



Eleonora Di Renzo

Nationality: Italian **Date of birth:** 24/09/1999 **Place of birth:** Rome, Italy

Gender: Female **Email address:** eleonora.direnzo@uniroma1.it

ABOUT ME

I am a Roman anthropologist. My area of specialization is Anthropology of Religions and Political Anthropology. I am interested in the relationship between the environment and human/non-human beings with their culturally differentiated perceptions, centred on the active body and its emotions. My current field of research (since 2023) is in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where I work with Afro-Brazilian religious practices. Specifically, for the doctoral research project, the ethnographic analysis aims to investigate the construction of relationships and conflicts of ciganas spiritualities within the Brazilian mediumship practices of Umbanda and Vale do Amanhecer. Education and mediation, especially intercultural mediation, are the other two fundamental aspects that I have tried to develop in my experiences. Through curricular, extracurricular, professional and volunteer practices, I have developed excellent interpersonal, organisational and management skills, in groups and autonomously, always involving the body in dialogue and listening.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Sapienza University of Rome – Roma, Italy

Address: Villa Mirafiori, Via Carlo Fea 2 , Roma (Italy)

Librarian

[2022 – 2023]

Biblioteca Villa Mirafiori, Faculty of Philosophy, Sapienza University of Rome.

Sapienza University of Rome – Roma, Italy

City: Roma | **Country:** Italy

Tutor

[05/2022 – 12/2022]

- Accompaniment and peer tutoring, in collaboration with a colleague, of students aimed at fulfilling OFAs (additional educational obligations, in Italian grammar and logic) at the entrance to the Faculty of Humanities, through the organization of teaching materials and the conduct of targeted face-to-face lectures.

- Participation in the National Student Fair 2022 (Rome Fair), as a representative of the Faculty of Humanities

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Staff Exchange (Phd)

[2025 – Current]

Thesis: "RHEAL - Religion and Healing: Collaborative and Participatory Methodologies" (PI: Emily Pierini)

RHEAL explores innovative interdisciplinary methods to promote collaboration between researchers, health care providers, religious and traditional healers, people with lived experience of mental health and their carers. Through an interdisciplinary approach combining anthropology, creative arts, sociology, psychology and psychiatry, the project addresses key issues in mental health with the aim of facilitating dialogue between different therapeutic approaches and improving the quality of care and knowledge exchange. Focusing specifically on mental health,

trance and possession phenomena, RHEAL aims to bridge the epistemological gap between biomedical and religious, spiritual and traditional perspectives by identifying best practices for collaborative healing.

To achieve these aims, RHEAL uses ethnographic, micro-phenomenological methods and creative participatory approaches to develop co-designed, person-centred models of knowledge transfer. Visual arts and multimodal approaches - including participatory video, photography and sensory engagement - provide access to lived and embedded experiences of healing, rethinking knowledge production about collaborative healing through sensory interaction in everyday life with materialities and images to promote inclusive, sustainable and collaborative policies. Integrating the human, life and social sciences, RHEAL aims to create an interdisciplinary and applied methodological toolkit for mental health research and practice. By promoting innovative collaborative practices, the project aims to contribute to inclusive and sustainable health policies and to the global discourse on integrative healing. Under the concept of sustainability, RHEAL aims to create systems that are able to integrate people's experiences and traditional knowledge, and to welcome different epistemologies and therapeutic approaches side by side.

PI: Prof. Emily Pierini, Sapienza University of Rome, Department of History Anthropology Religions Art Performance.

Participating institutions: Sapienza University of Rome (Italy), Middlesex University (United Kingdom), Université Côte D'Azur (France), University of Amsterdam (Netherlands), Aarhus University (Denmark), Gadjah Mada University (Indonesia), Kyoto University (Japan), Ajou University (South Korea) University of Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania), Universidade Federal de Rio de Janeiro, Universidade Estadual de Rio de Janeiro, Hospital das Clínicas Universidade de São Paulo, Instituto Terra Sustentável (Brazil).

Phd Mobility and training - Faro Project (CIVIS Open Labs)

University of Bucharest, University of Rome [24/06/2025 – Current]

Field(s) of study: Urban Anthropology; Patrimonial Anthropology; Interreligious dialogue

The FARO Project aligns with the principles of the Faro Convention (2005), which emphasizes the social value of cultural heritage in fostering democratic and inclusive societies. It advocates for a community-centered approach where local voices are integral in safeguarding and interpreting their heritage. The FARO Open Lab at Sapienza is inspired by this, promoting cultural heritage as a shared space for diverse identities and common notions of beauty, rather than as a tool for nationalism. The project aims to counter cultural segregation, especially for marginalized minority communities, by documenting, digitizing, and integrating their cultural narratives. By fostering open dialogue and participation, it actively combats cultural exclusion and supports the development of a more inclusive European space, resisting growing nationalism and division in society.

Participating Universities: Aix-Marseille Université (France); Sapienza Università di Roma (Italia); Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain); University of Bucharest (Romania)

Honorary research fellow

Sapienza University of Rome [2025 – Current]

City: Roma | **Country:** Italy | **Field(s) of study:** Cultural Anthropology ; Anthropology of Religions

Phd Student

Sapienza University of Rome [01/11/2024 – Current]

City: Roma | **Country:** Italy | **Field(s) of study:** Anthropology of Religions ; Political Anthropology | **Thesis:** Orienting oneself in the light: the ciganos presence in the brazilian mediumistic practices. Supervisors: Manfredi Merluzzi (Roma Tre); Emily Pierini (La Sapienza)

National PhD in Peace Studies, Curriculum 2 in "Identities, Memories, Religions and Peace"

Master's Degree in Ethno-Anthropological Disciplines (LM-1)

Sapienza University of Rome [2021 – 2024]

City: Roma | **Country:** Italy | **Final grade:** 110/110 cum laude | **Thesis:** Social ecologies of axé: Afro-Brazilian religious practices in Rio de Janeiro. Supervisor: Emily Pierini; Co-supervisor: Lorenzo D'Angelo

Visiting Student

Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina [2023 – 2024]

City: Florianópolis | **Country:** Brazil

Visiting student at the Department of Social Anthropology (Humanities and Philosophy), PPGAS Department (Pós-Graduacao em Antropologia Pos-Graduacao in Social Anthropology, UFSC), Florianópolis, Brazil.

Bachelor's Degree in History, Anthropology, Religions (L-42)

Sapienza University of Rome [2018 – 2021]

City: Roma | Country: Italy | Final grade: 110/110 cum laude | Thesis: Social ecology. Two case studies in Italy.
Supervisor: Pino Schirripa

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): Italian

Other language(s):

English

LISTENING C1 READING C1 WRITING B2

SPOKEN PRODUCTION C1 SPOKEN INTERACTION C1

Spanish

LISTENING B2 READING B2 WRITING B1

SPOKEN PRODUCTION B2 SPOKEN INTERACTION B2

Portuguese

LISTENING C2 READING C2 WRITING C1

SPOKEN PRODUCTION C2 SPOKEN INTERACTION C2

French

LISTENING A2 READING A2 WRITING A1

SPOKEN PRODUCTION A1 SPOKEN INTERACTION A1

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

PUBLICATIONS

[2024]

Respostas religiosas às crises ecológicas: resistência e negociações de poder e identidade em um terreiro de candomblé

Di Renzo, E., 2024, "Respostas religiosas às crises ecológicas: resistência e negociações de poder e identidade em um terreiro de candomblé" in Mostranges, M. et Al., Antropologias em diálogo: para partilhar saberes e refazer caminhos, Florianópolis: PPGAS/UFSC, pp. 434-444.

NETWORKS AND MEMBERSHIPS

[2025 – Current]

SIAA - Società Italiana di Antropologia Applicata

Member of the Italian Society of Applied Anthropology.

[2025 – Current]

CSP Network - Contemporary Spiritual Practices Network

Member of the Contemporary Spiritual Practices Network of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) and member of the CSP Communication Working Group.

[2025 – Current]

IUAES Commission on the Anthropology of Religion

Member of the IUAES Commission on the Anthropology of Religion.

[2025 – Current]

APA - Associação Portuguesa de Antropologia

Member of the Portuguese Association of Anthropology.

[2025 – Current]

EASA (European Association of Social Anthropologists)

Member of the EASA (European Association of Social Anthropologists).

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

[28/08/2025 – 30/08/2025] Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan

Training Course on Spirituality in Music and Dance 'Zipoli' - Sixth Edition

Presentation of the paper "Ancestralità in movimento. La capoeira afrobrasiliiana tra passato e presente" during the sixth edition of the Zipoli Training Course ('Spiritual combat in music and dance').

[14/07/2025 – 18/07/2025] Viana do Castelo

9th APA Congress - Itinerancies

Presentation of the paper "Ancestralidade em movimento. A presença cigana nos espaços religiosos afro-brasileiros do Rio de Janeiro" in the 9th Congress of the Portuguese Association of Anthropology.

[19/06/2025 – 20/06/2025] Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy

Fragile Meanings: Vulnerability in the Study of Religions and Spirituality

- Winner of the Emerging Scholar Award
- Moderator for the Talking Circle "Politics of Religion" (19/06/2025)
- Chair for the Panel Session "Building Bonds" (19/06/2025)
- Moderator for the Poster Session (20/06/2025)

[23/04/2025 – 26/04/2025] Harvard University, United States

Spirituality & The Arts PES Conference 2025

- Presentation of the paper "Embodying freedom. Ciganas dances in Rio de Janeiro as a way out of social invisibility and a bridge to ancestry" in the Spirituality & The Arts PES 2025 Conference at Harvard Divinity School.
- Chair for the morning session of the second day of the conference (24/04/2025)

[29/01/2025 – 31/01/2025] Universitat de Barcelona

12º Congresso Ibérico de estudios africanos: "Respuestas africanas al dilema decolonial"

Presentation of the paper "Ecologia social de axé" at the 12º Iberian Congress of African Studies.

[05/12/2024] Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy

Lecture "Ethnographic research methodologies with Afro-Brazilian religious practices"

Frontal lecture "Ethnographic research methodologies with Afro-Brazilian religious practices" for Professor Emily Pierini's Anthropology of Religion course within the Bachelor's Degree in Global Humanities.

[30/10/2024] Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy

Lecture "Metodologie per la ricerca etnografica con le pratiche religiose afrobrasiliane"

Frontal lecture "Ethnographic research methodologies with Afro-Brazilian religious practices" for Professor Emily Pierini's Cultural Anthropology course within the Bachelor's Degree in History, Anthropology, Religions (L-42).

[14/10/2024] Roma

Rebuilding communities. Rebuilding community in the Roman peripheries between migration movements and housing issues.

Curated and moderated the "Rebuilding communities" event for the Applied Anthropology section of EASA (European Association for Social Anthropology). I organized and mediated a panel discussion to discuss the Roman peripheries, presenting talks by researchers, researchers and activists. The discussion then flowed into the annual conference of the Applied Anthropology section of EASA in Ljubljana on October 25 and 26, where we, the organizers, presented and discussed local events.

[18/11/2023] Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro

Lecture "Metodologias para pesquisa etnográfica"

Frontal lecture "Methodologies for Ethnographic Research" for Professor Giovanna Capponi's History of Anthropology course within the Bachelor of Arts in History and Geography (UERJ, São Gonçalo Campus).

[09/10/2023 – 12/10/2023] Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brasile

Técnicas, percepção e ambiente: práticas e modos de vida entre as ruínas

Presentation of the master's degree research project in Panel 13 "Techniques, perception and environment: practices and ways of life among ruins" during the event Jornadas Antropológicas 2023 (9-12 ottobre 2023), PPGAS Department (Postgraduate Studies in Social Anthropology), UFSC, Florianópolis.

PROJECTS

[09/2023 – 03/2024]

Fielwork research

Field research (6 months) in Rio de Janeiro for master's thesis thanks to winning the Scholarship for Thesis Abroad provided by Sapienza University of Rome, a.y. 2023/2024 (Faculty of Humanities).

VOLUNTEERING

[2021 – Current]

MAIS Onlus

Translation of letters from girls and boys, from English and Portuguese, during school vacation periods.

[11/2023 – 03/2024] Rio de Janeiro

Instituto Axé Mulher

Volunteer in social actions aimed at residents of Sepetiba and Guaratiba, in the West Zone of Rio de Janeiro. At the Instituto Axé Mulher, located in the terreiro di umbanda TUTPC.

[11/2023 – 03/2024] Rio de Janeiro

Instituto Aguas do Amanhã

Volunteer in social actions aimed at residents of Sepetiba and Guaratiba, in the West Zone of Rio de Janeiro. At the Instituto Aguas do Amanhã, located in the terreiro de candomblé Casas das Aguas.

[11/2023 – 12/2023] Rio de Janeiro

Casa Jovem Rocinha

Educator

[07/2023 – 08/2023] Rome

Campo Estivo Restate in Pallestra

- Educator;

- Weekly management of workshops and activities - alone but also and especially in groups - of groups of girls and boys between the ages of 3 and 10, within the Forte Prenestino Summer Center project.

[10/2021 – 03/2022] Rome

Centro interculturale Semina

School and language support service, workshops for the development of learning skills and play and recreational animation for foreign girls and boys (6-13 years old). In collaboration with the association Nessun Luogo è Lontano (Via Policastro 45 - 00177 Rome c/o former Pavoni School).

[2018 – 2018] Rome

Touristic Guide - Liceo Ennio Quirino Visconti

Volunteer guide at Ennio Quirino Visconti High School (library; Wunder Musaeum; St. Ignatius of Loyola Church).

[2016 – 2018] Rome

Caritas Roma

- Collection of basic necessities in various supermarkets in Rome and reception;
- Canteen service (reception; room organization; food serving; table service).

[2015 – 2017] Rome

Mani tese Ngo

I mainly participated in Christmas initiatives in support of NGO funding campaigns, organized at La Feltrinelli outlets in Rome.

- Reception

Autorizzo il trattamento dei miei dati personali presenti nel CV ai sensi dell'art. 13 d. lgs. 30 giugno 2003 n. 196 - "Codice in materia di protezione dei dati personali" e dell'art. 13 GDPR 679/16 - "Regolamento europeo sulla protezione dei dati personali".