

CHIARA GHIDINI

Associate Professor of History of Religions and Ideas in Japan and Korea | Digital East Asia

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

Italian National Scientific Qualification (ASN): Full Professor level — Group 10/ASIA-01; disciplinary field ASIA-01/E

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1. Academic Profile

Chiara Ghidini is Associate Professor of Religions and Philosophies of Japan and Korea at the University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’, where she teaches also History of Religions and Ideas in Japan and Korea and Digital East Asia on Master’s degree programmes. Her research lies at the intersection of the history of religions, Japanese cultural and intellectual history, and comparative studies linking East Asia, the Mediterranean and Europe. Her main interests include the construction and uses of antiquity in modern and contemporary Japan; the cultural history of Japanese religions; ritual and symbolic practices; the reception of the Mediterranean and Greek antiquity in Japan; the history of Buddhism; and the relationships between religion, food and sustainability.

She holds a Laurea Degree from the University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’, an MA in Classical Japanese Literature from Gakushūin University, Tokyo, and a PhD in Japanese Cultural History from the University of Cambridge.

Alongside her research, she has developed an extensive teaching and supervisory profile. She has taught undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral courses on Japanese religions, intellectual history, Buddhism, East Asian cultural history, and Digital East Asia. She regularly supervises Master’s dissertations and PhD research projects, serves on doctoral committees and examination boards, and contributes to the training of early-career researchers through international workshops, masters, and research seminars organised with partner institutions in Japan, Europe and North America.

2. Academic Appointments

2019–present — Associate Professor in Religions and Philosophies of East Asia, University of Naples “L’Orientale”.

2016–2019 — Assistant Professor (RTD-B) in Religions and Philosophies of East Asia, University of Naples “L’Orientale”.

2010–2016 — Assistant Professor (Moratti-funded position) in Japanese Language and Literature and Religions and Philosophies of East Asia, University of Naples “L’Orientale”.

2010 — Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Naples “L’Orientale”.

2016–2017 — Lecturer in History of Religions, International University of Languages and Media (IULM).

2006–2010 — Adjunct Lecturer in Japanese Culture, ISIAO – Italian Institute for Africa and the Orient.

2006–2009 — Adjunct Lecturer in Religions and Philosophies of East Asia, University of Catania, Ragusa Ibla campus.

2005–2007 — Adjunct Lecturer in Japanese Language and Culture, University of Salento.

2007–2011 — Adjunct Lecturer in Religions and Philosophies of East Asia, Sapienza University of Rome.

3. Education

1995 — Laurea in Religions and Philosophies of East Asia, University of Naples “L’Orientale”, 110/110 with honours. Supervisor: Prof. Silvio Vita. Dissertation: *Aware nel Kokinwakashū: Traduzione poetica e poetica della traduzione*.

1997–1998 — Advanced Certificate in Japanese Language, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

1999–2001 — Master of Arts in Classical Japanese Literature, Gakushūin University, Tokyo. Supervisor: Prof. Yoshioka Hiroshi. Dissertation: *Man’yōshū to chokusenshū ni okeru aware*.

2002–2007 — PhD in Japanese Cultural History, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Dr Mark Morris. Dissertation: *Orikuchi Shinobu: Narrating Women and Ancient Japan*.

4. Languages

- **Italian** — native language
- **English** — fluent
- **Japanese** — fluent
- **Classical Chinese** — reading knowledge
- **French** — reading knowledge

5. Institutional Roles

Rector's Delegate for Internships, Careers, Work Placement and Alumni Relations.

2021–present — Member of the Doctoral Board in Asia, Africa and the Mediterranean, Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies, University of Naples “L’Orientale”.

6. Teaching, Doctoral Supervision and Examination

- Extensive experience teaching undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral courses in the history of East Asian religions, Japanese intellectual and cultural history, Buddhism and Digital East Asia.
- Regular supervision of Master's dissertations and doctoral research, together with service on doctoral admissions panels, progress-review committees and final examination boards.
- PhD supervision and co-supervision include projects on the cultural history, mythography, poetics and politics of premodern Japan and Korea, and on cultural history and museography between the ancient Mediterranean and Japan.
- Co-supervisor, with Professor Blai Guarné, of a PhD dissertation at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.
- External Examiner in Asian Religions, DREST – Italian National PhD Programme in Religious Studies.
- External Examiner for PhD dissertations at Sapienza University of Rome.
- Contributor to doctoral training through research seminars, international workshops and summer schools.

7. Academic and Professional Affiliations

- Affiliated Researcher / Non-Resident Research Fellow, Italian School of East Asian Studies (ISEAS), Kyoto.
- Member of the Executive Board, ISMEO – The International Association for Mediterranean and Oriental Studies.
- Member of the Governing Board, Inter-University Centre for Bioethics Research (CIRB).
- Member of the Executive Board, Inter-University Centre Dis4Change.
- Member, Italian Association for Japanese Studies (AISTUGIA).
- Member of the Executive Board, Centre for Buddhist Studies, University of Naples “L’Orientale” (CSB).
- Member, European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS).
- Member, Centre for East Asian Studies, Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies (Department of Excellence), University of Naples “L’Orientale”.

8. Editorial Activities

- Co-director, with Luca Arcari, of the international series Forma Aperta. Ricerche in storia, culture, religioni, L’Erma di Bretschneider, Rome, since 2019.
- Co-director, with Diego Cucinelli and Luca Stirpe, of the series La ghiandaia celeste, Edifir, Florence, since 2024.
- Member of the Scientific Committee of the Florentalia East Asian Studies Series, Florence University Press.
- Member of the Scientific Committee of the series Studi giapponesi, Aracne, Rome.
- Member of the Scientific Committee of the journal Il Giappone. Studi e Ricerche.
- Member of the Editorial Board of the journal Civiltà e Religioni, Libreria Universitaria, Padua.
- Member of the Editorial Board of the journal La Freccia e il cerchio / The Arrow and the Circle, La scuola di Pitagora editrice, Naples (former).
- Member of the Scientific Committee of the series Homo edens, Cleup, University of Padua (former).
- Member of the Scientific Committee of the series Religioni e Storia, M. D’Auria Editore, Naples (former).
- Guest Editor, Ming Qing Yanjiu, vol. 23 (2019), special issue “Research on Late Imperial China: A Perspective from the UK”.

9. National and International Research Projects

2026 — Coordinator for the University of Naples “L’Orientale” of the Suntory Japan-funded research project 来歴未詳の日本地図——その成立と伝来をめぐって (A Map of Japan of Unknown Provenance: Its Formation and Transmission). PI: Diego Cucinelli, University of Florence.

2026 — Member of the medium-scale university research project of Sapienza University of Rome (PI: Donatella Rossi) Theriomorphism and Soteriology in Asian Cultures. Philological and Anthropological Investigations of their Legacy and Impact on Present Day Sustainable Ethics.

2022–2025 — Member of the international project South Korea in Southern Italy: A Cross-disciplinary Hub for Collaborative Research on Korean Studies, funded by Academy of Korean Studies, Seoul. PI: Andrea De Benedittis, University of Naples “L’Orientale”.

2022–present — Research Collaborator in the international project Engineering Historical Memory, a database and search engine for primary historical sources and multimedia references, coordinated by Andrea Nanetti, Nanyang Technological University / Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts.

2024–present — Member of the Advisory Board and lead scholar for the reception of Thucydides in East Asia in the international project Global Thucydides: Editors, Readers, Translators (1848–2024), PI: Luca Iori, University of Parma, and Ivan Matijasic (University of Messina).

2024–present — Academic coordinator for the University of Naples “L’Orientale” of the project Tokyo Daigaku ROLES 50, Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology Open Laboratory for Emergence Strategies, University of Tokyo.

2021–2024 — Member of the university research project Pseudos. Forms of Dis/Value between Testimony and Falsification, University of Naples “L’Orientale”, PI: Giampiero Moretti.

2021–2024 — Member of the research project of the Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies, University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Models and Dynamics of the Transmission of Buddhism in Asia, PI: Giacomella Orofino.

2021–2023 — Member of the international project COST Action CA18140 People in Motion: Entangled Histories of Displacement across the Mediterranean (1492–1923), Workgroup “Things in Motion”.

2021 — Member of the international project of the Toshiba International Foundation Palaeography and the Surveying Methods of Japanese Historical Documents, coordinated by Luca Milasi, Sapienza University of Rome (now Tohoku University).

2019–2022 — Member of the university research project Fate and Immortality in Asia: A Cross-cultural Perspective, coordinated by Donatella Rossi, Sapienza University of Rome.

2019–2023 — Member of the Naples research unit, University of Naples “L’Orientale”, of the PRIN project in Early Modern History Sacrifice in the Europe of the Religious Conflicts and in the Early Modern World, directed by Vincenzo Lavenia, University of Bologna.

2017–2018 — Member of the research project Literature, Performance and Mass Media in Japan, Sapienza University of Rome, Principal Investigator Matilde Mastrangelo.

2016–2018 — Member of the international project Representations of Italy in Modern Japan: Media and Learning (近代日本のイタリア発メディアと知), in collaboration with Silvio Vita, Kyōto Gaikokugo Daigaku; Noemi Lanna, University of Naples “L’Orientale”; Francesco Campagnola, Ghent University / University of Lisbon. Project funded in 2016 and renewed in 2017 by Kyōto Gaikokugo Daigaku.

2014–2016 — Co-director, with Anna Andreeva, of the Research and Translation Workshop on the Seventeenth-Century Collection Ryūkyū Shintōki (The Records of Ryūkyū Shintō), Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context”, Universität Heidelberg.

2015–2016 — External member of the project Dialectics of Buddhist Metaphysics in East Asia. Tibet and Japan: An Inedited Comparison, Sapienza University of Rome, PI: Donatella Rossi.

10. Selected Conferences, Lectures and Seminars

2011 — AJLS Conference: The Poetics of Aging: Confronting, Resisting and Transcending Mortality in the Japanese Narrative Arts. Speaker, “Orikuchi Shinobu on Elderly Women”. Tufts University, Boston, USA, 4–6 November 2011.

2011 — Antiquorum philosophia. In Memory of Giovanni Pugliese Carratelli, organised by Gianfranco Maddoli, University of Perugia. Speaker, “Pugliese Carratelli, Ancient India and Indological Studies”. Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome, 28–29 November 2011.

2013 — Proposals for Teaching the History of Religions in Italian Schools. Invited speaker, “Teaching the (Multi)cultural History of Buddhism in Italian Schools”. University of Milan, Milan, 18–19 March 2013.

2013 — Il corpo in scena: Rappresentazioni, Tecniche, Simboli. Speaker, “Bodies of Light, corpi d’acqua. Annegare inseguendo il sole”. International conference, Padua, Palazzo del Bo and Accademia Galileiana, 24–26 September 2013.

2013 — 37th International Conference on Japanese Literature, National Institute of Japanese Literature. Speaker, “女性・女声の黄泉がえり 折口信夫と円地文子を中心に” (Josei・josei no yomigaeri: Orikuchi Shinobu to Enchi Fumiko o chūshin ni). Tokyo, 30 November–1 December 2013.

2014 — Heavens and Hells in East Asian Religions. Invited speaker, “West of Here: The Afterlife of Pure Lands in Post-Meiji Japan”. Cluster “Asia and Europe”, Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg, 18 June 2014.

2015 — World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR). Panel “Defining Religious Minorities in a Global World (Early Modern History)”. Invited speaker, with Anna Andreeva, “Transferring the Economies of the ‘Sacred’: The Case of the Ryukyu Islands at the Turn of the 17th Century”. Erfurt, Germany, 23–29 August 2015.

- 2015** — World Psychiatric Association International Congress 2015. Speaker, with Filippo Benedetti and Erminia Colucci, “Enchained to an infinite crossroads’: towards a cultural history of mental illness in Taiwan”. Taipei International Convention Center, Taipei, Taiwan, 18–22 November 2015.
- 2015** — Compalit 2015: Chi ride ultimo. Parodia, satira, umorismi. Co-organiser of the panel “Laughter and Religion in Writings and Rewritings” with Paola Di Gennaro and Florian Mussgnug. Speaker, “The ABC of the Funeral: Humour and Satire on Funerary Ritual in Contemporary Japan”. Accademia Pontaniana, University of Naples Federico II, Naples, 16–18 December 2015.
- 2015** — International conference Alimentazione, produzioni tradizionali e cultura del territorio. Invited speaker, “The West in the East: The Reception and Re-creation of Western and Italian Food Culture in Japan”. International Puppet Museum, Palermo.
- 2016** — National conference SISR – Italian Society for the History of Religions, The History of Religions and the Challenge of Pluralism. Invited speaker, “Cosmopolitanism, Nationalism and Religion in Late Imperial China”. Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, 8–9 April 2016.
- 2016** — Australasian Universities Languages and Literature Association (AULLA) Conference. Panel “Cross-Cultural and Cross-Generational Love and the Word in Japanese Literature, Manga and Art”. Invited speaker, “Eating dreams for a living. A reading of Harada Yasuko’s Elogy”. Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia, 7–9 December 2016.
- 2017** — Centre for the Study of Japanese Religions, SOAS University of London. Invited speaker, “Enacting Antiquity in 20th-century Japan: Orikuchi Shinobu’s Okinawa”. London, 26 January 2017.
- 2017** — École française d’Extrême-Orient (EFO) and Italian School of East Asian Studies (ISEAS). Invited speaker, “The Archaic in the Modern: Orikuchi Shinobu on Man’yō Japan and the Ryukyus”. Kyoto, Japan, 27 February 2017.
- 2017** — 15th International Conference of the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS). Co-organiser of the panel “Moulding the past in 20th-century Japan: The influence of narrative and academic discourses on the study of Japan’s history of religions” with Claudio Caniglia and Gaetan Rappo. Speaker, “Re-enacting antiquity and reviving religious passion: Orikuchi Shinobu’s vision of kodai in 20th-century Japan”. University of Lisbon, Lisbon, 30 August–2 September 2017.
- 2017** — Il sacro pasto. The Tables of Humans and Gods. Invited speaker, with Paolo Scarpi, “From Meat to Vegetables: Dietary Crises and Choices for Eating Like the Gods (between Asia and Europe)”. Noto, 26–28 October 2017.
- 2017** — Dialogo interculturale e interreligioso. Coordinator of the advanced training course for journalists, scholars and members of the public. University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Naples, 3–17 November 2017.
- 2017** — Exploring the Two Wings of Buddhism in the World (2): Buddhist Cultural Practices Across Asia / 国際シンポジウム「仏教の両翼を世界に探る」(第2部). Co-organiser with Lucia Dolce. University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Naples, 27–28 November 2017.
- 2018** — 16th Annual Conference of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR). Co-organiser of the panel “Healing Narratives in Asian Religions: Interactions, Circulation, Legitimacy” with Erica Baffelli and Fabrizio Ferrari; speaker, “Summoning antiquity in contemporary Japanese healing theories and practices”. University of Bern, Bern, 17–21 June 2018.
- 2018** — Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Conference: Medieval Unfreedoms: Slavery, Servitude, and Trafficking in Humans before the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. Invited speaker, “Bound to Serve the Gods”. Binghamton University, State University of New York, USA, 19–20 October 2018.
- 2018** — Itineraries of the Sacred. Reassessing the Field: The Study of Japanese Religion and Thought in the 21st Century. Invited speaker, “What must I do to be saved? Explorations on practices and theories of salvation in Japan and beyond”. Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, 29–30 October 2018.
- 2018** — 日本歴史資料(古文書)とくずし字解読 / Japanese Historical Documents: Reading Cursive Manuscripts. Organiser of the international seminar-workshop introducing and examining the Marega documents held in the Vatican Library. University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Naples, 18–19 December 2018.
- 2018** — Erasmus+ teaching and staff exchange, University of Manchester, November 2018.
- 2019** — EuARE2019 European Academy of Religion Annual Conference. Invited speaker, “Heretic Tidings from Mid-Tokugawa Japan”, in the panel “Global History and the Study of Religion: New Methodologies and Historical Trajectories”, organised by Cristiana Facchini and Jörg Rüpke. University of Bologna, Bologna, 4–7 March 2019.
- 2019** — Representations of Identity in Japanese Culture: Methods, Tools and Research Themes. Speaker, “A Mirror of Ancient Japan or a Human Pavilion? The Ryūkyū Islands in the Early Twentieth Century”. University of Catania, Catania, 31 October 2019.
- 2021** — Virtual Symposium “Conversations on Chinese Philosophy”. Co-organiser with Federico Brusadelli and Lisa Indraccolo. International symposium online, 4 March–7 May 2021.
- 2021** — バチカン図書館所蔵マレガ収集文書の解読と理解 / Readings and Interpretation of the Marega Collection in the Vatican Library. Co-organiser with Luca Milasi. International seminar online in Japanese, 11–12 December 2021.

- 2022** — Religions in Reiwa Japan. Co-organiser with Erica Baffelli. International conference with speakers from United Kingdom, United States, Norway, Sweden and Japan. Procida, Terra Murata, 16–17 May 2022.
- 2022** — Fate and Immortality in Asia: A Cross-cultural Perspective. Speaker, “Under the Spell of Antiquity: Orikuchi Shinobu and the Water of Eternal Youth”. Sapienza University of Rome, 7 September 2022.
- 2023** — On the Trail of the Neverending Manuscript. Speaker, “Discipline, profession, religious practice, and purification: a cultural history of copying and coping in Nara Japan and beyond”. International conference organised by Michele Cammarosano, University of Naples “L’Orientale”, 30–31 May 2023.
- 2023** — The mobility of postcards and souvenirs in the Mediterranean and beyond: Frames of memories and emotional keepsakes. Co-organiser with Rosita D’Amora and Maria Fusaro; speaker, “A material and visual (hi)story of ‘the Crescent and the Sun’: Gift diplomacy, commodity-souvenirs, sketches, and postcards”. International seminar within the COST Action CA18140 People in Motion. Procida, Terra Murata, 8 September 2023.
- 2023–2024** — Bioethics and Religions. Organiser of the in-person seminar series supported and funded by the Inter-University Centre for Bioethics Research (CIRB). Contributions by Francesco Lucrezi, James Mark Shields, Alessia Maccaro and Claudia Iazzetta. 25 September 2023–10 January 2024.
- 2023** — Sacrifice and Sacred Violence: History, Comparisons, and the Early Modern World. Speaker, “Not Only to Heaven and Earth: Logics of Sacrifice in Japanese Cultural History”. Final meeting of the Research Group “Sacrifices”, PI: Vincenzo Lavenia. University of Bologna, 14–15 December 2023.
- 2023** — Invited lecture, Interfaith Seminar on Religion, Racism and Discrimination, John Felice Rome Center, Loyola University Chicago. “Different Paths under the Same Moon: Zen ‘Japanism’ and Christianity in the Late Nineteenth Century”, 22 March 2023.
- 2024** — Summer School of the Inter-University Research Centre Studies on Climate Change and Environmental Discourse (Dis4Change), Climate Change Theories, Narrations and Discourse: Sharing Knowledges, Methods and Practices. Executive Board member and speaker, with Felice Farina, “The ‘Holy Green’: Religion, Food, and Sustainability in Japan”. University of Naples “L’Orientale”, 24–27 June 2024.
- 2024** — Global Thucydides: Editors, Readers, Translators (1848–2024). Speaker and coordinator for East Asia, “No Longer Uncharted Territory: The Journey of Ancient Greek Studies in East Asia and the Case of Thucydides”. International Conference, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, 19–20 September 2024.
- 2024** — Beyond Borders: Tracing the Historical Dynamics and Transmission Models of Buddhism in Asian Contexts. Speaker and co-organiser, “Endlessly kind and wise towards humanity: Women’s contributions to Buddhist Scholarship and the Arts in 20th-Century Japan”. International seminar, University of Naples “L’Orientale”, 14–16 October 2024.
- 2024** — Pseudos. Forms of Dis/Value between Testimony and Falsification. Co-organiser and speaker, “Origins, History and Writing in the Pseudo-world of Agō Kiyohiko (1909–2003)”. Final conference of the university research project coordinated by Giampiero Moretti. Fondazione Il Canto di Virgilio, Naples, 24–25 October 2024.
- 2024** — Buddhist Foodways: Vegetarianism, Ritual Economies and Gastropolitics. Speaker, with Felice Farina, “Shintō, Buddhism, and Gastropolitics: The Interplay of Religion and Heritage in Japan’s Washoku and Agricultural Systems”. International conference organised by Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, Centre of Environmental Humanities (NICHE) and American Academy of Religion. Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, 28–29 November 2024.
- 2025** — Mondī Magic / Magic Worlds. Member of the Scientific Committee and speaker, with Antonio Manieri, “Binding the Horse that Unbinds: Therapeutic Rituals and Tales of Magic in Premodern Japan”. International conference, Palazzo du Mesnil, University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Naples, 4–5 March 2025.
- 2025** — Theater beyond the Theater in a Comparative Perspective: Ritual Drama, Folklore, and Reception. Speaker and member of the Scientific Committee, “Greek Tragedy on the Tokyo Stage: from Café Rouault to Giri-Ken”. University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Naples, 26–28 May 2025.
- 2026** — Classical Echoes Between Worlds. Graeco-Roman Antiquity and Japan. Speaker, with Luca Iori, “Localising Greek Historiography: Thucydides in the Japanese Context”. International Conference, University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Naples, 9–11 March 2026.
- 2026** — Global Thucydides II. Editors, Readers, Translators (1848–2024). Speaker, “Translating Antiquity into Korean: Ch’ŏn Pyŏng-hŭi’s History of the Peloponnesian War and the Making of Classical Studies”. International Conference, University of Parma, Palazzo Centrale, Aula Bandiera, Parma, 15–17 April 2026.
- 2026** — The Global Thucydides Project: Interim Assessments and New Research Perspectives. Speaker, “‘Localising’ Thucydides in East Asia: Translations, Receptions and Political Uses”. Study day, Turin Academy of Sciences, Turin, 11 May 2026.
- 2026** — Invited Lecturer, Master JewChriS (Jewish and Christian Scriptures: History, Exegesis, Reception), Fondazione per le Scienze Religiose (FSCIRE), Bologna. Lecture: “After Violence: Christianity, Archives, and Wounded Images in Japan”, 20 June 2026.

11. Organisation of Conferences, Seminars and Visiting Programmes

This section presents a selection of major activities in the academic organisation of national and international conferences, seminars, lectures and lecture series.

2017 — Dialogo interculturale e interreligioso. Coordinator of the advanced training course for journalists, scholars and members of the public. University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Naples, 3–17 November 2017.

2017 — Exploring the Two Wings of Buddhism in the World (2): Buddhist Cultural Practices Across Asia / 国際シンポジウム「仏教の両翼を世界に探る」(第2部). Co-organiser with Lucia Dolce. University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Naples, 27–28 November 2017.

2018 — 16th Annual Conference of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR). Co-organiser of the panel “Healing Narratives in Asian Religions: Interactions, Circulation, Legitimacy” with Erica Baffelli and Fabrizio Ferrari. University of Bern, Bern, 17–21 June 2018.

2018 — 日本歴史資料(古文書)とくずし字解読 / Japanese Historical Documents: Reading Cursive Manuscripts. Organiser of the international seminar-workshop on the Marega documents held in the Vatican Library. University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Naples, 18–19 December 2018.

2021 — Virtual Symposium “Conversations on Chinese Philosophy”. Co-organiser with Federico Brusadelli and Lisa Indraccolo. International symposium online, 4 March–7 May 2021.

2021 — バチカン図書館所蔵マレガ収集文書の解読と理解 / Readings and Interpretation of the Marega Collection in the Vatican Library. Co-organiser with Luca Milasi. International seminar online in Japanese, 11–12 December 2021.

2022 — Religions in Reiwa Japan. Co-organiser with Erica Baffelli. International conference. Procida, Terra Murata, 16–17 May 2022.

2023 — The mobility of postcards and souvenirs in the Mediterranean and beyond: Frames of memories and emotional keepsakes. Co-organiser with Rosita D’Amora and Maria Fusaro. International seminar within the COST Action CA18140 People in Motion. Procida, Terra Murata, 8 September 2023.

2023–2024 — Bioethics and Religions. Organiser of the in-person seminar series supported and funded by the Inter-University Centre for Bioethics Research (CIRB). 25 September 2023–10 January 2024.

2024 — Lecture by Fabio Rambelli, “The Metaphysics of Japanese Ceremonial Music (Gagaku) between Buddhism and Confucianism: The Material Substratum of the Universe and the Choreography of Cosmic Harmony”. Convened by Chiara Ghidini. University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Palazzo Corigliano, Naples, 24 May 2024.

2024 — Pseudos. Forms of Dis/Value between Testimony and Falsification. Co-organiser of the final conference of the university research project coordinated by Giampiero Moretti. Fondazione Il Canto di Virgilio, Naples, 24–25 October 2024.

2025 — Mondì Magic / Magic Worlds. Member of the Scientific Committee. International conference, Palazzo du Mesnil, University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Naples, 4–5 March 2025.

2025 — Theater beyond the Theater in a Comparative Perspective: Ritual Drama, Folklore, and Reception. Member of the Scientific Committee. University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Naples, 26–28 May 2025.

2025 - Summer School Zen Path. Academic organisation and participation in the programme with Fabio Rambelli and Ellen Van Goethem. Naples, Baia Domizia and Sessa Aurunca, 16–21 September 2025.

2025 - Visiting Scholar Programme. Co-hosted Professor Ellen Van Goethem (Kyushu University) as Visiting Scholar at the Centre for East Asian Studies, University of Naples “L’Orientale”, together with Antonio Manieri and Roberta Strippoli. Contributed to the organisation of her research visit and academic programme, including lectures, seminars and collaborative activities with faculty members and students (September 2025).

2025 — Lecture by Vincent Goossaert, Talking with Bodhisattvas and Gods in China, 1600–Present. Organiser and discussant within the activities of the Centre for Buddhist Studies, University of Naples “L’Orientale”. Naples, 21 November 2025.

2026 — Remembering Otherwise: Religion, Memory, and Transmission. Organiser and discussant, with Hirafuji Kikuko (Kokugakuin University). Keynote lecture by Date Kiyonobu (The University of Tokyo), with contributions from Fabio Rambelli (University of California, Santa Barbara) and Luca Milasi (Tohoku University). University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Palazzo Corigliano, Naples, 30 January 2026.

12. Public Engagement, Knowledge Exchange and Cultural Activities

2021–present — Coordinator for the University of Naples “L’Orientale”, with Salvatore Morra (ISMEO), of the annual Silk Road music concerts marking the opening of the academic year at the San Pietro a Majella Conservatoire of Music, Naples.

2019–present — Member of the Expert Jury of the Fondazione Campania Legge – Premio Napoli. 2022–2025 — Public conversations with authors for the Fondazione Premio Napoli.

- 2021** — Salerno Letteratura. Chair of a public conversation with the writer Laura Imai Messina, *Tutti i colori del Giappone*.
- 2021** — Co-editor, with Biancamaria Sparano, of the volume *Io resto a casa a cucinare cinese*, Naples: Guida Editori; proceeds donated to the Cooperativa sociale culturale italo-cinese onlus.
- 2024** — Contributor responsible for the section on myth, religion and philosophy in the fifteen-volume series *Profondo Giappone*, published nationally with La Repubblica.
- 2024** — Universities for Peace: Training Pathways for Peace Professionals. Organisation of research dissemination, consultation and knowledge-sharing initiatives. Department of Human and Social Sciences; Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies. Coordinators: Chiara Ghidini, Diego Lazzarich.
- 2024** — National Universities Day. Università svelate. Organisation of research dissemination, consultation and knowledge-sharing initiatives. Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies; Department of Human and Social Sciences; Department of Literary, Linguistic and Comparative Studies. Coordinators: Chiara Ghidini, Johanna Monti, Fabiana Sciarelli, Diego Lazzarich.
- 2024** — L'Orientale in Jazz 2024. Organisation of concerts, theatre performances, film programmes, sporting events and exhibitions. Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies. Academic lead: Chiara Ghidini.
- 2025** — L'Orientale in Musica. Organisation of concerts, theatre performances, film programmes, sporting events and exhibitions. Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies. Academic lead: Chiara Ghidini.
- 2025** — Organisation of the presentation of Marcello Musto's *L'ultimo Marx*. Biografia intellettuale 1881–83, as part of the activities of the Premio Napoli and the University of Naples "L'Orientale" Alumni Platform. Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies; Department of Human and Social Sciences. Academic leads: Chiara Ghidini and Diego Lazzarich.
- 2025** — Writing in Wartime: Ukraine in Words and Images. Active participation in a public event. Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies; Department of Literary, Linguistic and Comparative Studies. Coordinators: Chiara Ghidini, Andrea Fernando De Carlo.
- 2025** — Co-organisation of the Peace School "Mario Paciolla", intensive programme devoted to careers in peacebuilding, international cooperation and humanitarian law, promoted by the University of Naples "L'Orientale" in collaboration with the Naples Human Rights Film Festival and the Neapolitan Society of National History. The international partner was the University for Peace based in Costa Rica. 8–11 October 2025.
- 2026** — Presentation of the Italian Network for International Mediation (RIMI). Member of the Organising Committee for the university conference on Italy's role in international mediation and peacebuilding, organised in collaboration with the Agency for Peacebuilding (AP), the Italian Initiative for International Mediation (3IM) and Women in International Security Italy (WIIS Italy), under the auspices of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. University of Naples "L'Orientale", Palazzo Du Mesnil, Naples, 9 April 2026.
- 2024–present** — Academic lead for the collaboration between the University of Naples "L'Orientale" and the Tenshin Sōtō Zen Temple in Naples, comprising public lectures, seminars, training activities and outreach initiatives on Japanese Buddhism and the history of religions.
- 2025–present** — Conference at Shinnyoji, a Sōtō Zen temple in Florence, addressed to the wider public and religious communities.

13. Scholarships, Fellowships and Individual Funding

- 2001–2004** — Yasuda Trust Scholarship for PhD study at Cambridge, covering fees and living expenses. 2001–2004 — Cambridge European Trust Scholarship.
- 2001–2004** — Gonville and Caius College Scholarship for research and fieldwork.
- 1997–2001** — Monbukagakusho Scholarship, Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, at Gakushūin University, Tokyo.
- 1996–1997** — Postgraduate research scholarship from the University of Naples "L'Orientale" at the ISEAS – Italian School of East Asian Studies, Kyoto. Tutor: Antonino Forte.
- 1993–1994** — Erasmus Scholarship from the University of Naples "L'Orientale" at the University of Leiden. Tutor: Thomas Harper.

14. Publications

14.1 Monographs

- 2025** — Ghidini, Chiara. *Antichi e Uguali in dialogo. Il Mediterraneo di Murakawa Kentarō e Toda Misato*. Naples: Guida Editori, pp. 1–214. ISBN 979-12-5563-271-9.

2019 — Ghidini, Chiara; Scarpi, Paolo. *La scelta vegetariana. Una storia tra Asia ed Europa*. Milan: Ponte alle Grazie, pp. 1–184. ISBN 978-88-6833-769-8.

2012 — Ghidini, Chiara. *Aware. Storia semantica di un termine nella poesia giapponese classica*. Naples: M. D'Auria Editore, pp. 1–120. ISBN 9788870923469.

2010 — Ghidini, Chiara. *Narrating Women in Ancient Japan*. Kyoto: Italian School of East Asian Studies, vol. 11. ISBN 9784900793262.

14.2 Edited Volumes

2021 — Ōta, Naohiro. *Reading Japanese Documents from the Marega Collection: An Introductory Manual with Selected Texts*. Edited by Silvio Vita, Chiara Ghidini e Luca Milasi. Vatican City: Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, pp. 1–134. ISBN 978-88-210-1076-7.

14.3 Journal Articles

2024 — Ghidini, Chiara. “Bridging Wor(l)ds: the ‘Grand Theme’ of Greece and Japan’s Modernity.” *Annali. Istituto Universitario Orientale Napoli*, vol. 84, pp. 55–68. DOI: 10.1163/24685631-12340149.

2024 — Ghidini, Chiara; Poletto, Alessandro. “Magic in Translation. Tracing jujutsu in premodern and modern Japan.” *La Ricerca Folklorica*, vol. 79, pp. 213–230.

2022 — Ghidini, Chiara. “The song of no hindrance. Liang Hanyi as Buddhist writer.” *Studi e Materiali di Storia delle Religioni*, vol. 88, no. 1, pp. 281–297.

2022 — Ghidini, Chiara; Lanna, Noemi. “Per la prosperità della nazione e la pace nel mondo. Spazio sacro e spazio politico a Tokyo nella seconda metà del Novecento.” *Memoria e Ricerca*, no. 2, pp. 325–346. DOI: 10.14647/105115.

2022 — Ghidini, Chiara. “La parola del passato e la memoria del gesto nella visione di Tsurumi Shunsuke.” *La Parola del Passato*, vol. LXXVII, fasc. I-II, pp. 239–260.

2018 — Ghidini, Chiara. “Sottosopra. Ascesa e declino di Long fa tang.” *Sinosfere, Costellazioni*, no. 2, pp. 15–31.

2018 — Ghidini, Chiara. “Nursery Crime. Omicidi ‘feudali’ nel Giappone degli anni ’40 / Nursery Crime. ‘Feudal’ Murders in 1940’s Japan.” *La Freccia e il Cerchio*, vol. Illusione/Indizio, n. 7, pp. 259–276.

2016 — Ghidini, Chiara. “L’ABC del funerale. Umoreismo e satira sul rito funebre nel Giappone contemporaneo.” *Between*, pp. 1–19.

2014 — Ghidini, Chiara. “Voci in assenza. Gli ainu del nord nella storia del Giappone moderno / Voices in Absence. The Ainu from the North in Japan’s Modern History.” *La Freccia e il Cerchio*, vol. 5, pp. 167–176.

2013 — Ghidini, Chiara. “A ‘Confucian’ Epaminondas in Meiji Japan.” *Anabases*, vol. 18, pp. 47–58.

2012 — Ghidini, Chiara. “The Unjami Ritual at Iheya Island in the Northern Ryukyus: A Preliminary Study.” *Studi e Materiali di Storia delle Religioni*, vol. 78, no. 2, pp. 458–466.

2010 — Ghidini, Chiara. “In Memory of Giovanni Pugliese Carratelli.” *Antiquorum Philosophia*, vol. 4, pp. 203–210.

2003 — Ghidini, Chiara. “Uraburu in the Elegy 1409 from the Man’yōshū.” *Annali dell’Istituto Universitario Orientale di Napoli*, vol. 63, pp. 157–170.

14.4 Book Chapters

Forthcoming:

Ghidini, Chiara. *Polytheism as Lived Plurality: Murakawa Kentarō between Ancient Greece and Japan*. Volume on Animism edited by Christine Thomas, Fabio Rambelli e Kikuko Hirafuji. Bloomsbury

Ghidini, Chiara. *No longer uncharted territory: the journey of Ancient Greek Studies in East Asia and the case of Thucydides in Global Thucydides*. Trends in Classics: Pathways of Reception De Gruyter–Brill. Edited by Luca Iori e Ivan Matijasic

Ghidini, Chiara. *From Constitutional Thebes to Tokyo’s Open-Air Chorus: Classical Greece and the Politics of Reception in Modern Japan*. In *Theater beyond the theater*, Anton Bierl (De Gruyter)

2025 — Ghidini, Chiara. “Narrazioni alternative e memoria collettiva: pseudostoria e falsificazione in Giappone.” In *Pseudos. Percorsi di ricerca*. Milan: FrancoAngeli. ISBN 9788835184942.

2025 — Ghidini, Chiara. “Not Only to Heaven and Earth: Logics of Sacrifice in Japan.” In *Sacrifice and Sacred Violence: History, Comparisons, and the Early Modern World*. Turnhout: Brepols. ISBN 978-2-503-61275-1.

2024 — Ghidini, Chiara. “Under the Spell of Antiquity: Orikuchi Shinobu and the Water of Eternal Youth.” In *Fate and Immortality in Asia: A Cross-cultural Perspective*, Serie Orientale Roma, vol. 41. Rome: Serie Orientale Roma, pp. 135–148. ISBN 978-88-6687-278-8.

2024 — Ghidini, Chiara. “Kannon alla julienne e Fudō Myōō in salamoia. Parodie buddhiste commestibili nella Edo del tardo XVIII secolo.” In *Il dono dell’airone*. Florence: Università degli Studi di Firenze, pp. 289–296. ISBN 9791221504224.

- 2023** — Ghidini, Chiara. “«Le mie piccole dita respirano». Il disegno infantile in Giappone negli anni Trenta.” In *La memoria della modernità. Disegni di bambini giapponesi della Raccolta Levoni*. Lugano: FCM Fondazione Culture e Musei, pp. 239–254. ISBN 979-12-80443-34-2.
- 2021** — Ghidini, Chiara. “Japanese shōjin ryōri: the green competition from Buddhist temples to TV shows.” In *Food Issues 食事. Interdisciplinary Studies on Food in Modern and Contemporary East Asia*. Florence: Firenze University Press, pp. 13–24. ISBN 978-88-5518-505-9. DOI: 10.36253/978-88-5518-506-6.
- 2020** — Ghidini, Chiara. “Le trame del Fiume celeste.” In *In viaggio verso le stelle. Storie di miti, culti ed eroi. Scritti in onore di Paolo Scarpi per il suo settantesimo compleanno*. Rome: Aracne, pp. 267–291. ISBN 978-88-255-3067-4.
- 2017** — Ghidini, Chiara. Con Federico Brusadelli (Università di Napoli “L’Orientale”) “Cosmopolitismo, nazionalismo e religioni nella Cina tardo-imperiale.” In *La storia delle religioni e la sfida dei pluralismi*, vol. 18. Brescia: Morcelliana, pp. 440–449. ISBN 978-88-372-3135-4.
- 2016** — Ghidini, Chiara. “Un altro mondo esiste, non di umani mortali.” In *Nuovi orizzonti ermeneutici dell’orientalismo. Studi in onore di Franco Mazzei, Series Minor*, vol. LXXXI. Naples: Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”, pp. 165–175. ISBN 978-88-6719-124-6.
- 2015** — Ghidini, Chiara. “Miko, sciamane e divinità danzanti nella storia culturale del Giappone.” In *Sciamanesimo e Sciamanesimi. Un problema storiografico*. Rome: Edizioni Nuova Cultura, pp. 157–168. ISBN 9788868125370.
- 2015** — Ghidini, Chiara. “Cutting a Long Story(board) Short. Hijikata Hisakatsu a Palau.” In *Quaderni di Studi e Materiali di Storia delle Religioni. Le religioni e le arti. Percorsi interdisciplinari in età contemporanea*, vol. 82. Brescia: Morcelliana, pp. 328–346. ISBN 9788837229481.
- 2012** — Ghidini, Chiara. “Elisir letterari nel Man’yōshū.” In *Spiritualità ed etica nella letteratura del Giappone premoderno*. Novara: UTET, pp. 3–12. ISBN 9788860083883.
- 2012** — Ghidini, Chiara. “Il poeta itinerante Matsuo Bashō.” In *Spiritualità ed etica nella letteratura del Giappone premoderno*. Novara: UTET, pp. 211–218. ISBN 9788860083883.

14.5 Contributions to Conference Proceedings

- 2018** — Ghidini, Chiara. “‘Not of this World, nor Parted from this World’. The Multivalent Dreamscape of Myōe Shōnin.” In *Dialectics of Buddhist Metaphysics in East Asia: Tibet and Japan: an Inedited Comparison*, Supplemento no. 1 alla Rivista degli Studi Orientali, nuova serie, vol. XCI. Pisa-Rome: Fabrizio Serra Editore, pp. 43–52. ISBN 8833151476.
- 2014** — Ghidini, Chiara. “L’insegnamento della storia (multi)culturale del buddhismo nella scuola italiana.” In *Proposte per l’insegnamento della storia delle religioni nelle scuole italiane. Atti del convegno di Milano 18–19 marzo 2013*. Bergamo: Sestante Edizioni, pp. 177–190. ISBN 9788866421566.
- 2014** — Ghidini, Chiara. “女性・女声の黄泉がえり 折口信夫と円地文子を中心に.” In *Proceedings of the 37th International Conference on Japanese Literature, Kokusai Nihon Bungaku Kenkyū Shūkai Kaigiroku*. Tokyo: National Institute of Japanese Literature, pp. 233–247. ISSN 0387-7280.
- 2013** — Ghidini, Chiara. “India e Indianistica in Giovanni Pugliese Carratelli.” In *Atti dei Convegni Lincei 274. Antiquorum Philosophia. Un ricordo di Giovanni Pugliese Carratelli*, Roma, 28–29 novembre 2011. Rome: Scienze e Lettere, pp. 275–282. ISBN 9788821810756.
- 2012** — Ghidini, Chiara. “The Ageless Voice of a Doting Body: Taima kataribe no uba in Orikuchi Shinobu’s Book of the Dead.” In *The Poetics of Aging: Confronting, Resisting, and Transcending Mortality in the Japanese Narrative Arts*, vol. 13. Boston: Association for Japanese Literary Studies, pp. 29–39. ISSN 15315533.
- 2009** — Ghidini, Chiara. “Mizu no Onna — Donne d’acqua.” In *L’acqua non è mai la stessa. Le acque nella tradizione culturale dell’Asia*. Atti del Seminario, Lecce, 18 aprile 2007. Florence: Leo S. Olschki, pp. 169–178. ISBN 9788822258151.

14.6 Translations

- 2013** — Ghidini, Chiara. “L’energia nucleare può essere sostituita da quella rinnovabile?” In *Scrivere per Fukushima*. Rome: Atmosphere Libri, pp. 123–127. ISBN 8865640510.
- 2013** — Ghidini, Chiara. “La ‘distanza’ tra disastro e fiction.” In *Scrivere per Fukushima*. Rome: Atmosphere Libri, pp. 148–171. ISBN 8865640510.
- 2012** — Ghidini, Chiara. “Sabishii shima.” *Paragone. Letteratura*, vol. 99/100/101, pp. 102–107.
- 2011** — Ghidini, Chiara. “Greek Philosophy and Western History: A Philosophy-Centered Temporality.” In *The Western Time of Ancient History: Historiographical Encounters with the Greek and Roman Pasts*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 60–98. ISBN 9780521883139.
- 2006** — Ghidini, Chiara. “Le donne nella storia religiosa del Giappone.” In *Grandi religioni e culture nell’estremo oriente: Giappone*, vol. 9. Milan: Jaca Book, pp. 71–84. ISBN 8816404876.

2006 — Ghidini, Chiara. “La cultura del corpo nelle religioni giapponesi.” In *Grandi religioni e culture nell’estremo oriente: Giappone*, vol. 9. Milan: Jaca Book, pp. 101–116. ISBN 8816404876.

2006 — Ghidini, Chiara. “I Buddismi esoterici in Giappone.” In *Grandi religioni e culture nell’estremo oriente: Giappone*, vol. 9. Milan: Jaca Book, pp. 221–250. ISBN 8816404876.

2006 — Ghidini, Chiara. “La possessione spiritica come religione indigena in Giappone e a Okinawa.” In *Grandi religioni e culture nell’estremo oriente: Giappone*, vol. 9. Milan: Jaca Book, pp. 305–314. ISBN 8816404876.

14.7 Reviews

2018 — Ghidini, Chiara. “The Book of the Dead by Orikuchi Shinobu (review).” *The Journal of Japanese Studies*, vol. 44, no. 2, pp. 465–469. DOI: 10.1353/jjs.2018.0063.