

## **Umberto Pellecchia**

Born in San Giorgio a Cremano (Napoli, Italy) August 30th, 1979

Italian citizenship

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**Summary:** I hold a Ph.D in Anthropology at University of Siena, Italy, with a concentration on Political Anthropology of African Societies. I taught at undergraduate level for a year and half, while conducting researches in political and medical anthropology. I joined the humanitarian organization Médecins Sans Frontières as operational researcher; research support officer and project coordinator. I was employed at Greenpeace Belgium as project leader and researcher. In 2020 I joined back MSF as Senior Qualitative Researcher.

By working in both scientific and applied domains, I aim to translate scientific analysis into action and, on parallel, to use my applied job as an ethnographic field for theoretical reflections.

I have specific interest in: forced migration; environmental change-driven global inequalities; socio-cultural and political aspects of public health.

Strong analytical skills and research methods competencies; details oriented; in-depth mastery in literature review (specifically on domains of interest). Training, coaching, facilitating skills. I extensively worked in different domains and terrains, with a multidisciplinary approach.

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# **CURRICULUM VITAE**

## **EDUCATION**

### **2008, Ph.D. in Political Anthropology, University of Siena, Italy**

Dissertation discussed: "The Power of Abundance. Local Meanings of Authority amongst the Sefwi of Southern Ghana" based on 12 months ethnographic research in Ghana, West Africa.

Thesis available online at FASOPO – Fond d'Analyse des Sociétés Politiques website :

[http://www.fasopo.org/sites/default/files/jr/th\\_pellecchia.pdf](http://www.fasopo.org/sites/default/files/jr/th_pellecchia.pdf)

Final evaluation: *excellent*. Awarded with scholarship.

### **2004 – MA in Social Anthropology, University of Siena, Italy**

Thesis discussed: "Historical Social Memory and Rituality amongst the Sefwis of Southern Ghana" based on 4 months of ethnographic research in Ghana, West Africa.

Final score: 110 / 110, *cum laude*. Awarded with scholarship.

## **TRAININGS**

**2019 – On-board Campaign Training** – Building Campaign Strategies and Actions, Greenpeace International.

**2017 – Project Coordination and Management**, Médecins Sans Frontières, Operational Center Brussels.

**2012 – Public Health Promotion, Médecins Sans Frontières, Operational Center Brussels.**

### **PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES**

**2020 (May) – current, Senior Qualitative Research Advisor, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), LuxOR Luxembourg Operational Research Unit**

- Support on qualitative and anthropological operational researches for MSF operations

**2018 – 2020 (January), Project leader and Researcher, Greenpeace Belgium**

- Project coordination of Agroecology and Climate campaign (70% time)
- Researcher and investigator for Research Unit (30% time)

**2018, Faculty, SORT-IT Training on Migration Health, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), LuxOR Luxembourg Operational Research Unit**

- Trainer of a module on policy and practice applications of research papers
- Tutor of two research projects on migration (Belgium, South Africa)

**2018, Operational Senior Researcher, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), LuxOR Luxembourg Operational Research Unit**

- Conducting researches on migration and health dossiers: social security and risks; concept of wellbeing and trauma; victims on torture;
- Field researches in Belgium; Italy; Greece; Egypt
- Roles of Principal Investigator and Mentor for junior researchers

**2017 – 2018, Research Unit Program Officer, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), LuxOR Luxembourg Operational Research Unit (6 months)**

- Middle Management and supervision of operational research team composed by 15 members decentralized in five countries worldwide
- Supporting researchers in prioritizing inbound research requests
- 20% time dedicated to active support to qualitative researches

**2016 – 2017, Project Coordinator, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) – Egypt (15 months)**

- Operational Coordination of medical and mental health activities for migrants apprehended in Egypt's Northern Coast detention centres, while crossing the border – final decision maker and resources responsible – representative of MSF for the area.
- Coordination of operational research

**2015, Scientific editor, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), LuxOR, Luxembourg Operational Research Unit (2 months)**

- Co-editor of a special issue of the journal 'Anthropology in Action' on the use of anthropology during the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

**2015, Qualitative and Advocacy Research Leader, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Malawi (4 months)**

- Principal investigator of an operational research on access to a community-based model of ART (anti-retroviral) treatment distribution for HIV+ population
- Advocacy analyst about conditions and health needs of detention of migrants arrested in Malawi's state prisons
- Leader of a research team

**2015 – 2014, Research Coordinator, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Liberia (5 months)**

- Operational researcher during EVD (Ebola) outbreak for MSF Emergency Coordination in Monrovia;
- Principal investigator of researches on: communities perceptions and response towards the epidemic; funerary practices and changes; stigmatization of EVD survivors; social impact of quarantine.

**2014 – 2012, Management positions for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) (total of 14 months)**

- South Sudan, research leader (3 months);
- South Sudan, public health promoter manager (2 months);
- Egypt, public health promoter manager (6 months);
- South Sudan, public health promoter manager (3 months).
- All above positions with the following functions / responsibilities:
  - Team and resource management
  - Implementation of project strategy and objectives
  - Budgeting, reporting, evaluating
  - Coaching and leadership

**2012, Consultant, Regional Government of Tuscany, Office of Social Welfare, Italy (2 months)**

- Qualitative research on social integration of asylum seekers in Tuscan territory.

**2011, Lecturer, University of Siena, Italy (12 months)**

- Teaching at undergraduate course in Political Anthropology;
- Thesis supervision.

**2011, Consultant, ARCI, Social Care No-profit Organization, Italy (12 months)**

- Collection of asylum seekers life stories in preparation of UNHCR commission's Refugee Status Determination (RSD).

**2010, Consultant, MEDU – Medici per i Diritti Umani, Italy (12 months)**

- Medical anthropologist.

**2004 – 2010, PhD Researcher – University of Siena, Italy**

- Conducting fieldwork researches
- Publications of articles on peer-reviewed journals

**SNAPSHOT OF RESEARCH AND FIELDWORK EXPERIENCES**

Date	Short description	Requested by	Role	Expected / Achieved result
2018	Qualitative research on access to socio-legal and health services in Belgium by asylum seekers and undocumented migrants; acceptability of MSF HUB Project in Brussels, Gare du Nord; perceptions of social risks	Médecins Sans Frontières, Operational Center Brussels	Principal Investigator	Advocacy report
2018	Anthropological assessment on experiences of violence and torture amongst migrants accessing MSF Clinic in Rome, Italy	Médecins Sans Frontières, Operational Center Brussels	Mentor Co-Investigator	Peer-review publication
2018	Qualitative study on asylum seekers' quality of access to Flanders reception centers; perceptions of social and mental health risks	Médecins Sans Frontières, Operational Center Brussels	Mentor Co-Investigator	Peer-review publication
2017	Qualitative research on social and health risks of unregistered migrants (not holding UNHCR papers) in Cairo, Egypt	Médecins Sans Frontières, Operational Center Brussels	Mentor Co-Investigator	Advocacy paper
2016-2017	Anthropological study on migrant detention in Egypt North Coast; consequences of border control on migrants trajectories; patterns of resilience; perceptions of deterrence measures.	Médecins Sans Frontières, Operational Center Brussels	Research coordinator Co-Investigator	Advocacy report Peer-review publication
2015	Anthropological study on social consequences of West Africa Ebola outbreak (phase II)	Médecins Sans Frontières, Operational Center Brussels	Principal Investigator	Peer-review publication
2015	Prison ethnography amongst Ethiopian migrants detained in Malawi prisons	Médecins Sans Frontières, Operational Center Brussels	Principal Investigator	Advocacy paper
2014	Anthropological study on social consequences of West Africa Ebola outbreak (phase I)	Médecins Sans Frontières, Operational Center Brussels	Principal Investigator	Peer-review publication
2013	Refugees Camp ethnography in Doro, South Sudan ; changing family patterns ; concepts of risks and health needs	Médecins Sans Frontières, Operational Center Brussels	Principal Investigator	Report
2012	Qualitative research on social integration of asylum seekers in Tuscan territory, Italy	Office of Social Welfare, Tuscan Regional Government, Italy	Principal Investigator	Report Book chapter
2011	Ethnography of reception conditions of asylum seekers in Tuscan territory, Italy; narrative analysis of their life stories in preparation for UNHCR status determination	ARCI Social Care No-profit Organization, Italy	Principal Investigator	Report Book chapter
2010	Ethnography of migrants' informal settings in Florence, Italy; perceptions of risks	MEDU – Medici per i Diritti Umani, health humanitarian no-Profit Organization	Principal Investigator	Report
2006 – 2008	Extensive ethnographic research in Ghana, West Africa, amongst forestall communities Sefwi; various research topics	Ph.D	Principal Investigator	Ph.D Dissertation Various publications
2004	Extensive ethnographic research in Ghana, West Africa, amongst forestall communities Sefwi; various research topics	MA	Principal Investigator	MA Thesis Various publication
2003	Ethnographic research on social integration of Balkan communities in Siena Province, Italy	University of Siena	Principal Investigator	Book chapters

**LIST OF PUBLICATIONS****Edited Essays:**

- o 2016, Pellecchia U., Marabello S. (eds), *L'autorità del migrante. Studi dal Ghana*, CISU, Bologna [*The Authority of the Migrants: Studies from Ghanaian Migration in Italy*]
- o 2010, Pellecchia U., Zanotelli F. (eds.), *La cura e il Potere. Salute globale, saperi antropologici, azioni di*

*cooperazione internazionale*, ED.IT, Firenze-Catania [*The Care and The Power. Essay on Global health, Anthropology and International cooperation*]

#### **Edited Journals' Special Issues:**

- o 2017, *Engaging Anthropology in an Ebola Outbreak*, Special Issue (Summer 2017) of 'Anthropology in Action', n. 2, co-Author of Introduction.

#### **Articles in Peer-review Journals:**

- o 2017, *Quarantine and Its Malcontents: How Liberians Responded to the Ebola Epidemic Containment Measures*, in 'Anthropology in Action', 2, pp. 15-24;
- o 2017, *"We are part of a family": Benefits and limitations of Community ART Groups (CAGs) in Thyolo, Malawi: a qualitative study*, in 'JIAS – Journal of the International AIDS Society', 20 : 21374;
- o 2015, *Social Consequences of Ebola Containment Measures in Liberia*, in 'PLOS One', 10 : 12;
- o 2012, *Developing their Self. Percorsi di ascesa sociale dei giovani in Ghana*, in 'Afriche e Orientali', n. 3/4, pp. 62-71;
- o 2010, *The Power of Abundance. Local meaning of Authority among traditional and State elite in Southern Ghana*, in 'Universitas', vol. 12, pp. 68-87;
- o 2009, *Votare l'abbondanza. Il processo elettorale 2008 nel Sefwi (Ghana), tra autorità e dipendenza*, in 'Africa', n. 3, pp. 338-356;
- o 2009, *"Il Re è un assassino. Viva il Re!". La Sefwi Youth Association del Ghana tra contestazione e riproduzione dell'ordine*, in 'Afriche e Orientali', n. 4, pp. 158-169.

#### **Essays in Books:**

- o Forthcoming, *Anthropology of Ebola Survivors in Monrovia, Liberia*, in Veran J.F, Stringer B., *Anthropology in Humanitarian Settings*, Routledge, London;
- o 2013, *I nomi dei rifugiati. Disuguaglianze ed esclusione nel sistema di accoglienza dei rifugiati in Italia*, in Licausi L. (ed.), *Migrare, fuggire, ricostruire. Poteri e stranieri negli spazi sociali europei*, Pacini Editore, Pisa, pp. 21-35;
- o 2008, *Subire la cooperazione. Un caso dal Sefwi*, in Lenzi-Grillini F., Zanotelli F. (eds.), *Subire la cooperazione. Gli aspetti critici dello sviluppo nell'esperienza di antropologi e cooperanti*, ED.IT, Catania, pp. 133-135;
- o 2006, *Balcani-Siena. Spazi sociali in definizione nell'immigrazione dai Balcani in provincia di Siena*, in Giannelli L. (ed.), *Patrimoni multiculturali in provincia di Siena*, Goree, Siena, pp. 145- 178;
- o 2006, *Patrimoni contesi. La comunità musulmana di Colle di Val d'Elsa*, in Giannelli L. (ed.), *Patrimoni multiculturali in provincia di Siena*, Goree, Siena, pp. 303-330.

#### **CONFERENCES**

- o 2015: Southern Africa MSF Scientific Day, Médecins Sans Frontières, Harare;
- o 2015: MSF Scientific Day, London School of Tropical Medicine, London;

- o 2014: *'The Human Factor – 56 ITC Colloquium'*, organized by Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp;
- o 2013: *'SIAA – Society of Applied Anthropology'*, organized by University of Lecce – Italy;
- o 2009: *"Esperienze di ricerca di dottoranti e giovani ricercatori in Africa"*, Procida (Napoli), University of Napoli "L'Orientale", Doctoral School on African Studies;
- o 2009: *3rd European Conference on African Studies - ECAS*, University of Leipzig;
- o 2008: *10th EASA Biennial Conference, "Experiencing Diversity and Mutuality"*, Ljubljana, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts;
- o 2008: *XI International Conference of Africanistes, "Africa's Development: Possibilities and Constraints"*, Moscow, Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Science.

#### **COMPETENCIES AND SKILLS**

Type		
Language	Level	Other
Italian	Native	• Softwares: NVivo; SPSS; EpiData
English	Professional	• Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis.
French	Intermediate	• Scientific and report writing
Spanish	Basic	• Analytical and strategic thinking
Arabic	Basic	• Management

Brussels, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

