

ANNALISA BOCCHETTI

annalisa.bocchetti@unior.it

EDUCATION

2022, February 18 - Ph.D. in *Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies* (Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo) University of Naples "L'Orientale", Italy

2017, May 29, Master of Art in *Oriental Languages and Civilizations* (Civiltà e Lingue Orientali) University of Naples "L'Orientale", Italy

2015, (August-Oct.) Foreign student at the School of Language, Literature and Culture, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

FELLOWSHIPS

2024-2026, Research Fellow (Assegnista di ricerca) in *Folk and Oral Traditions in South Asia*, University of Naples "L'Orientale", Italy

2022-2024, FWO Junior Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Project: *Challenging and expanding the national canon: the case of Usmān's Citrāvalī (1613) and its afterlife in India's multilingual contexts*, Ghent University, Belgium

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sufism; multilingual traditions of South Asia; Urdu literature; Indian Ocean studies; more-than-human approaches; ecocriticism.

TEACHING

a.a. 2026/2027 Lecturer of Urdu Language and Literature (Docente a contratto), University of Naples "L'Orientale", Italy

2025, March, Lessons within the seminar series for students 'Lingue dell'Asia Meridionale per gli usi specialistici e la mediazione culturale' (*South Asian Languages for Specialised Use and Cultural Mediation*); special lesson on *Legal translation and cultural mediation in Urdu-Italian legal cases* (19 March) University of Naples "L'Orientale", Italy

2024, Nov-Dec., Seminar series 'Oltre il Racconto: Tradizioni Orali nella Cultura Popolare Islamica dell'Asia Meridionale' (*Beyond the Tale: Oral Traditions in the Popular Islamic Culture of South Asia*) University of Naples "L'Orientale", Italy

2023, February, Teaching sessions within the course on *Modern Languages of South Asia: language, text, and context 2* (Master course): *A Module on Urdū language and poetry*), Ghent University, Belgium

ORGANISATION OF WORKSHOPS, SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS AND PANELS IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

2026, January 22-24, Member of the organising committee of the international conference *Entangled Seascapes: More-than-human Histories Across Oceanic Worlds*, Academia Belgica, Rome

2025, November 20-21, Member of the scientific committee of the international conference *From Coast to Coast: Folklore and the Cultural Lives of the Western Indian Ocean*, University of Naples "L'Orientale", Italy

2025, October 1-4, Co-panelist of the panel entitled *Does faith speak only one tongue? Multilingual pathways of religious writing across South Asia and beyond, c. 1600–1850* in the *28th European Conference of South Asian Studies* (ECSAS2025), Heidelberg's Neue Universität, Heidelberg

RESEARCH TEAMS

2026, (Jan.-Dec.), Team member of the project *Oceanic worlds in South Asia. Entangled seascapes and counter-histories* (PI: Daniela De Simone), Ghent University, Belgium

WORK AND COLLABORATIONS

2024-present, Urdu Language Translator for the Public Prosecutor's Office of Naples, Naples Court (Procura della Repubblica, Tribunale di Napoli)

2022-2025, Urdu language Subject Expert and Teaching Assistant (Cultore della materia), University of Naples "L'Orientale", Italy

2017-2018, Collaborator in the editing project of a Hindī–Italian Dictionary. University of Naples "L'Orientale", Italy

SCHOLARSHIPS

2022, Jan.-April, Scholarship holder, "*iCHerISH* – inputting Cultural Heritage and Side Histories into the digital arena: Towards a collaborative network for South Asia" within the framework of the government funding project FISIR 2020, University of Naples "L'Orientale", Italy

PUBLICATIONS

- 2025, "Strategies of Devotional Performance in the Sufi Premakathās", in Badalkhan, S., Budelli, R., and Rudvin, M. (eds.), *Music in the Islamic World: A Cultural and Philosophical Journey*, Napoli: Università di Napoli "L'Orientale" (Series Minor CIX), ISMEO (Serie Orientale Roma n.s. 50), 2025, pp. 187–205.
- 2025, "The World Is a Masterpiece: The Symbolism of Painting in the Citrāvalī by Usmān (1613 CE)", in Nagasaki, H., Horstmann, M., and Okita, K. (eds.), *Early Modern Literatures in North India: Current Research 2022–2024*, Heidelberg: Heidelberg Asian Studies Publishing, 2025, pp. 91–112. <https://doi.org/10.11588/hasp.1553.c22776>
- 2022, Book Review, 'Witness to Marvels: Sufism and Literary Imagination', by Tony K. Stewart. *Religions of South Asia*, 15(3), 303–305. <https://doi.org/10.1558/rosa.22435>
- 2021, "Gender Constructions in the Theological Dimension of the Sūfī Premākhyāns: Sūfī Politics of Representation in the Citrāvalī by Usmān", *Religions of South Asia* 13(3), 368–384 (ISSN 1751–2689). <https://doi.org/10.1558/rosa.19015>
- 2020, Il volto tollerante dell'India: il pluralismo religioso', in Alberto Baldi e Paola Pisano, a cura di, *Rajasthan: Osservando la Complessità*, Napoli: DoppiaVoce, (ISBN 978–88–89972–95–3).

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

(Lectures and paper presentations)

- 2026, June 11-13, Presentation of a paper entitled "When the Sea Prays Back: Sufi Coastal Shrines in Urban India" at the international conference *MESEA 2026: Cultural Environments: Spheres, Ethnicity, Corporeality*, Department of Environmental Studies, Ionian University
- 2026, May 20-23, Presentation of a paper entitled "Signs from the Sea: More-Than-Human Encounters at a Sufi Coastal Shrine" at the *Seventh Meeting of the European Network for the Study of Islam and Esotericism (ENSIE 7)*, Universidad de Málaga
- 2026, January 22-24, Presentation of a paper entitled Sufi Ecologies of the Indian Ocean: Do Saints Ever Dwell Alone?" at the international conference *Entangled Seascapes: More-than-human Histories Across Oceanic Worlds*, Academia Belgica, Roma
- 2025, November 20-21, Presentation of a paper entitled "Navigating Wonder: Sindbād's Motif in Urdu Literary Networks" at the international conference *From Coast to Coast: Folklore and the Cultural Lives of the Western Indian Ocean*, University of Naples "L'Orientale", Italy
- 2025, May 2-4, Presentation of a paper entitled "Between Eid and Holi at Shāh 'Ālam II's court: ritualised power or powerful rituals?" at the *Spalding Symposium on Indian Religions*, Christ Church College, University of Oxford

- 2024, November 21-22, Presentation of a paper entitled ‘Translating Sufi Artistic Vocabularies: An Analysis of the Adaptation of Usmān’s *Citrāvalī* (1613) into the *Maṣnawī-e-Qiṣṣah-i Rāja Kunvar Sen or Rānī Citrāvalī* (19th century)’ at the international conference *Listening in Many Tongues: Multilingual Interpretive Communities and Acts of Translation in Early Modern South Asia*, Aga Khan Centre, Institute of Ismaili Studies, London
- 2024, June 17-18, Presentation of a paper entitled “Monsters or healers? The representation of forest inhabitants in the Sufi *premakathās*” at the international symposium *Narratives of exclusion: the othering of forest-dwellers in pre- modern Indian texts*, Ghent University, Belgium
- 2024, May 23-24, Presentation of a paper entitled ‘The art of rewriting the mystical: an introduction to a nineteenth-century Urdu manuscript of the *Qiṣṣah-i Rāja Kunvar Sen o Rānī Citrāvalī*, *Young Researchers’ 2nd Indo-Persian Workshop: Writing in the Indo-Persian World*, EHESS, Campus La Vielle Charité, Marseille
- 2024, April 24-26, Presentation of a paper entitled ‘The Struggle to Survive: Urdu Education in Post-Colonial India’ *Seventh Annual South Asia Conference*, Ireland India Institute, Dublin City University, Dublin
- 2023, December 11, Invited lecture entitled “Sufism and Literary Sources”, Udanta: The History Society, Zakir Husain Delhi College (Delhi University)
- 2023, November 25, Invited lecture entitled “*Shamālī Hindūstān ke adab par Fārsī taṣawwuf kā aṣar: Urdū qīṣṣe aur Awadhī premākhyān*” (The Influence of Persian Sufism on the Literature of North India: Urdu Tales and Awadhi *Premākhyāns*), Aligarh Muslim University, Department of Persian, India
- 2023, November 23, Invited lecture entitled “The Early Modern Sufi Tales in Awadhi: Literary Sources for Reconstructing the Multicultural History of India, Aligarh Muslim University, Centre of Advanced Study, Department of History, Aligarh, India
- 2023, July 26-29, Presentation of a paper entitled “Communicating the mystical truth: the Sufi *kathās* in North India’s popular culture” at the 27th *European Conference for South Asian Studies* (ECSAS) Università di Torino, Italy
- 2023, July 14-15, Presentation of a paper entitled “‘Holy servants’: the representation of eunuchs in a Sufi vernacular tale of 17th century North India’ at the international workshop *Slavery, Servitude, Service: Difference and Social Relations Across South Asia and its Global Connections, 1400–1800*, Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies, Germany
- 2023, March 22, Lecture on “Islamic inflections, Indic imaginaries: cultural and religious ‘translation’ in the Sufi *premakhyāns*”, Humanities Academie, Course on *Religious Traditions of India*, Ghent University, Belgium
- 2022, November 3, Presentation of a paper entitled ‘The missing link on 1947 Indian Partition: literary voices across the border’ at the international conference, *75 years of India and Palestine partitions*, University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Italy

2022, March 28, Presentation of a paper as a co-author, “From Bombay to Mantostaan: Spaces of (Be)longing” at the international workshop, *Migration, Journey, Travelling and Nostalgia: Travel Narratives in Hindi Literature* University of Vienna, Austria

2021, July 27, Presentation of a paper entitled “Inner and Outer Pilgrimages in the Mystical Narrative of the *Citrāvalī* by Usmān”, (*forthcoming publication*) at the *26th European Conference on South Asia Studies (ECSAS)* University of Vienna, Austria

LANGUAGE SCHOOLS AND WORKSHOPS

2024, May-June, Urdu Poetry Course (online) by Prof. Pasha M. Khan (Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University)

2024, July 10-20, Session Leader at the *Eleventh Early Hindi/Brajhasha Workshop*, ProCida School for Higher Education, Italy, University of Naples “L’Orientale” & Ghent University

2020, July 13-25, Brajhasha and Early Hindi Workshop (online), South Asia Research Cluster, Wolfson College, University of Oxford

2019, July 21-27, Session leader, reading and analysis of selected texts 6th Early Modern Hindī/Braj Workshop (*Interpretation of literary texts in early Indo-Aryan Languages*) Russian Academy of Sciences and State University of Russia, Gatchina/San Petersbourg

AFFILIATIONS

European Association for South Asian Studies (ECSAS)

Academic Network for the Study of Islam and Esotericism (ANSIE)

LANGUAGES

European languages:

Italian (mothertongue)

English (advanced)

Spanish (intermediate)

French (beginner)

Academic working languages:

Urdu (advanced)

Hindi (advanced)

Farsi (beginner)

Sanskrit (beginner)

