East Asian Philosophies. Intercultural Entanglements & Original Contributions, Université Libre de **Bruxelles**, 6-7 May 2019.

“The Church of Confucius. Kang Youwei (1858-1927) and the Conceptual Debate on Religion”. KHK Monday Meeting – Invited Speaker, Käte Hamburger Kolleg, Ruhr-Universität **Bochum**, 8 April 2019.

“Swiss Enchantment: 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Chinese Intellectuals and the Helvetic model. Democracy, Federalism and Utopia”.

22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Conference of the European Association for Chinese Studies, University of **Glasgow**, 29 August – 1 September 2018.

“One Will, One Power. Determinism and Centralism in the *Han Feizi*: Historical significance and Comparative Perspectives”.

50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, University of **Krakow**, 8-11 June 2018.

“The Tsar’s Mirror. The ‘Account of the Reforms of Peter the Great’ by Kang Youwei (1858-1927). A Russian Model to Save the Chinese Empire”.

Seminar: “The Tsarist/Soviet empires and the history of modernity in Asia”, LMU **Munich**, 12-13 September 2017.

“Chen Jiongming’s *Zhongguo tongyi chuyi* (1927) and the Failure of Federalism in Modern China”.

European Association for Chinese Philosophy, Second Biennial Conference, University of **Basel**, 7-9 September 2017.

“La ‘Cina forte’ di Xi Jinping: Radici storiche e implicazioni geopolitiche del ritorno di una grande potenza”.

Special Lecture, Postgrad. Specialization in Economic Security, Geopolitics and Intelligence, SIOI - The Italian Society for International Organization in **Rome**, 8 April 2017.

“La religione di Confucio: Nazionalismo, tradizione e modernità in Cina dalla fine dell’Impero all’inizio del ventunesimo secolo”.

Special Lecture, Confucius Institute, University of **Naples** “L’Orientale”, 15 November 2016.

“Time, History and Modernity in Kang Youwei’s *Datongshu* : An example of Chinese Studies in a Global Intellectual History framework”.

ICSSISU Conference “Methodology and System: An International Dialogue of China Studies”, **Shanghai** International Studies University, 05 November 2016.

“A Tale of Two Utopias: Unwitting Socialism and Unconscious Classicism in the Agendas of Kang Youwei and Mao Zedong”.

European Association for Chinese Philosophy, Inaugural Biennial Conference, University of **Vilnius**, 09-11 June 2016.

“Cosmopolitanism, Nationalism and Religion in Late Imperial China”, with Chiara Ghidini.

SISR - Società Italiana di Storia delle Religioni, National Conference, Sapienza University of **Rome**, 08 April 2016.

“Catholicism and the Political Role of Religion in Kang Youwei’s *Italian Journal* (1904)”.

International Conference “Italy and China, Europe and East Asia: Centuries of Dialogue”, University of **Toronto**, 07 April 2016.

### **Organized Events:**

“Conceptualizing Self-determination in the Chinese Context”, International Workshop, University of **Naples** “L’Orientale”, 13 October 2023.

“Chinese Frontier Zones before and after Empire: Contacts, Conflicts, Conceptualizations”, International Workshop, University of **Naples** “L’Orientale” (with Prof. Donatella Guida), 12-13 December 2022.

“The Breakup of Yugoslavia as a Global Event”, Online Roundtable, 17 May 2022 (organized with Dr. Or Rosenboim, City University London).

“Chinese Political Thought. A Global Dialogue beyond Orientalism”, Online International Workshop, 20-21 January 2022 (organized with Prof. Lisa Indraccolo, Tallinn University).

“Federalism in a Global Perspective”, Online Seminars, (with Dr. Or Rosenboim, City University of London), October-November 2021.

“China in the 17th century: Trauma, Transition and Global Transformations”, International Hybrid Workshop, University of **Naples** “L’Orientale” (with Prof. Donatella Guida), 20-22 October 2021.

“Conversations on Chinese Philosophy”, Series of Online Conferences (with Prof. Chiara Ghidini, L’Orientale, and Prof. Lisa Indraccolo, Tallinn University), Spring Semester 2021.

“Making Conceptual History in/on China: Challenges and Opportunities” – Webinar (with Joseph Ciaudo, University of Ghent), 11 December 2020.

## **Teaching Experience**

### **List of Courses Taught**

UNIVERSITY OF NAPLES “L’ORIENTALE” (November 2020 – present day)

**Chinese History** (BA) – 48 hours (in Italian)

**International History of East Asia** (MA) – 48 hours (in English)

FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER UNIVERSITY IN ERLANGEN-NUREMBERG (October 2017 – September 2020)

**Chinese Historiography on Foreign Countries from the Han to the 21<sup>st</sup> century** (BA) – 28 hours (in English)

**China in the 1920s and 1930s** (MA) – 28 hours (in English)

**The Centre and the Margins: Peripheries, Borders and Minorities in Modern Chinese History** (MA) – 28 hours (in English)

**Religion and Political Power in Modern and Contemporary China** (MA) – 28 hours (in English) – EVALUATION ATTACHED

**Readings from the “Criticize Lin, Criticize Confucius” Campaign (1973-1976)** (MA) – 28 hours (in English) – EVALUATION ATTACHED

**Chinese Political Thought and the Challenge of Modernity** (MA) – 28 hours (in English)

**A History of Utopianism in China** (MA) – 28 hours (in English)

**China and Russia in the modern and contemporary era** (MA) – 28 hours (in English)

UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA (A. Y. 2016-17)

**East Asian Philosophies** (BA) – 48 hours (in Italian)

D'ANNUNZIO UNIVERSITY OF CHIETI-PESCARA (A. Y. 2016-17)

**History & Institutions of Modern China** (MA) – 48 hours (in Italian)

### **References**

Prof. Donatella Guida, University of Naples L'Orientale  
[dguida@unior.it](mailto:dguida@unior.it)

Prof. Jacob Eyferth, University of Chicago  
[eyferth@uchicago.edu](mailto:eyferth@uchicago.edu)

Prof. Marc A. Matten, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg  
[marc.matten@fau.de](mailto:marc.matten@fau.de)