Ruth Hanau Santini (PhD)
Email: rhanausantini@unior.it

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor of Politics and International Relations, since September 2019
Assistant Professor (2012-2016)
L'Orientale University in Naples

World Food Programme, Rome (June 2020-April 2023)
Conflict Advisor for the Analysis and Early Warning Unit, Emergencies Division

Johns Hopkins University, SAIS Europe, Bologna
Associate Fellow, October 2015-October 2016

German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF US), Washington D.C. (US)
Fellow at the Transatlantic Academy, March-June 2013

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome (Italy)
Consultant to the Deputy Foreign Minister, January 2012-April 2013

The Brookings Institution, Washington D.C. (US) Center on the US and Europe (CUSE)
Visiting Fellow, January 2011-January 2012

Istituto Studi per la Politica Internazionale (ISPI), Milan (Italy)
Researcher on the Treccani Geopolitical Atlas project, July-December 2010

University of Warwick (UK), Department of Politics and International Relations
Garnet Research Fellow, January-June 2010

Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Brussels
Visiting doctoral fellow, January-July 2007

Stiftung fur Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), Berlin
Visiting doctoral fellow, January-December 2006

Federico II University in Naples, Naples (Italy), Analysis and Interpretation of European society, 19th cycle. Thesis' title: "European policymakers threat perceptions in the wake of 9/11".
PhD student, September 2003-September 2007

EDUCATION

PhD in Political Science, Department of Political Science, Federico II University in Naples, September 2003– November 2008

Thesis: European policymakers' threat perceptions with regard to the MENA region since 9/11
Supervisors: Mauro Calise, Filippo Andreatta

Master of Arts in Near and Middle Eastern Politics, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, September 2001 – September 2002
Thesis: The logic behind WMD proliferation in the Middle East
Supervisor: Charles Tripp

Bachelor of International Relations, Università di Bologna (in Forlì)
September 1996-September 2001
110 Summa cum laude

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- Hanau Santini, R., Polese, A. and , Kevlihan, R. (eds.). (2020). *Limited Statehood and Informal Governance in the Middle East and Africa*, London: Routledge, pp. 290.
- Hanau Santini, R., Polese, A. (Eds.). (2019). *Rethinking statehood in the Middle East and North Africa. Security, sovereignty and new political orders.* London: Routledge, pp. 234.
- Hanau Santini, R. (2018). *Limited statehood in post-revolutionary Tunisia. Citizenship, economy, security*. London: Palgrave, pp. 119.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES:

- Hanau Santini, R, Novellis, A. (2026). "Paradigm lock-in and strategic surprise: explaining Israel's October 7 intelligence failure". *Middle East Policy,* vol. 33, n.4.
- Hanau Santini, R., Levorato, G. and Costantini, I. (2026). "Hold the Line: European Adaptation(s) in a Competitive Conflict Management and Resolution Market". *European Security,* pp. 1-23.
- Hanau Santini, R., & Prontera, A. (2025). "Italy's foreign energy policy and the Mattei Plan: more than meets the eye?". *Contemporary Italian Politics*, vol. 17, n.4, pp. 514-535.
- Hanau Santini, R. (2025). "Securitisation and De-securitisation in the Middle East and North Africa: Relational Spatialisiation within and beyond the Gulf". *The International Spectator*, vol. 61, n.1, pp. 199-214.
- Hanau Santini, R., & Baldaro, E. (2025). "Navigating the three circles: the politics of Italy's foreign policy under the Meloni government". *Contemporary Italian Politics*, vol. 7, n. 2, pp. 222-236.
- Hanau Santini, R. & Wulzer, P. (2024). "The Evolution of the Gulf: History and theories of a complex subregional system", with Wulzer, P. *Middle East Policy*, vol. 31, n.1, pp. 33-49.
- Hanau Santini, R. and Costantini, I. (2022). "Power mediators and the 'illiberal peace' momentum: ending wars in Syria and Libya". *Third World Quarterly*, vol. 43, n.1

- Hanau Santini, R. and Costantini, I. (2022). "Waiting for IR Godot? In search of transformative encounters between Middle Eastern Studies and International Relations". *Italian Political Science Review*, vol.52, pp. 203-216.
- Hanau Santini, R. (2022). "Changing security dynamics in Tunisia: reconsidering the battle for Ben Gardane", in Mohamed Zayani, ed., *Fledgling democracy: Tunisia after the Arab Uprisings*, London: Hurst.
- Hanau Santini, R. and Cimini, G. (2021). "Applying Principal-Agent Theory to Security Force Assistance: the atypical case of post-2015 Tunisia", With Giulia Cimini. *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, vol. 15, n.5
- Hanau Santini, R. (2020). "Italian post-2011 foreign policy in the Mediterranean caught between status and fear: the case of Libya", *Italian Political Science*, n. 15, vol. 1.
- Hanau Santini, R., Cimini, G. (2019)."The politics of security reform in post-2011 Tunisia: assessing the role of exogenous shocks, domestic policy entrepreneurs and external actors", *Middle Eastern Studies*, vol. 55, n.1, pp. 225-241.
- Hanau Santini, R., Cimini, G. (2019)."Intended and unintended consequences of security assistance in post-2011 Tunisia", with Giulia Cimini, *Contemporary Arab Affairs*, vol. 12, n.1, pp. 91-106.
- Hanau Santini, R., Pontiggia, S. (2019)."Informality and state-society relations in post-2011 Tunisia", in Polese, A., A. Russo and F. Strazzari (eds.), *Governance beyond the law. The immoral, the illegal, the criminal*, Palgrave, pp. 247-266.
- Hanau Santini, R., Tholens, S. (2018). "Security Assistance in a Post-Interventionist Era: the impact on hybrid political orders in Tunisia and Lebanon", *Small Wars and Insurgencies*, vol. 29, n.3, pp. 491-514.
- Hanau Santini, R. (2018). "The EU and post-Arab Uprisings' citizenship: a fuzzy model or contrasting ideologies?", in Mejier, R. and N. Butenschon (eds.), *The Middle East in transition: the centrality of citizenship*, Edward Elgar, pp. 251-272.
- Hanau Santini, R. (2017). "A New Regional Cold War in the Middle East and North Africa: Regional Security Complex Theory Revisited", *The International Spectator*, vol. 52, n.4, pp.93-111.
- Hanau Santini, R., Moro, F.N. (2017). "Between hierarchy and heterarchy: Post Arab uprisings' civil-military relations and the Arab state" with Francesco N. Moro, *Mediterranean Politics*, vol.24, n.2, pp. 37-156.
- Hanau Santini, R., Hassan, O. (2012). Transatlantic Democracy promotion and the Arab Spring, with Oz Hassan, *The International Spectator*, vol. 47, n.3, pp.65-82.
- Hanau Santini, R., (2012). The Arab Spring and Euro-paralysis in the Levant and in the Gulf, *Swiss Political Science Review*, vol. 18, n.1, pp.120-123.

BOOK CHAPTERS & NON-PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- Hanau Santini, R., Vassallo, S. (2026). "The Russia test. Convergence and divergence among RN, FdI and AfD since 2014", in: Vassallo, S. (Ed.). *Far-right parties in EU coalition politics*. Bologna: Il Mulino, pp. 217-244.
- Hanau Santini, R. (2025). "La riduzione e la politicizzazione degli aiuti umanitari e la sicurezza alimentare" in Natalizia, Mazzotti di Celso e N. Sorio (a cura di), *L'Italia e la competizione tra grandi potenze*, Roma, Unint, pp. 131-138.
- Hanau Santini, R. (2025). "Il Mediterraneo allargato e l'insicurezza alimentare", in Baldelli, P., Ferrara, R. e G. Natalizia (a cura di): Il gioco delle Grandi potenze. *La*

competizione nel Mediterraneo allargato. Roma: LUISS university press, pp. 161.169

- Hanau Santini, R. (2025). "L'instabilità globale e l'insicurezza alimentare: diritti, politiche e interesse nazionale", Approfondimento per la Camera dei Deputati, Febbraio. Link: Approfondimento n. 211 (parlamento.it)
- Hanau Santini, R. (2022). "Changing security dynamics in Tunisia: reconsidering the battle for Ben Gardane", in Mohamed Zayani, ed., *Fledgling democracy: Tunisia after the Arab Uprisings*, London: Hurst.
- Hanau Santini, R. (2020). "The only game left in town: Tunisia Ennahda's strategic weakness", in: *The Tunisian exception. Profile of a unique political laboratory*, edited by Federica Zoja, ResetDOC, October 2020, pp. 37-45.
- Hanau Santini, R., Pontiggia, S. (2019). "Informality and state-society relations in post-2011 Tunisia", in Polese, A., A. Russo and F. Strazzari (eds.), *Governance beyond the law. The immoral, the illegal, the criminal*, Palgrave, April 2019.
- Hanau Santini, R., Costantini, I. (2019). "Saudi Arabia's regional space-shaping: making or unmaking a region?", in: Serena Giusti and Irina Mirkina (Eds.), *The EU in a Trans-European space. External relations across Europe, Asia and the Middle East*. Palgrave
- Hanau Santini, R. (2018). "The EU and post-Arab Uprisings' citizenship: a fuzzy model or contrasting ideologies?", in Mejier, R. and Butenschon, N. (eds.), *The Middle East in transition: the centrality of citizenship*, Edward Elgar.
- Hanau Santini, R. (2018). "Il 2011 e il re-balancing del Golfo arabo: trasformazioni geopolitiche della regione del Medio Oriente e Nord Africa", Civiltà del Mediterraneo, numero monografico 2018.
- Hanau Santini, R. Lucarelli, S. and Pinfari, M. (2014). "Interregionalism: a Security Studies perspective", in: Baert, F., Scaramagli, T. and Soderbaum, F. (eds.), *Intersecting Interregionalism*, Springer.
- Hanau Santini, R. (2013). "The EU's democracy promotion in the Middle East and North Africa: compromising with security concerns?", in Lucarelli, S., Van Langenhove, L. and Wouters, J. (eds.), *The EU and Multilateral Security Governance*, Routledge, pp. 123-140.

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS

- **Brookings Fellowship (Consiglio per le Relazioni Italia-Stati Uniti, Roma):** 53000$ Fellowship (January 2011-December 2011)
- **European Foreign and Security Studies Policy Program Fellowship** (Compagnia di San Paolo, Turin; Volkswagen Stiftung, Germany; Riksbanken Jubieleumsfond, Stockholm)
- Two year Fellowship funding the stay at Stiftung fur Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin (January 2006-December 2006) and at Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Brussels (January-August 2007)

- **Marie Curie pre-doctoral Fellowship (European Commission):** Doctoral year at University of Birmingham (September 2004-July 2005)

FUNDING ID

October 2026-October 2027: Principal Investigator (PI) of the project "Food security, climate and political instability in the enlarged Mediterranean" (MEDKLIMA), (funded by Italian MFA, MAECI): 12,000 euros.

January 2026-October 2026: PI of the project "Strong and resilient institutions in post-electoral Iraq" (funded by Italian MFA, MAECI), with Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI): 102,000 euros.

August 2025-August 2026: ITALINT: PI of the project on the International politics of food security funded by the Unity of Analysis and Policy Planning (UAP) of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAECI): 16,000 euros.

September 2023-June 2026 RAP-RISK: PI of the Project on political risk analysis, funded through Progetto di Ricerca di Ateneo (PRA) of Università di Napoli L'Orientale: 37,000 euros

2016-2019: PI of the project STREETPOL on contestation in the MENA region in the wake of the 2011 revolts (Scientific Independence of Young Researchers), funded by the Italian Ministry of Higher Education. Overall funding: 347,000 euros.

2013-2016: EUSPRING: "The Middle East and North Africa since the Arab Awakening: challenges to US and EU foreign policies", Funded by Compagnia di San Paolo, Volkswagen Stiftung and Riskbanken Jubileumsfond, within the Program 'Europe and Global Challenges'. International consortium. Overall Funding: 500,000 euros.

2008-2009: FORITA: Italian Foreign Policy Dialogue, funded by Compagnia di San Paolo and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Overall funding: 40,000 euros

RECENT INVITED LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS

2026

- **Invited speaker at Department of Economics, University of Coimbra:** The Iran war and the weaponization of everything (Coimbra, 15 June)
- **Invited speaker at CAREP:** La faim comme instrument de guerre au Moyen Orient (Paris, 4 June)
- **Invited speaker at Department of Economics, University of Bologna:** Food as weapon of war (Bologna, 27 May)
- **Invited speaker at John Cabot University:** Food security and global politics: new avenues for research (Rome, 20 April)
- **Invited speaker at IPE Accademia** (Naples, 25 March), serie Global Thinking 3.0: USA, Medio Oriente e Mediterraneo: I nuovi equilibri geopolitici
- **Speaker at ESA Business School** on Polycrises in international politics and the MENA region (Beirut, 15-16 January)

2025

- **Speaker at ESCP Business School** on "Political risk analysis" (6 hours) for the Core course of Geopolitics (Turin, 13 December)
- **Speaker at CASD** on "Nozioni e concetti di Organizzazioni Internazionali nell'ambito della sicurezza **",** 28° Master in Studi Internazionali Strategico Militari nelle Forze Armate A.A. 2025 – 2026 (6 hours, Rome, November)

- **Presenter at Mediterranean Dialogues (Naples, September):** The weaponization of interdependence
- **Presenter at Annual conference of Italian Political Science** (**SISP**) of the paper
- co-authored with Andrea Prontera: “Italy’s Foreign Energy Policy and the Mattei Plan: More than Meets the Eye?" within the Panel 7.19: "East, South and Up: New Frontiers for Italian Foreign Policy" (Naples, 4-6 September)
- **Presenter at Annual conference of Italian Political Science** (SISP) of the paper co-authored with Andrea Novellis): "The failure of Israeli early warning on October 7: what lies behind it?", in the panel "Future Studies Meet Political Risk Analysis: Issues and Challenges Between Disruption and Change (Naples, 4-6 September)
- **Chair and Presenter at Annual conference of Italian Political Science** (SISP) of the paper: Trading Places: Western Adaptation(s) in a Crowded Conflict Management Market" (co-authored with Giulio Levorato and Irene Costantini) in the Panel 7.4 "Multidimensional Competition in Contemporary Peace Dynamics"
- **Paper presenter at European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR)** of the paper co-authored with Simone Tholens: "Negative Lesson Drawing from the Barcelona Process and the Renationalization of European States’ Israeli-Palestinian Policy", within the Panel: The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership at 30: Insights on Policy Learning and Substantive Change (Thessaloniki, 26-29 August)
- **Presenter at the annual conference of International Political Studies Association (IPSA) conference of the paper** (co-authored with Giulio Levorato and Irene Costantini): “Trading Places: Western Adaptation(s) in a Crowded Conflict Management Market"(Seoul, 12-14 July)
- **Paper presenter at International Public Policy Association (IPPA) conference**. Paper title (co-authored with Andrea Prontera): "Italy's energy policy in Africa: a difficult balancing act between fossil fuels and renewables" within the Panel: T16P05 Public policies on energy. Public-Private and Intergovernmental Synergies to Promote Energy Efficiency. Virtual presentation (Chiang-Mai, **2-4 July)**
- **Chair and presenter at the annual conference of the Standing Group of Relazioni Internazionali (SGRI).** Chair and presenter in PANEL 1.1 Italy’s Global Med Policy: More than Meets the Eye? (Milan, 12-13 June)
- **Presentation at Università Federico II** in the panel "The end of the Liberal International Order" within the PRIN one day workshop "Political Theory and The end of the Liberal World Order", organised by Pietro Maffettone (Naples, 16 June)
- **Presenter at the annual conference of the Standing Group of Relazioni Internazionali (SGRI) of the paper** (co-authored with Giulio Levorato and Irene Costantini): “Trading Places: Western Adaptation(s) in a Crowded Conflict Management Market" in PANEL 2.1 Contemporary Warfare and the Changing Character of Conflict: Actors, Spaces, and Resources (Milan, 12-13 June)
- **Participation at the Festival di Politica Internazionale NOI**, organised by the Department of Social and Human Sciences at Università di Napoli L'Orientale. Presentation in the panel "Atlantico, Europa, Mediterraneo: i cerchi della politica estera italiana"(Naples, 16 May)

2024

- **Speaker at University of Pavia** on: “Starvation as a weapon of war” (Pavia, 12 December)

- **Speaker at ESCP Business School** on “Political risk analysis” (6 hours) for the Core course of Geopolitics (Turin, 13 December)
- **Speaker at Workshop "Politica in Italia/Italian Politics. Edizione 2025"**, edited by Martin Bull and Laura Polverari. Presentation of the book chapter: "La politica estera: Atlantismo /Piano Mattei per l’Africa", with Edoardo Baldaro, at Johns Hopkins University, SAIS Europe (Bologna, 4 June)
- **Speaker at Sapienza University** on: “European far-right parties and Russia” (Roma, 7 November)
- **Presenter at closed-door workshop by Istituto Cattaneo- DAR-Johns Hopkins** on “The litmus test. European Far-right parties and the response to Russian aggressiveness” (Bologna, 18 October)
- **Presenter at Annual conference of Italian Political Science** (SISP) (Trieste, 12-14 September): “Convergence and divergence of key far-right parties over Russia since 2014”
- **Presenter at GeNS international conference** “Power asymmetries: class, ideology and democracy, a gender perspective” (Stintino, 4-7 September): European female far-right leaders and non-Western powers
- **Speaker at Camera dei Deputati** on “Il ruolo dell’Italia nell’Africa del future. Idee per il Piano Mattei” (Rome, 4th July)
- **Speaker at MBA Hong Kong University-Tel Aviv (HKU-TLV Innovation Hub)** on Historical and Geo-political overview of Italy, EU and wider region (Milan, 24 June)
- **Organiser and Speaker at a workshop** at Università di Napoli L’Orientale with Johns Hopkins University, SAIS Europe: Taking stock of conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa and implications for Europe (Napoli, 12 June 2024)
- **Speaker at Festival di geopolitica e relazioni internazionali** at UNINT university (Rome, 22 May 2024)
- **Speaker at conference in Parma on: “Sustaining Food security in the XXI century”** (Parma, 7 May)

2023

- **Speaker at Annual Reset Conference:** The failure of Democracy in the Arab context: the Tunisian case, Reset and University of Palermo (invited, 15 December)
- **Speaker at Conference at John Cabot University**: Food security after Ukraine: a transatlantic perspective, John Cabot University (invited, 4 December)
- **Speaker** on “Conflitti e insicurezza alimentare” at **Università di Parma** (29 November)
- **Teacher** of 4 classes at **Università di Trento** (8 hours): Political risk analysis and early warning (October)
- **Chair and Presenter at Annual conference of the Italian Political Science Association (SISP),** in Genova of the panel "Italy in the enlarged Mediterranean: muddling through, or a new strategic front of Italian foreign policy?". Presentation of the paper: "Italy’s increasing role in the enlarged Med: status driven, contingency driven or bureaucratic politics?" (14-16 September)
- **Paper presenter at Conference organized by TWAI**, ChinaMed Roundtable on “The Persian Gulf and the US- China rivalry”(Rome, July 7)

2022

- **Conference at John Cabot University,** Worse than the Cold War? Euro-Mediterranean perspectives on Sino-American rivalry (17 October)

- **Invited speaker at the Department of Sociology and Social Research at the Università di Trento.** Lecture on: "Reflections on Food Security". (2 May)
- **Seminar at Luiss University,** Spiegare la Guerra in Ucraina: punti di vista dalla scienza politica (8 April)
- **Online webinar SGRI** (Standing Group di Relazioni Internazionali): La guerra in Ucraina tra teoria e pratica (10 March)

2021

- **LUISS,** Master in Affari Strategici (invited): European and Italian foreign policy theories and practices in the Mediterranean (12 October)
- **Bologna Peacebuilding Forum** and Johns Hopkins University SAIS Bologna Center: Peacebuilding and climate change conference (18-19 May)
- **University of Trento** (invited): Understanding food security (19 April)
- **EUI-Pomeps workshop.** Presentation**:** An Anthropology of the Post-2011 Arab State: Weak, Fierce or Marginal (on Zoom, 19 March)
- **Milan, ISPI winter school**. Keynote speaker on "Food security in the Sahel" (15 March)

2020

- **Reset Dialogues on Civilization,** "An Arab winter? The Tunisian exception in context" (on Zoom, 16 December)
- **Università di Napoli L'Orientale,** "L'America del 2020", intervento su: "La maledizione del Medio Oriente e l'impossibilità del pivot" (15 December)
- **IEPN Israeli-European Policy Network,** "Discussing Annexation scenarios" (on Zoom, 16 September)

2019

- **Workshop** "Hybrid Governance and Limited Statehood in the MENA region", European University Institute (11th October)
- **Keynote speech** on "Results of the 2019 European Elections and implications for EU-MENA Relations", Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Tel Aviv (23rd September)
- **Paper giver at Annual conference** of the Italian Political Science Association, Lecce (September 12-14)
- **Paper giver at** BRISMES conference, Panel organizer "States of contention: imagining the State from below" (Leeds, 24-26 June)
- **Paper giver at** CEEISA-Isa Joint conference, Panel organizer and paper giver on "Rethinking regional orders between hierarchies and heterarchies" (Belgrade, 17-19 June)
- **Speaker at Università di Firenze**, "Regional security in the Middle East" (21 February)
- **Book presentation, EUI** Discussing Limited Statehood in post-revolutionary Tunisia **(**12th February 2019):

2018

- **Paper giver at conference** on "Security Force assistance in fragile states", organised by the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO). Paper title: "Security assistance in post-2011 Tunisia: how the international-domestic nexus has favoured performance over normative change" (Oslo, 5-7 December)

- **Speaker at Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in Tel Aviv on** "The Iran Deal revisited-consequences of the US withdrawal in EU-Israel relations". (Tel Aviv, 7-8 November):
- **Paper giver at the American University of Beirut**-Project of Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) "Europe in the post-2011 Middle East: changing interventionist paradigms" (Beirut 30 October):
- **Paper giver at the European International Studies Association** (EISA) (Prague, 11-13 September)
- **Paper giver at the Annual conference of the Italian Political Science Association,** (Turin 6-8 Sept)
- **Teacher at the University of Sant'Anna (4 hours), "**Explaining changes in the regional order in the Middle East" (Pisa, 18-19 April)
- **Guest speaker at the University of St. Andrews,** "A New regional cold War: the post-2011 regional order" (18 February)
- **Paper giver at the Institute of International Affairs**, Rome (invited, 16 January): Diagnosing the Mediterranean. Where is the region heading to in 2018? Presentation of the IEMed Yearbook.

LANGUAGES

	Speaking	Understanding	Writing
Italian	Mother tongue	-	-
English	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent
French	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent
Spanish	intermediate	Fluent	intermediate
German	intermediate	Fluent	intermediate

October 2026

