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Personal data

Birthplace: Catania (Italy). Date: 26/11/1962
Address: Via Emilia, 49 – 56121 Pisa (Italia)
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Curriculum in synthesis

Actual position

Since 2019
Full Professor of Ge'ez and Amharic Languages and Literatures
Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Dipartimento Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo

Former positions

2006- 2019
Associate Professor of Ge'ez and Amharic Languages and Literatures
Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Dipartimento Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo
1995- 2006
Assistant Professor of Ge'ez and Amharic Languages and Literatures
Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Dipartimento Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo

Teachings

1995-2022
Coptic Language, Semitic Philology, Ethiopian History and Civilization, Eritrean History and Civilization, Ge'ez (Old Ethiopic) Language and Literature, Amharic Language and Literature, Ge'ez and Amharic Languages and Literatures

Academic titles

1989-1991 – Università di Napoli L'Orientale
PhD in African Studies (supervisor Prof. Paolo Marrassini)
1981-1986 – Università di Firenze
M.A. Degree *summa cum laude* in Humanities (supervisor Prof. Paolo Marrassini)

International awards

2005 – Johanna und Fritz Buch Gedächtnis-Stiftung (Hamburg)
Two-year Research Fellowship
2001-2002 – Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung (Berlin)
One-year Research Fellowship (supervisor Siegbert Uhlig, Hamburg University)

National awards

1993 – Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Roma
“Giorgio Maria Sangiorgi” award for the African history and ethnology

Editor-in-chief of international journals

2009-2017 – ANNALI UNO. SEZIONE ORIENTALE (ISSN: 0393-3180)

Since 2017 – RASSEGNA DI STUDI ETIOPICI (ISSN: 0390-0096)

Editor-in-chief of editorial series

Since 2017 – Studi Africanistici. Serie Etiopica (ISSN: 2974-6450)

Since 2019 – CaNaMEI Reports (ISSN: 2784-9880)

Guest Professor

2007-2008

Course of Ge‘ez Philology and Manuscript Cataloguing at the Research and Documentation Centre of Asmara (Eritrea)

Visiting Professor

Since 2015

Ge‘ez Philology, Addis Ababa University

Current academic appointments

Member of the Board of the Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale, SC 10/N1, 2021-2023

Member of the Board of the Dipartimento Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo

Member of the Board of the PhD program “Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo” of the Dipartimento Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo

Coordinating authority of the Centre for African Studies of the Dipartimento Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo (Progetto Dipartimento di Eccellenza 2022-2026)

Member of the Board of the Centro Studi “Matteo Ripa e Collegio dei Cinesi”

Member of the Board of the “Centro per lo Studio e l’Edizione dei Testi”

Scientific referent for the Cooperation agreement of the Università di Napoli L’Orientale with the Research and Documentation Centre of Asmara (Eritrea), with the Mekelle University and the Bahir Dar University (Ethiopia) and with the Université Libanaise of Beirut (Lebanon)

Scientific responsibility in international and national research projects

2023: Associated Investigator (Substitute Principal Investigator) of the PRIN research program “InALC - Investigating African Languages and Cultures” (Principal Investigator Prof. Ilaria Micheli), duration 24 months, main ERC field SH, ERC subfields SH4_10 (Language typology; historical linguistics), SH4_11 (Pragmatics, sociolinguistics, linguistic anthropology, discourse analysis), SH5_3 (Philology; text and image studies)

2022: coordinating authority of the Advisory Board of the research project “La comunità italiana in Etiopia dopo il 1941”, funded by the Ministero Affari Esteri e Cooperazione Internazionale through the Italian Embassy in Addis Ababa and the Com.It.Es.

2019: coordinating authority of the project “Catalogo dei Manoscritti Etiopici in Italia”, funded by the Istituto per l’Oriente “C.A. Nallino” and ISIAO – Associazione Internazionale di Studi sul Mediterraneo e l’Oriente

2012: member of the research program FIRB “Aree di transizione linguistiche e culturali in Africa” (national organizer dr. Ilaria Micheli, local organizer dr. Chiara Zazzaro)

2012: coordinating authority of the project “L’arte etiopica in Italia: dal censimento degli oggetti alla banca-dati *on line*”, funded in the framework of the Scientific Agreement between the Università di Napoli L’Orientale and the Istituto Italiano per l’Africa e l’Oriente

2007: member of the research program FIRB “Il romanzo e i proverbi del saggio Ahiqar d’Assiria: origini, versioni primarie e secondarie, mutazioni e diffusione di un’opera letteraria dalla Mesopotamia antica in Oriente e Occidente” (national organizer prof. Frederick Mario Fales, local organizer prof. Riccardo Contini)

Since 2005: member of the scientific committee of the journal *Ethnorema*, editor-in-chief dr. Moreno Vergari (Castelnuovo Scriveria)

2004-2005: member of the Advisory Board of the research project *Encyclopaedia Aethiopica*, directed by Prof. Siegbert Uhlig (Universität Hamburg)

2000: member of the PRIN research program “Costituzione e informatizzazione di bibliografie, repertori e strumenti di base per lo studio filologico-letterario e linguistico dei manoscritti delle istituzioni religiose dell’Eritrea. Aspetti storico-documentari (testi documentari non letterari) e filologici” (national organizer prof. Paolo Marrassini, local organizer prof. Alessandro Bausi)

1999: member of the PRIN research program “Lineamenti di un atlante linguistico della bassa valle dell’Omo e delle aree adiacenti (Etiopia sud-occidentale)” (national organizer prof. Marcello Lamberti, local organizer prof. Mauro Tosco)

1998: member of the PRIN research program PRIN “Filologia e linguistica nelle civiltà dell’altopiano dell’Eritrea e del Tigray” (national organizer prof. Paolo Marrassini, local organizer prof. Mauro Tosco)

February 1994: fellow of the “Associazione don Giuseppe de Luca” (Rome); topic of the research: Cardinal Bessarion and the Council of Florence (1438-39)

January 1994: post-doctoral fellow of the Università di Napoli L’Orientale; topic of the research: The Romance of Alexander in the Ethiopian literature

October-November 1992: participation to a field-work in Eritrea (headed by prof. Irma Taddia, Università di Bologna, and funded by the National Council of Researches), within a research project for the study of the monastic libraries of the Sara’e region (Eritrea)