



Bilge Yabanci



CRAFT - To Craft an Authoritarian Regime: Politicization of Civil Society and the Judiciary in Turkey

Hybrid political regimes with limited democratic qualities and strong authoritarian tendencies are on the rise worldwide. In these realities, civil society and the judiciary can become an instrument for social control and consent manufacturing. This project offered a new approach to study the dynamics of 'crafting' a hybrid regime through the concept of 'politicization' of civil society and the judiciary, focusing on the case of Turkey and the Justice and Development Party (AKP) rule from 2002 to present. CRAFT used multi-method approach combining ethnographic fieldwork, interviews and quantitative analysis. Bilge Yabanci worked at the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage with prof. Matteo Legrenzi.

Antonella Diana

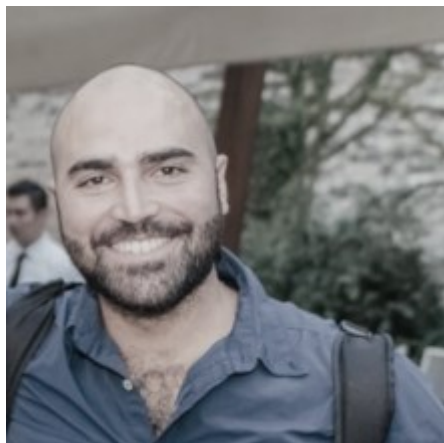


URBAN_CHINA: Urbanization in China's Southwestern Borderlands. The case of Jinghong, Xishuangbanna

Antonella Diana is an anthropologist who has carried out research on cultures and societies of China and mainland Southeast Asia. Her research project investigated the spatial, social, and subjective dynamics of non-metropolitan and non-industrial urbanization in China's south-western borderlands under post-socialism. In particular, in the case study of Jinghong, the emerging capital of the Xishuangbanna, the research focused on Tai ethnic neighbourhoods. Drawing on an interdisciplinary and integrated analytical approach, URBAN-CHINA contributed to shedding new light on the relationship between the production of living space and the exercise of political power, between state and ethnic minority groups, between the latter and the Han ethnic majority, as well as between centre and periphery in contemporary China. Antonella Diana carried out the project at the University of Sassari and at Ca' Foscari (Department of Asian and North African Studies under the supervision of prof. Laura De Giorgi), in collaboration with the IUAV University of Venice.



Federico Dallo



PIONEER - OPen Wireless OzoNe SEnsor NETwoRk for smart environmental monitoring of remote areas: crossing the Alps along the 12th east meridian on the trail Munich Venice

Atmospheric observatories are currently the main source of data for meteorology and climatology, in particular those remote areas, such as in polar areas and at high altitudes as representative of the "background" concentration of atmospheric gases. Monitoring in remote areas is however not always possible, being very complex and today extremely expensive. The project aimed to develop a new typology of autonomous low-cost observing system in support of the traditional (and satellite) observation networks and to build the first low-cost monitoring network on transboundary pollutant transport phenomena crossing the eastern Alps. Federico Dallo, chemist developing quantitative analytical methods for the assessment of atmospheric pollution in remote areas, collaborated with the University of California, Berkeley and the Institute of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate of the CNR in Bologna, under the supervision of Prof. Carlo Barbante at the Department of Environmental Sciences of Ca' Foscari.

Linda Armano



DiaETHICS - Map value transformations in a consumer research: sensory experiences and cultural interpretations shape concepts of "ethical diamond" and "mining work ethic" in a global interconnection

Linda Armano retraced the cultural interpretations that, from the mine to retail, enrich the ethical value of diamonds. Her project developed an ethnographic research in Diavik diamond mine in Canada and in an Italian jewelry. Linda analyzed, from a multi-sited ethnographic approach, how the concept of ethical diamond and the idea of work ethic are interpreted culturally by miners, customers and jewelers. Linda's supervisors were Prof. Vladi Finotto from Department of Management at Ca' Foscari University and Prof. Annamma Joy from Dept. of Management at University of British Columbia (Canada).



Elena Bacchin



Political Prisoners - a transnational question in 19th century Italy

This research project was a transnational historical investigation which examined the international role and representations of Italian political prisoners during the XIX century. It investigated how and to what extent political prisoners were key figures not only in the construction of an Italian nationalist discourse, but equally in the foreign understanding of and commitment for the Italian Risorgimento. The project offered a new approach in studying political imprisonment emphasising its international and humanitarian dimension. The research helped to understand the historical evolution of a European sensitivity and a commitment towards political detainees, refugees and people persecuted for political opinions and the evolution of international protection and humanitarian discourses. Elena Bacchin's research project took her to Columbia University in New York and then to Ca' Foscari's Department of Humanities, under the supervision of Prof. Simon Levis Sullam.

Matteo Benussi



MeMuRu - Places of Remembrance in Muslim Russia: Islamic Heritage and Moral Landscapes

The project mapped Islamic places of remembrance in Central Russia's Volga region, and analysed their social, political, and affective life. The research looked at the concrete places where the post-Soviet Islamic revival manifests itself, as the past few years have witnessed the rediscovery of numerous Islamic sites throughout the Russian Federation. This project contributed to the ongoing debates on post-socialist and Islamic personhood; memory, state-Muslim relations in Russia; and the spatial manifestations of religious life amongst Eurasian Muslims. Matteo Benussi is an anthropologist and with this research spent two years at Princeton University, before concluding his project at the Department of Humanities of Ca' Foscari with Prof. Gianluca Ligi.



Cristina Blanco Sío-López



NAVSCHEN - Navigating Schengen. Historical Challenges and Potentialities of the EU Free Movement of Persons, 1985-2015

Cristina Blanco Sío-López's research project took her to the European Studies Center (ESC) – Jean Monnet EU Center of Excellence (JMEUCE) of the University of Pittsburgh for two years. She then joined Ca' Foscari's Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage, relying upon the supervision of Prof. Matteo Legrenzi. NAVSCHEN produced the first dedicated critical historical analysis on the transnational roots, debates and conditions for the implementation of the EU's free movement of persons. The project addressed the empowering value of these normative legacies to tackle current challenges to human mobility rights in the European integration process, including its global governance reverberations.

Tamar Blickstein



LANLOSS - Landscapes of Loss: Mapping the Affective Experience of Deforestation Among Diverse Social Groups in the South American Chaco

LANLOSS considered the affective life of environmental upheavals driven by agribusiness and deforestation in the South American dry forests of the Gran Chaco, and evaluated how these processes impact legacies of colonialism in the region. LANLOSS involved interdisciplinary collaborations with climate scientists and biogeographers in Berlin and Argentina. Tamar Blickstein developed her research at Ca' Foscari's Department of Humanities, with the supervision of Prof. Valentina Bonifacio.

Andrea Brazzoduro



The Damned - Algeria, Antifascism, and the Third Worldism. An anticolonial genealogy of the Western European New Left (Algeria, France, Italy, 1957-1975)

The project proposed a new study of the genealogy of the New Left in Western Europe from the mid-1950s to the mid-1970s. The project reframed the European political geography to include the (post)colonial space, and reassessed the historical influence of the Algerian War of Independence (1954–1962) in the genealogy of the new political cultures that flourished during the 'long 1960s', associating a renewed antifascism with anticolonial struggles. After two years at the University of Tlemcen (Algeria), Andrea Brazzoduro continued his research at the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage of Ca' Foscari, under Prof. Matteo Legrenzi's supervision.



Monia Chies



HYSOTIB - Global dynamics of hydro-sociality in river heritage landscapes of the Qinghai Tibetan Plateau

Monia Chies is an anthropologist with a background in Chinese and Tibetan studies. Her research project investigated key socio-cultural issues connected with the management of river heritage landscapes of Qinghai (PRC) in the so-called “Asia’s water tower” comprising the headwaters of the Yellow, Yangtze and Mekong rivers. She spent two years at the University of Auckland to specialize in river science and one year at Ca' Foscari in Venice, Department of Economics where, under the supervision of Prof. Francesco Vallerani, she worked on issues of fluvial heritage within the framework of the Global Network of Water Museums (IHP - UNESCO).

Matteo Cosci



SN1604 - The Ophiucus Supernova: Post-Aristotelian Stargazing in the European Context (1604-1654)

Matteo Cosci is a historian of philosophy. His research project focused on the so-called “Kepler’s supernova”, the last supernova that was naked-eye visible from the Earth. For the five decades after its outburst in 1604, the interpretation of that “stella nova” was one of the main speculative battlefields where opposing conceptions of the universe collided. The research, assisted by a team of Terra-astronomers based at Jena University, examined how the unexpected explosion of the supernova in European skies fundamentally affected the development of the later Renaissance cosmological thought from an historical, philosophical and cultural point of view. The first phase of the research was conducted at the Department of History of Science at University of Oklahoma with the collaboration of the Catholic University, Washington D.C.; the second phase took place at the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage at Ca' Foscari under the supervision of Prof. Sgarbi.



Federico D'Onofrio



FARMACCOUNTA - Farm Accountancy Data as a Source for the History of European Agriculture

The research studied farm accountancy data collected by the International Institute of Agriculture during the Interwar in order to assess the usefulness of farm accountancy data for the analysis of global trends in agriculture around the Great Depression and prepared the creation of a database of historical farm accountancy data. The project contributed to our understanding of the impact of protectionism, transnational networks and international organisations during the interwar period, a time of international economic tensions that increasingly resembles our own. The economic historian Federico D'Onofrio carried out his research at the Department of Management of Ca' Foscari University, supervised by Prof. Giovanni Favero.

Marinella Davide



ACTION - Assessing Climate Transltion OptioNs: policy vs impacts

The project enhanced transparency and comparability among climate policies while offering insights into a just transition toward the sustainable development. The pledge-and-review approach, launched by the Paris Agreement, calls for new systematic tools to assess domestic commitments toward the achievement of global objectives, which also consider national specificities. Falling at the intersection of public policy, climate change economics and climate science, ACTION developed a quantitative approach to evaluate, empirically, national climate policies in terms of stringency, determinants, and economic impacts. The research was carried out between Harvard Kennedy School of Government and Ca' Foscari University, under the supervision of Prof. De Cian.



Matteo Favaretto



InProV - An inventory of the prosimetra in vulgar tongue in the early centuries of Italian Literature (1250-1500)

InProV provided an inventory of those texts consisting of prose and verse (prosimetra) written in vulgar tongue from the 13th to the end of the 15th century. Two well-known examples are Dante's "Vita Nova" and Sannazaro's "Arcadia". The examination of the prosimetra included in the inventory will enable researchers to gain a deeper understanding of the use of this hybrid form in the early centuries of Italian literature. In this period the prosimetrum was a third alternative to the tradition either in verse or in prose before evolving into a mere literary exercise. Matteo Favaretto is a philologist and an expert of Italian literature. He spent two years at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, before moving to the Department of Humanities at Ca' Foscari, supervised by Prof. Tiziano Zanato.

Anna Gasperini



FED - Feeding, Educating, Dieting: a Transnational Approach to Nutrition Discourses in Children's Narratives (Britain and Italy, 1850-1900)

Gasperini is an expert of Victorian fiction and culture, and medical history. Mentored by Prof. Laura Tosi, at Ca' Foscari she researched food in late-nineteenth-century English and Italian children's literature. Her project, titled "FED", compared images of mal/nutrition in narratives by English authors such as Dickens, Burnett, and Carroll and Italian authors such as Capuana, Collodi, and De Amicis. The goal was to highlight the trans/national nature of nineteenth-century discourses on child nutrition as a health concern and their circulation through fiction, examining how these "mal/nutrition narratives" promoted global/local values related to issues of gender and social hierarchies.



Ali Kharrazi



CIFTRESS - Climatic Impact on Food Trade RESilience and Security

Global climate change adversely affects crop yields and undermines humanity's food security and resilience; while previous research has focused on regional agricultural adaptation, the opportunities and vulnerabilities of trade networks have remained less explored. CIFTRESS examined the joint climate, agro-environmental, and economic induced changes to the trade network topology of five staple foods, i.e., maize, rice, wheat, barley, and soybeans, up to the year 2050 in the European and Mediterranean region. The results of this research allow to interpret the 'in-direct' trade flow relationships of climatic impacts on staple food trade linked to the notions of food resilience and security. Ali Kharrazi worked between the Department of Environmental Sciences, Informatics and Statistics of Ca' Foscari and the Euro-Mediterranean Center for Climate Change, mentored by Prof. Carlo Carraro.

Urška Lampe



IT-POW FAMILIES - families and memories of Italian prisoners of war in Yugoslavia after World War II

Under the supervision of prof. Alessandro Casellato, at the Department of Humanities of Ca' Foscari, Urška Lampe researched the "big history" of Italian Prisoners Of War in Yugoslavia after World War II throughout some "small" case studies focused on three family stories, using the paradigm of microhistory, the methodology of oral history and the tools of public history. She promoted the project results among the non-academic society through an attractive transferable interactive outdoor exhibition in three languages (English, Italian and Slovenian).



Luca Lombardo



VERTEXCULT - Vernacular Textual Cultures in Dante's Tuscany: Education and Literary Practices in Context

VERTEXCULT investigated the vernacular literary texts used for the intellectual education of secular people in north-western Tuscany between the half of the 13th and the first twenty years of the 14th century in order to clarify the cultural context of Dante's formation in Florence. It focused on the doctrinal literature flourished in late-medieval Italy, which is often unpublished and almost never made the object of critical studies. The project defined the vernacular, namely, the non-Latin, cultural context and texts circulation between the death of Frederick II (1250) and the death of Dante (1321), who within this historical context had reached the highest cultural dignity of the vernacular as the literary language of the legal-notary ruling class, before Petrarch and Humanism marked a radical return to the Latin. Luca Lombardo is a Dantist and Italianist. His research brought him for the two years to the University of Toronto and for the third year at Ca' Foscari with Prof. Tiziano Zanato at the Department of Humanities.

Niccolò Maffezzoli

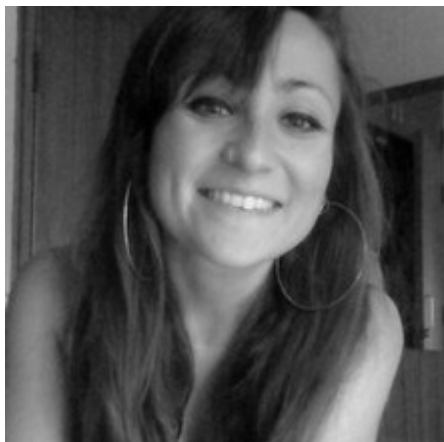


ICELEARNING - Artificial Intelligence techniques for ice core analyses

The Earth climate history can be studied by analyzing ice cores, cylinders of ice drilled out of ice sheets such as Greenland and Antarctica or alpine glaciers. Among the impurities that are deposited and then found in ice cores are insoluble particles, such as aeolian mineral dust, volcanic glass particles, particles of biological origin such as pollen and algae. The detection of these particles is crucial to understand the past conditions and interactions between the components of the climate system: the atmosphere, the biosphere and the oceans. At Ca' Foscari, Niccolò Maffezzoli developed a technique for the automatic detection of insoluble particles in ice cores using Artificial Intelligence Pattern Recognition techniques. Niccolò worked with Prof. Carlo Barbante at the Department of Environmental Science, Informatics and Statistics.



Chiara Mannoni



LawLove - The origins of the legal protection of the heritage. Legislation on the safeguard of monuments and artworks issued in 15th- to 18th-century Europe

LawLove analysed the old laws on the protection of artworks and monuments that were issued in the European countries in the early-modern and modern centuries (1400s –1700s). By developing a comparative analysis of these old regulations through both a juridical and an art historical approach, LawLove evaluated the systems established in 15th- to 18th-century Europe to administer, protect, supervise, conserve, maintain, classify and record what was thought of as “heritage” in each region. In the perspective of promoting a protocol for classifying and safeguarding the EU heritage, LawLove found a first history of legislation on the protection of the artifacts in Europe, which at the moment is completely lacking. Chiara Mannoni spent three years at Ca' Foscari's Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage to investigate on the origins of legal protection of cultural and artistic heritage, together with Prof. Chiara Piva.

Sabrina Minuzzi



MAT-MED - Materia Medica in Transit. The Transforming Knowledge of Healing Plants

The project focused on circulating Materia Medica – the body of knowledge concerning the medicinal properties principally of plants, but also of animals and minerals – in 16th-and early 17th-century Italy. Through an interdisciplinary approach which embraces the history of science and the history of book, “MAT-MED in Transit” investigated local and exotic Materia Medica as a window into the natural knowledge and healing practices common in different socio-cultural contexts. Sabrina Minuzzi is a historian and an expert in early modern books and medicine. Minuzzi carried out her research between Brown University (USA) and the Department of Humanities at Ca' Foscari, with Prof. Mario Infelise.



Maria Chiara Rioli



REL-NET - Entangled Interfaith Identities and Relations from the Mediterranean to the United States: The St James Association and its Transnational Christian-Jewish Network in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Mixed religious identities and interfaith relations represent one of the most crucial and debated phenomena in the XXI century. The revival of the religious dimension in the world is evident in the growing religious implications in modern and contemporary wars. The project tackled these global issues through the analysis of a significant case study that has been overlooked in the historiography: the history of Christian–Jewish transnational networks between Israel, Palestine, the Middle East, Europe and the United States after the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. Maria Chiara Rioli moved first to Fordham University and then to the Ca' Foscari Department of Asian and North African Studies, under the supervision of Prof. Marcella Simoni.

Mattia Zangari



WoMent - 'Mad for Him'. Women, Religion and Mental Illness in the Late Middle Ages and in the Early Modern Age

WoMent analyzed the hagiographical texts of late-medieval and early modern women who were deemed to be mystic, blessed, or saints. The project determined to what extent extreme religious experiences (ecstasies, visions, physical sensations) might be attributable not to unexplainable relations with the Godhead, but to very explainable medical causes. This research considered five cases of mental illness in hagiographical texts of six religious women. The research started from textual sources and an analysis of iconographical sources documented the way women saints lived. Mattia Zangari carried out his research at Università Urbaniana of Vatican City and at the Department of Humanities of Ca' Foscari, with the supervision of Prof. Antonio Montefusco.