

Curriculum Vitae

ERSILIA FRANCESCA

DIP. ASIA AFRICA MEDITERRANEO (DAAM)

Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”

Palazzo Corigliano

P.zza San Domenico Maggiore

80134 Napoli

Phone: +39/081/6909622/713 • fax +39/081/6909303

e-mail: efrancesca@unior.it

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1395-5642>

website:

https://docenti.unior.it/index2.php?content_id=18246&content_id_start=1



Ersilia Francesca is full Prof. of Islamic History at Univ. of Naples “L’Orientale” (UNIOR), dep. Asia Africa and Mediterranean (DAAM), where she teaches Gender Studies in Islamic Context and Contemporary History of Economics in the MENA region.

She is director of the University Quality Assurance Board (Presidio di qualità), and editor in chief of *Studi Magrebini/North African Studies* (class A journal) publ. by Brill.

She was director of CeSMI (Centro Studi sul Mondo Islamico) at DAAM.

In 2015 she was visiting scholar at SOAS (London), and in 2018 she was [Directrice d’Études](#) at École Pratique des Hautes Études (Paris).

She is member of the Scientific Committee of the Intern. Association on Ibadī Studies and chief editor with A. al-Salimi of the series *Studies on Ibadism and Oman*, Olms (Germany).

Her scholarly activity focuses on Islamic law, gender studies in the Islamic context, and history of Islamic economics. She published 5 books and 3 edited books; and wrote over 20 articles in PR journals and contributions in edited books in the last 10 years. Her 2002 book titled *Teoria e pratica del commercio nell’islam medievale* is considered a milestone in the field of studies on Ibadism and early Islam (s. review in *JSAI* 2004/29). Her book *Economia, religione e morale nell’islam* (Carocci 2013) is the first attempt of a comprehensive reconstruction of the Islamic economic thinking in Italian.

In the field of gender studies she participated in the project “Musulmane d’Italia”; she co-edited the special issue of *Studi Magrebini/North African Studies* titled *Emerging Actors in Post-Revolutionary North Africa. Gender Mobility and Social Activism* (2017), and published several articles; the most recent is “Gender and Economics in Mediterranean: Looking for New Opportunities for North African Women” Palgrave (2021). She is in the scientific board of the series *Donne fedī culture* ([Ed. di storia e letteratura](#)) and [Manifesta](#) (Astarte).

In 2018-2019 she was co-director of the UNIOR unit of the project [TrainTraining](#) (transfer radicalisation approaches in training), *EU Justice Program* (2014-2020), coordinated by DAP (Dep. of Prison Administration), aimed at reducing and monitoring the risks of Islamic radicalization in jails.

In 2022 she was co-director of the training course CONOSCERE L’ALTRO: aspetti socio-culturali, antropologici, giuridici e securitari delle migrazioni in Italia, organized by UNIOR in cooperation with Scuola dell’alta formazione, Presidenza della Repubblica Italiana.

From 2023 she participates in the project « Faire société : modèles normatifs et hétéronomie dans les islams minoritaires (shi’ismes et ibadisme) » financed by Institut français d’islamologie, directed by Cyrille Aillet (Univ. Lumière Lyon 2).

In April 2024 she is visiting scholar at at École Pratique des Hautes Études (Paris).

In the last five years she has supervised over 50 Master thesis, 6 PhD projects, 1 joint-supervision (cotutelle) with EPHE, Paris, and one Postdoctoral fellow.

EDUCATION

1994 PhD UNIOR

1985 MA in Political Sciences, Ist. Univ. Orientale, Naples

CURRENT POSITIONS

From January 2022 full prof. of Islamic History

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

2011-2021 Prof. ass. of Islamic History (ANVUR 2018 qualification as full professor)

2002-2011 Lecturer in Islamic History, UNIOR

1998-2002 Teaching assistant in Islamic History, UNIOR

1996-1997 Teach. assistant in Islamic History, Sapienza Univ., Rome

Oct. 1994 – Feb. 1995 Temporary lecturer at the Oriental Dep.(Univ. of Köln)

Oct. 1993 – Feb. 1994 Temp. lecturer at the Oriental Dep.(Univ. of Köln)

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

UNIOR, dep. DAAM: Courses in Gender Studies in Islamic Context (MA 8CFU) and Contemporary History of Economics in Middle East and North Africa (MA 8CFU)

2013-pres. Adjunct Prof. at the Master MISLAM (Economia e Istituzioni dei Paesi Islamici), Univ. LUISS, Rome

2015-pres. Adjunct Prof. at the Master in Middle Eastern Studies (MiMES), ASERI, Univ. Cattolica, Milan

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS/HONOURS

2018-pres. Chief editor of the series Studies on Ibadism and Oman, Olms(Germany)

2018, Nov., Visiting Professor (Directrice d'Études) at EPHE, Paris, Section des Sciences Religieuses

2016, 5 July, lecture at Humboldt Universität, Berlin, on "Generosity versus Avarice in Medieval Islam"

2016, 16 Feb., lecture at London Middle East Institute, SOAS, London, on "Money and Value: From Qur'an to contemporary Islamic Economics"

Sept.-Dec. 2015, Visiting scholar at SOAS (London), School of Law

April 2012, invited to deliver the Block Seminar Challenging the "Conventional" System: Islamic Banking and Finance (21 hours, 6CFU) at Georg-Augustus-Universität, Göttingen

PARTICIPATION IN ITALIAN AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

2023-present, Member of the project « Faire société : modèles normatifs et hétéronomie dans les islams minoritaires (shi'ismes et ibadisme) » financed by Institut français d'islamologie, directed by Cyrille Aillet (Univ. Lumière Lyon 2)

2018-2019, Member of the project TrainTraining, EU Justice Program (2014-2020)

2012 -2015, Member of the PRIN project no 201048XHTL State, plurality and change in Africa
2011-2013, Member of the project “Musulmane d’Italia”, Ist. di Studi Politici “San Pio V”, Roma
2007-2008, Member of the project “Civil Society and Democratization in the Arab World”, Ist. di Studi Politici “San Pio V”

ORGANIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC EVENTS (the most relevant since 2011)

2023, 5-6 Oct. Int. workshop “[Combatting the Gendered Impacts of Climate Change in the MENA Region: Opportunities, Challenges and Trade-Offs](#)”. A Partnership of NatCen International (London) and the University of Naples “L’Orientale”

Since 2017 co-organizer with A. Ziaka (Univ.of Thessalonikki) of the annual [Summer School on Ibadism](#)

Since 2012 co-organizer with A. Al-Salimi and A. Ziaka of the series of conferences on Ibad Studies

2021, 8 Jan. organizer of the webinar “Artivism, Culture and Knowledge Production for Egalitarian Citizenship in the Middle East and North Africa post 2011”

2019, 3-5 Oct. co-organizer of the International Doctoral Workshop “The question of agency in African Studies”, UNIOR

2019, 24-25 Sept. co-organizer of the Conference “Riconoscere Il Radicalismo Islamico in Italia. Analisi, strategie e pratiche alternative”, financed by the project TrainTraining, UNIOR

2014, 23-25 Sept. co-organizer of the Int. Conference “North Africa Transition and Emerging Actors. Berber Movements, Gender Mobility and Social Activism”, UNIOR

2013, 25-27 Sept. co-organizer of the International Summer School, “Voices of Protest Engaging Political Power in North and Sub-Saharan Africa”, Scuola di Procida per l’Alta Formazione

2012, 7-9 Oct. co-organizer of the Int. Doctoral Workshop, “Citizenship rights, social movements and political change in Africa”, Scuola di Procida per l’Alta Formazione

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSABILITIES

2022-pres. Director of the University Quality Assurance Board

2018-pres. Editor-in-chief of the scientific journal Studi Magrebini/North African Studies

2018-pres. Chief editor with A. al-Salimi of the series Studies on Ibadism and Oman, Olms (Germany)

2004-pres. Member of the board of the PhD programme in “Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo”, DAAM

2017-pres member of the Scientific Committee of the International Association on Ibad Studies

2022 Co-director of the training course CONOSCERE L’ALTRO: aspetti socio-culturali, antropologici, giuridici e securitari delle migrazioni in Italia, organized by UNIOR in cooperation with Scuola dell’alta formazione, Presidenza della Repubblica Italiana.

2019-2022 Director of CeSMI (Centro di Studi sul Mondo Islamico), DAAM

2019-2022 Member of the DAAM Joint Commission Teachers Students (Commissione paritetica docenti-studenti)

2017-2019 Member of the Univ. Quality Assurance Board

2008-2011 Member of the Steering Committee of the journal Annali dell’Università di Napoli “L’Orientale”.

EDITORIAL BOARD AND REVIEWING ACTIVITIES

2022-pres. Member of the Scientific Committee of the series Manifesta of [Astarte](#) (Pisa)

2018-pres. Member of the Scientific Committee of the series Donne fed culture of [Edizioni di storia e letteratura](#)

2015 external evaluator for the ERC

2010 reviewer for the Oxford Univ.Press

2011-pres. reviewer for several PR journals, including Al-Qantara, Bulletin of SOAS, Oriente Moderno, Afriche e Orienti, Der Islam, Jerusalem Studies of Arabic and Islam.

MEMBERSHIP OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

2012-pres. Member of the Steering Committee of CESAC (Centro Studi Sull' Africa Contemporanea) and of Centro di Studi Berberi, UNIOR

2004-pres. Member of the International Society for Islamic Legal Studies

2001-pres. Member of SeSaMO (Società per gli Studi sul Medio Oriente)

1996-pres. Member of U.E.A.I. (Union Européenne des Arabisants et Islamisants)

INVITED PRESENTATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES (A SELECTION OF FROM 2010)

2023, 27-29 April, "Re-evaluating Methodological Trajectories in the Academic Study of Islam", Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto - Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University. Paper: Methodological Prospects in Exploring Ibādī Law. Case Study: Early Ibādī Family Law.

2023, 10-13 July, 5^e Congrès des études sur le Moyen-Orient et les mondes musulmans, Lyon. Paper: Resistance, resilience, exchanges: Ibādī-Mālikī dynamics in Medieval Maghreb. <https://gismomm-congres.sciencesconf.org/>

2021, 31 Aug.-2 Sep., 11th Int. Conference of Ibadī Studies "Sacred Texts and Social Context". Univ. Tübingen. Paper: The emergence of encyclopaedical legal works and the definition of *usul al-fiqh* in Oman.

2019, 1-4 July, 14th Int. Colloquium "From Jāhiliyya to Islam". Jerusalem, The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities. Paper: "Punishment for Fornication in Early Islam"

2019, 17-19 June, 10th Int. Conference on Ibadī Studies. "Ibadism and the Study of Islam: A view from the edge", Univ. of Toronto. Paper: "Continuity and Change in Early Ibādī Family Law"

2017, 12-14 Jan., Business History in the Age of Globalization, Univ. Bocconi, Milan. Paper: "Reflection on Muslim culture as related to economic activities"

2016, 4-5 Nov., "Donne, cittadinanza, religioni nella storia del mediterraneo", SIS (Società italiana delle storiche), Roma. Paper: "Tradizione giuridica islamica classica e riforme del diritto di famiglia"

2016, 23-25 May, 7th Int. Conference on Ibadī Studies "Religion and Policy in Oman", Univ. of Oxford. Paper: "Religion and Politics in Contemporary Omani Ibadism"

2015, 1-3 June, 6th Int. Conference on Ibadī Studies, "Ibadī History: The Nahda Period", Univ. of Saint Petersburg. Paper: "Ijtihād and Ibadī Reform Movement in North Africa"

2014, 20-21 March, La condizione giuridica e sociale delle donne in Libia. Sapienza Univ., Rome. Paper: "Evoluzione dei diritti civili e politici delle donne nell'area MENA"

2013, 8 April, "Africa continente emergente. Ruolo delle donne africane nella transizione", LUISS Univ., Rome. Paper: "Empowerment delle donne in Nord Africa nell'ultimo decennio"

2010, 28-30 Jan., V Congresso della SIS, Univ. Federico II & UNIOR, Naples. Co-organizer of the panel: "Le sfide del nuovo millennio in Nord Africa e Medio Oriente: Gender, dinamiche socio-culturali, processi di trasformazione politica ed economica. Paper: "Formale o informale? Dinamiche dell'occupazione femminile nell'area MENA"

List of publications (for a full list see [FRANCESCA Ersilia \(cineca.it\)](http://www.cineca.it))

Books (a selection of)

Economia, religione e morale nell'islam, Carocci, Roma 2013.

(ed. with A. M. Di Tolla), *Emerging Actors in Post- Revolutionary North Africa*, 2 vols. (I. *Gender Mobility and Social Activism*, 452pp.; II. *Berber Movements: Identity, New Issues and New Challenge*, 390pp.), special issues of *Studi Magrebini 14-15/2016-2017*, Napoli 2017 open access <http://hdl.handle.net/11574/176354> - <http://hdl.handle.net/11574/176355>

(ed.) *Ibadi Theology. Rereading Sources and Scholarly Works*, Olms, Hildesheim, 2015, 352pp.

Introduction to Ibadi Law and Jurisprudence (Brill contracted – 2025).

Articles in PR and class A journals and contribution in edited books (a selection of from 2011)

«Flogging, Banning, Lapidation: What was the punishment for fornication and adultery in early Islam?», in *JSAI 2022/52*, pp. 165-210.

«Gender and Economics in Mediterranean: Looking for New Opportunities for North African Women», in F. Corrao & R. Redaelli (eds.), *States, Actors and Geopolitical Drivers in the Mediterranean*, London, Palgrave, 2021, pp. 157-173. <https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9783030689995>.

« “Put the Ocean between Them”: Fornication as Permanent Impediment to Marriage in Early Ibādī Islam », in *Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam* 2021/50, pp. 101-137.

«al-Ġazālī e il “buon mercante” », in *Studi Magrebini/North African Studies*, 17/1-2, 2019, pp. 96-111 online: <https://brill.com/view/journals/stma/stma-overview.xml>

«Law and Politics in the Early Ibādī Communities: Abū ‘Ubayda al-Tamīmī”’s *Risāla* to Abū ‘l-Khaṭṭāb al-Ma‘āfirī», in Cyrille Aillet (ed.), *L’ibadisme dans les sociétés de l’islam médiéval. Modèles et interactions*, De Gruyter, Berlin/Boston 2018, pp. 72-88. ISBN: 9783110583793

«Diritti, lavoro e imprenditorialità femminile in Marocco», co-author with Razane Chrouqui, Abdelouahed Jittou and Renata Pepicelli, in Eugenia Ferragina (ed.) *Rapporto sulle economie del Mediterraneo. Edizione 2018*, Il Mulino, Bologna 2018, pp. 271-294.

(Co-author with Renata Pepicelli), «Diritti, politica ed economia: processi di inclusione delle donne in Nord Africa nel decennio 2007-2017», in E. Ferragina (a cura di), *Rapporto sulle economie del Mediterraneo 2017*, ISBN 9788815273031 Il Mulino, Bologna 2017, pp. 141-160. Auth. of chap. 4 Introduction and conclusion co-auth. with Renata Pepicelli.

«Religion and Politics in Contemporary Omani Ibadism», in Abdulrahman Al Salimi - Reinhard Eisener eds., *Oman, Ibadism and Modernity*, G. OLMS, Hildesheim-Zürich-New York 2017, 416pp., ISBN: 978-3-487-15549-4, pp. 87-95

«Economic Opportunities and Social Challenges in the North African Transition», in A. M. Di Tolla – E. Francesca (eds.), *Emerging Actors in Post-Revolutionary North Africa. Gender Mobility and*

Social Activism, Tomo I, *Studi Magrebini*, N. S. 14-15/2016-2017, Università di Napoli “L’Orientale”, Napoli 2017, pp. 49-81.

«I mercati del profeta. Economia e morale nell’Islam in epoca contemporanea tra sharī‘a, ideali di giustizia e organizzazione della società», in *FEDE MERCATO UTOPIA. Modelli di società tra economia e religione (secc. XVI-XXI)*, eds. Manuela Albertone, Cecilia Carnino, Franco Angeli, Milano 2016, pp. 159-175.

«La penisola araba, un mosaico di contraddizioni», *Il protagonismo delle donne in terra di Islam. Appunti per una lettura storico-politica*, in Leila Karami – Biancamaria Scarcia Amoretti (eds.), Ediesse, Roma 2015 (novembre), pp. 266-272.

«Self-defining through Faith: The *walāya* and *barā’*a dynamics among the early Ibādīs», in Camilla Adang, Hassan Ansari, Maribel Fierro, Sabine Schmidtke (eds.), *Accusations of unbelief in Islam: A diachronic perspective on takfir*, Brill, Leiden 2015, pp. 29-41.

«The Concept of Sunna in the Ibādī School», in Adis Duderija (ed.), *The Sunna and its Status in Islamic Law. The Search for a Sound Hadith*, ISBN 9781137369932, Palgrave MacMillan, New York 2015 (ottobre), chap. 5, pp. 97-115.

«Ibādī Law and Jurisprudence», *The Muslim World*, 2 April 2015/105, pp. 209-223.

«Generosity versus Avarice in Medieval Islam», in “Social Stratification, Religious Hierarchy and Cultural Prestige in Pre-Modern Islam and Neighbouring Civilizations”, *Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam*, 2015/42, pp. 151-181.

«Empowerment delle donne in Nord Africa nell’ultimo decennio: riforme giuridiche, accesso all’istruzione e al mondo del lavoro», in Linda Lombardo (ed), *Africa, continente emergente. Il ruolo delle Africane nella transizione*, LUISS Academy/Scienze Politiche, Roma 2014, pp. 25-43.

«Musulmane d’Italia e diritto italiano», in E. Pföstl (ed), *Musulmane d’Italia*, Istituto di Studi Politici “S. Pio V”, Ed. Bordeaux, Roma 2014, pp. 57-102.

«Genere e cittadinanza nell’area MENA», in E. Pföstl (ed), *Società civile e minoranze tra tradizione e trasformazione nell’area del Medio oriente e del Nord Africa*, Istituto di Studi Politici “S. Pio V”, Editrice Apes, Roma 2011, pp. 107-184.

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