

## **DOMENICO AGOSTINI**

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### **Research Interests**

- History of Zoroastrianism and other Iranian religions
- History, culture, and thought of pre-Islamic Iran
- Old and Middle Iranian literature and epigraphy
- Cross-cultural contacts and interactions between Iran and the Jewish, Greek traditions

### **Current Position**

- Associate Professor of Philology, Religions, and History of Iran, dept. of Asia, Africa, and Mediterranean, University of Naples "L'Orientale", 2024-

### **Education**

- Italian National Scientific Habilitation for the functions of Full Professor, unit 10/N1, Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR), 2021.
- PhD *cum laude* in History, Texts and Documents (specialization in Ancient and Medieval Iran). École Pratique des Hautes Études (Paris). Supervisor: Prof. Philip Huyse, 2004-2008
- PhD *cum laude* in Philological and Literary Studies of the Ancient Near East and Pre-Islamic Iran. Sapienza University of Rome. Supervisor: Prof. Carlo G. Cereti. 2003-2008
- "Laurea" degree (BA + MA) *cum laude* in Arts (Literary, Historical, Philological and Oriental Studies) with a final dissertation in Iranian History and Religions. Sapienza University of Rome. Supervisors: Prof. Carlo G. Cereti and Prof. Gherardo Gnoli, 1998-2003

### **Academic and Professional Experience [selected]**

- Associate Professor of Ancient History, dept. of General History, Tel Aviv University, 2020-2024
- Visiting Professor, University of Naples "L'Orientale", April-May 2024 [sabbatical leave].
- Visiting Professor, Sapienza University of Rome, September 2023-August 2024 [sabbatical leave].
- Senior Lecturer in Ancient History, dept. of General History, Tel Aviv University, 2017-2020
- Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Ancient and Early Islamic Iran, Polonsky Academy for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, 2013-2017
- Fellow (Iranian History and Religions), Young Scholars Forum on Abrahamic Religions at the Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities. Director: Prof. Guy Stroumsa, 2013-2015
- Visiting Professor of pre-Islamic Iran, Sapienza University of Rome, 2013
- Assistant Editor and Academic Coordinator, "Middle Persian Dictionary Project," Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities and Israel Science Foundation. Director: Prof. Shaul Shaked, 2010-2017 - <http://www.academy.ac.il/Branches/Branch.aspx?nodeId=796&branchId=299>

## Domenico Agostini's CV and list of publications

- Teaching Fellow in Middle Persian, Sasanian history and epigraphy, Zoroastrian literature, History of Zoroastrianism, Dante and his Oriental precursor, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2010-2015
- Research Fellow in Zoroastrian Religion and Literature. Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei (Rome), 2010-2011
- Postdoctoral Fellow in Middle Iranian languages and Zoroastrianism. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Supervisor: Prof. Shaul Shaked, 2009-2013
- Research Fellow in Sasanian History and Epigraphy. French Institute for Research in Iran [IFRI] and National Museum of Iran (Teheran), 2005

### **Service to the Profession**

- Referee, History, Philology, and Religions of Iran (L-OR14), Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes, Ministry of Education and University, 2016-
- Referee for peer-review journal: *Abstracta Iranica*; *Bulletin of the School of the Oriental and African Studies*; *Journal of the K R Cama Oriental Institute*; *Mediterranean Historical Review*; *Studia Iranica*; *Iranian Studies*; *Open Theology*; *Journal of Asian Civilizations*; *Iran*; *Hermathena*; *Religion*; *Ricerche linguistiche*; *Rivista Scienze dell'Antichità*; *Sēnmurw*.
- Referee for ERC grants program.
- Member of the scientific and editorial committee of the series: "Indo-Iranica et Orientalia," and "Iranica et Mediterranea" at the University of Bologna, 2020-.

### **Professional Affiliations**

- Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (USA), 2022-
- Association for Iranian Studies (Canada and USA), 2019-
- *Societas Iranologica Europaea* (Europe), 2014-
- *Associazione Internazionale di Studi sul Mediterraneo e l'Oriente* (ISMEO), 2013-

### **Awards, Grants, and Fellowships [selected]**

- Bessel-Forschungspreis, Humboldt Foundation, 2022.
- Kadar Family Award for Outstanding Research (junior category) at Tel Aviv University, 2021
- Personal Research Grant, Israel Science Foundation (ISF), 2019-2022
- Academic Grant, Iranian Heritage Foundation (London, UK), 2018
- Outstanding research grant, Van Leer Foundation (Jerusalem), 2014-2016
- Polonsky fellowship, Polonsky Foundation (Jerusalem), 2013-2017
- Academic grant, Iranian Heritage Foundation (London, UK), 2011
- Raffaele Pettazzoni Fellowship in Religious Studies, Accademia dei Lincei (Rome, Italy), 2010-2011

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- Postdoctoral scholarship, Israeli Science Foundation and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2019-2013
- Prix Pirasteh in Persian Studies, Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres (Paris, France), 2008
- Research Fellowship in Humanities, "La Sapienza" University of Rome, 2007-2008
- Leonardo da Vinci scholarship for Outstanding PhD Students, French - Italian University of Grenoble and Turin, 2005
- PhD scholarship for Outstanding Students, "La Sapienza" University of Rome, 2003-2007

### **Languages**

Modern Languages: Italian (mother tongue), English (fluent), French (fluent), Hebrew (fluent), Persian (advanced), German (research proficiency).

Ancient Languages: Middle Persian (Epigraphic, Pahlavi, and Manichean), Parthian (Epigraphic and Manichean), Old Persian, Old and Young Avesta, Latin, Greek, Judeo-Persian, Sogdian, Bactrian.

### **Conference and Workshop organization**

- "What happened in the seventh century? Socio-religious Transformations and Apocalyptic Discourses", International Workshop funded by ISF, Tel Aviv University, June 12-14, 2023. Organizer.
- "Innovative Religion and Apocalypticism", Dan David International Conference 2021, Tel Aviv University, December 19-21, 2021. Organizer.
- "Near Eastern Studies after Patricia Crone", International Workshop, Van Leer Institute and Tel Aviv University, June 4, 2018. Co-organizer.
- "Demons and Demonology in Late Antiquity", International Conference, Van Leer Institute, December 14-15, 2015. Organizer.
- "Iran between the Sasanians and Early Islam", International Conference, Van Leer Institute and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, December 12-14, 2016. Co-organizer.

### **Conference and Lecture presentations [selected, by invitation]**

- "Mythical and Historical apocalypse in Dēnkard VII. A Comparative Approach to Pahlavi Apocalyptic Literature", *A Spark of the Glimmer of the Original Light': A Workshop on the Dēnkard as Literature, Theology, and Scholasticism*, International Workshop, Oxford University, October 2024
- "The Neutral Place in the Zoroastrian Otherworld. Forms and Origins", *The Final Frontier: Unveiling the Language of Eschatology*, International Workshop, Ruhr University Bochum, June 2024

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- “Apocalypticism, Apocalypse, and Apocalyptic in Zoroastrianism”, *At the End of the World: The Ancient Roots of Apocalypticism*, International seminar, Lund University, December 2023
- “Neutral Places and Personification of Deeds. Some Recurrent Patterns in the Zoroastrian and Early Christian Otherworld”, *The Ninth Biennial Convention of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies*, Yerevan, 2023.
- “Lührāsp, Abraham, and the Others: Jewish-Iranian Syncretism in Pahlavi Literature”, International Workshop *Perceptions and Receptions of Persia among Hellenistic and Sasanian Jews*, Norwegian School of Theology, Religions, and Society, Oslo, 2022.
- “New Light on the Zoroastrian Apocalypse in the Late Sasanian Period”, 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, AIS 2022, University of Salamanca, 2022.
- “Primal Creation: A New Translation of the Zoroastrian Bundahišn”, University of California, Irvine, 2021
- “Apocalypse, Apocalyptic, and Apocalypticism in Ancient Iran. History, Method, and Reception”, *Eleventh Enoch Seminar*, Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich, 2021
- “Ahriman and his demons in the Bundahišn”, Round Table *The Search for Lost Time: Insights on Zoroastrian Literature*, Ancient India and Iran Fund, Cambridge (UK), 2021
- “The Bundahišn. Envisioning the Path of World Salvation”, Cycle of Conferences *Parlane con Sapienza, Uno Sguardo Oltre*, Sapienza University of Rome, 2020
- “A New Translation of the Bundahišn. Problems and Methods”, Round Table *Zoroastrianism and Middle-Persian Literature*, University of Bologna, 2019
- “Zoroastrian Polemics in Early Islamic Iran”, International conference *The Majlis revisited: Inter – and intra-cultural disputations in the Islamicate world*, Casa Arabe, Cordoba, Spain, 2018
- “Soft Power in Late Antiquity. Diplomacy and Mutual Recognition between Persia and the Late Roman Empire”, University of California, Berkeley, 2017
- “Apocalyptic History in Late and Post-Sasanian Iran”, Oxford University, 2016
- “The Temporary and the Eternal Afterlife. Some Remarks on Zoroastrian Eschatology”, International conference *Making ends meet*, Austrian Academy of Sciences and University of Vienna, 2015
- “The Greek influence on Middle Persian lexicon”, International conference *Sociolinguistic Dynamics under the Greek Influence: Linguistic Change, Variation and Contact*, La Sapienza University of Rome, 2014
- “La conquête arabe de l’Iran et la chute du Zoroastrisme : processus eschatologique ou réalité historique ?”, International round table *Eschatologies*, École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), Paris, 2014
- “The Iranian Apocalyptic Literature and its Historical Context,” invited lecture, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, 2014

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- "Pouvons-nous parler d'une apocalyptique de nature populaire et d'une autre de nature courtoise et religieuse en Iran ? Un essai d'après les sources pehlevies", *Seventh conference of Societas Iranologica Europaea*, Krakow, Poland, 2011
- "Pehlevi, Pâzand et Pârsi: trois systèmes d'écriture au service de Zoroastre", International conference *Lecteurs et copistes dans les traditions indiennes, iraniennes et centrasiatiques*, Sorbonne III, Paris, 2010