

I L A R I A O L I M P I C O

 13/03/1981 – Nola (Naples), Italy  Crespina Lorenzana (Pisa), Italy

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PROFILE

Ilaria Olimpico is a PhD Researcher in 'Peace Studies', with the research project: 'Stories of connection, compassion, and courage in Palestine-Israel: the ceremonies of the 'Combatants for Peace' as third-narrative practices, between (re)shaping memory and future-making, towards collective liberation'. Ilaria is a Focusing Trainer and Facilitator of Social Arts and Work that Reconnects. She has over fifteen years of experience facilitating groups at the intersection of peace education, personal and social transformation, collective well-being, deep ecology, and community building beyond borders. She is the creator of the methodological map 'Stories that Reconnect'.

QUALIFICATIONS

MA in International and Diplomatic Sciences/ 110 cum laude

2000–2004 / L'Orientale University / Naples, Italy

Focusing Trainer

2021–2023 / The International Focusing Institute

Social Arts Facilitator

2011–2025 / ImaginAction

Work That Reconnects Facilitator

2025 / Work that Reconnects Network

U.Lab: Leading from the Emerging Future

2024–2025 / MIT in Boston

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

PhD Researcher in Peace Studies

2025 - present / Sapienza University of Rome / Rome, Italy

Facilitator

2018 - present / freelance / Italy & abroad

Trainer

2021 - present / CISP University of Pisa / Italy

2021 - 2022 / University of Applied Sciences Würzburg-Schweinfurt / online summer schools

2021 - 2022 / Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Florence / Italy

Consultant and Facilitator

2018 – 2022 / FAMI Puzzle and Life Projects / ANCI Umbria, Italy

Facilitator

2010 – 2017 / Associations, schools, and NGOs / Rome, Italy

SKILLS

Digital: Microsoft Office, Google Drive, Zoom, Canva, Podcasting, Internet, social media

Soft skills: Ability to cultivate self-awareness; Excellent ability to grasp diverse perspectives and understand the world as an interconnected whole; Caring and a sense of connection to others, future generations, and the Earth; Excellent facilitation and communication skills with people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

Languages: Italian (native speaker) /English (C1) /Francese (A2) /Arabic (A1)

MEMBERSHIP

TheAlbero, co-creator

ImaginAction, Wisdom Council

PPLG, International Committee

CONFERENCES

APeCS Conference: Future-Making in Times of Conflict, Violence and Insecurity / Workshop: Stories that Reconnect (StR): Nurturing Connection and Hope Amid Conflict, Violence and Insecurity

June 2025 / University of Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom

EuPRA Conference: Towards Utopias of Peace Theories and Practices of Peace, Hope and Resistance in Troubled Times / Paper: Stories that Reconnect: a practice of Peace

November 2024 / Pisa, Italy

PPLG Play, Perform, Learn, Grow Conference / workshops & panel

2018 and 2019 / Anatolia College, Thessaloniki, Greece & 2021 / online

PUBLICATIONS

Pulé, P., Olimpico, I., & Noy Meir, U. (2025). Theatre and Stories that ReConnect: Embodiment practices that ecologise masculinities. Routledge, Oxon, UK.

Olimpico, I. (2025). Stories that reconnect: a practice of peace. Science and Peace, preprint, pp. 1–26.

Olimpico, I. (2024). Prologo e Testimonianze. In D. Bezzi (a cura di), Combattenti per la pace: Palestinesi e israeliani insieme per la liberazione collettiva (pp. 29–36). Associazione Multimage APS.

Olimpico, I. (2021). Social arts as an awareness process: Experiences in intercultural contexts in Italy. In H. Reich & R. T. Di Rosa (a cura di), Newcomers as agents for social change: Learning from the Italian experience (pp. 134–141). FrancoAngeli.

Olimpico, I., & Noy Meir, U. (2019). Imágenes e Historias. In J. Joffre-Eichhorn (a cura di), Ensayando el despertar: Miradas movilizadoras desde el pluriverso del Teatro del Oprimido. Editorial Proyecto Minga.

Olimpico, I. (2007). Sufismo e Islam contemporaneo. Eurasia. Rivista di studi geopolitici, (2), 169–178.

REFERENCES

Ilaria's work encapsulates her depth and sensitivity in working with groups, considering social, political divisions and inequalities, and creating possibilities for dialogue and systemic change across them. It values imagination, embodiment, cultural diversity, and the complexities of diverse positionalities. - Dr. Elena Boukouvala, Postdoctoral Fellow in Geography at the Open University, sociologist (PhD), drama therapist (MA), psychologist.

Ilaria's ability to move fluidly between academic analysis, artistic expression, facilitation of collective processes, and her personal life is astounding, quoting Haraway, Ilaria is an embodiment of "hanging with the trouble." - Dr. Paul Pulé, Honorary Research Fellow presso Coventry University Centre for Global Learning, Education & Attainment.