

MARIACHIARA BOLDRINI

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SHORT PROFILE

Junior researcher focused on environmental advocacy and local development policies in Sub-Saharan Africa, adopting a feminist political ecology perspective.

Communication practitioner with experience designing inclusive strategies for NGOs, creating impactful, socially responsible content grounded in real-life stories.

CURRENT POSITION

November 2025 – Present: **PhD Candidate in Frontier Sciences in Sustainability, Diplomacy & International Cooperation** (Curriculum: Liberal Arts and Sciences for Sustainability; Field: African Studies) Università per Stranieri di Perugia. Supervisor: Prof. Federica Guazzini; Co-supervisor: Prof. Antonio Pezzano
Research on environmental movements in Ghana, exploring historical evolution of sustainability paradigms and digital advocacy practices and to the role of international cooperation actors in shaping narratives and strategies.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Experience

- **Research Collaborator** – Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, DIRPOLIS Institute
 - ❖ Apr – Nov 2025: **Project REJOWA** (“Resilience to the Expansion of Jihadist Organizations in West Africa”) (Apr–Nov 2025).
Desk and field research (Ghana); organization of dissemination events (Rome, Accra).
 - ❖ Sept 2024 – Mar 2025: **Project ACRES-WA** (“Advancing Climate Resilience and Enhancing Security in West Africa”).
Support in data analysis, logistics, dissemination events, and project drafting.
- **Research Fellow** – University of Florence, Dept. of Political and Social Sciences
Nov 2024 – Oct 2025: **Project LUMEN** (“Law of natUre and huMan Ecosystem approach”).
Transdisciplinary research on environmentalism and seed policies in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- September – November 2018 **Research Intern** – Medici per i Diritti Umani (MEDU) & IRMI (“Interdisciplinary Research Unit on Migration”), University of Florence.
Qualitative research on migrants’ access to the Italian National Health Service; legal source analysis.

Academic Activities

- Nov 2024 – Jun 2025: **Academic & Teaching Support**, University of Florence.
Assisted Prof. Maria Stella Rognoni in lectures, exams, and group activities for the EVE Project (“Exchanging Visions of the Environment”).
- Nov 2024: **Invited Lecturer**, University of Naples “L’Orientale”.
Invited co-lecturer for a thematic session on climate change and governance dynamics in Africa within the course programme “International Cooperation and Development” of Prof. Valeria Saggiomo.

Other Activities

- **Communication Officer**
 - ❖ Sept 2024 – Mar 2025: **External Consultant** – I Tetragonauti APS
 - ❖ Mar – Sept 2025: **Research Fellow** – University of Florence (EVE Project).
 - ❖ Oct 2023 – Jun 2024: **Intern** – COOPI (Cooperazione Internazionale)
 - ❖ Oct 2022– Jun 2023: **International Civil Service** – VIS (Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo) Ghana
 - ❖ Oct 2021 – Jun 2022: **University Tutor** –University of Naples “L’orientale”.

Managed social media, newsletters, websites, visibility materials production, partner coordination and public dissemination events; supported strategic communication planning.

- Apr – Dec 2022: **Journalism Intern** Africa Rivista (Internationalia)
Writing articles and longform on African socio-political issues; events organizing.
- Oct 2022– Jun 2023: **Field Monitoring and Evaluation Officer** VIS Ghana
Project implementation support; mixed-method field research and M&E reporting (gender empowerment and eco-tourism).

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Boldrini, M., & Saggiomo, V. (2026). *On Women's Shoulders: Care-Based Immobility and Climate Adaptation in Rural Ghana*. *Migraciones*, 1/2026.
- Gozzini, G., Boldrini, M., et al. (2021). *Le zone d'ombra dell'istituto anagrafico: i migranti «senza fissa dimora» nell'accesso ai servizi sanitari a Firenze*. *Autonomie Locali e Servizi Sociali*, 2/2021.

Others Publications & Reports

- Boldrini, M. (2021). *La Tratta degli Schiavi tra Storia e Attualità*. Mario Luzi Editore.
- D'Amico, V., De Simone, S., Sellitti, S., & Boldrini, M. (2025). *Advancing climate change resilience and enhancing security in West Africa: ACRES-WA Project Policy Brief*. Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies.
- Boldrini, M., & Passoni, V. (2019). *Dalla normativa nazionale a quella locale: l'accesso alla residenza*, in Acocella I. et al. (eds.), *Le Residenze Invisibili*. Indagine sulle emergenze abitative. MEDU Report.

Other Media Outputs

- 2026 (forthcoming): Podcast production within the LUMEN Project. Episode Title: *Prospettive ecologiche africane tra cosmologie locali e narrazioni occidentali della natura*.
- 2022 – 2023: Online and magazines articles or long-forms for *Africa Rivista – Internationalia* (selected list available upon request).

CONFERENCE AND EVENT PARTECIPATION

Scientific Conferences

- September 2025: Kick off Conference UNESCO *Gender, Climate Change, Sustainable Development in the MENA Region and Africa: Advancing International Cooperation*, University of Naples “L'Orientale”.
Contribution: *On Women's Shoulders: Immobility and Climate Change in Rural Ghana*
- June 2025: European Conference of African Studies (ECAS) “African, Afropean, Afropolitan”, Prague.
Co-author with Maria Stella Rognoni of the contribution: *Ecological Perspectives in Sub-Saharan Africa: Navigating Local Cosmological Realities and Western Narratives of 'Nature'*.
- May 2025: Centre of African Studies (CAS) Annual Conference “Climate Dynamics, and the Politics of a Post-Carbon Africa”, University of Edinburgh.
Contribution: *Women as Survival Scientists Adapting to Climate Change in Rural Ghana: How NGOs Define their Space of Agency by Navigating the Stakeholders Arena*.
- August 2024: Third European Students' Conference on African Studies (TESCAS), University of Basel.
Contribution: *How NGOs Move Women's Agency to Adapt to Climate Change: A Case Study from Bono Region (Ghana)*.
- May 2019: Workshop “Cultural Encounters and Comparisons: Turkey and Italy”, Università degli Studi di Firenze & Yıldız Teknik Üniversitesi, Istanbul.
Contribution: *The Decline of the Mediterranean 'Mother-Cities': Istanbul as a Partial Exception*.

Other Events

- November 2025: Contributor at the Research Policy Forum *Resilience to the Expansion of Jihadist Organizations in West Africa* (REJOWA Project), Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies.

- October 2025: Discussant at the Seminar *Entrepreneurs in the Wild: The Hidden Face of Biodiversity Governance* (Host: Journalist Olivier Van Beemen), Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, Italy.
- June 2025: Contributor at the Workshop Results, Challenges, and Future Perspectives of the project *Resilience to the Expansion of Jihadist Organizations in West Africa* (REJOWA) Project, La Villa Boutique Hotel, Accra, Ghana.
- March 2025: Chair at the Research Policy Forum *Advancing Climate Resilience and Environmental Security in West Africa* (ACRES-WA Project), Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Alliance and Bioversity & CAT, Rome, Italy.

EDUCATION

- Nov 2025–Present: **PhD Candidate**, Università per Stranieri di Perugia
- Sept 2019 – Jul 2024 **Master's degree in relations and Institutions of Asia and Africa** University of Naples "L'Orientale".
Thesis: *Climate Change, Environmental Sustainability and Women's Spaces of Agency in NGO Projects: A Case Study from Rural Ghana, Bono Region* (110/110 cum laude).
- Sept 2015 – Apr 2019: **Bachelor's degree in political science (International Studies Curriculum)**, University of Florence.
Erasmus Study in Spain (University of Deusto, Bilbao)
Thesis: *The Slave Trade between History and the Present: The Transatlantic Trade from the Bight of Benin and Trafficking for Prostitution from Nigeria to Italy* (110/110 cum laude).

Selected courses

- Sept – Dec 2024: **Fall School 2024 Jean Monnet Module EVE** University of Florence.
Multidisciplinary course on environmental issues in Italy and Sub-Saharan Africa and scientific writing.
- Mar – Sept 2023: **Course Environment and Climate Change in International Cooperation**. Scuola di Alta Formazione VIS.
Simulations focused on policy-making with environmental mainstreaming.
- Sept 2019 – Jun 2021: **Resident, Merit College "Villalta"** IPE Business School, Naples
Multidisciplinary courses and soft skills development; volunteered in event organization.
- Sept 2018 – Dec 2019: **Diploma in Emergencies and Humanitarian Interventions** ISPI – Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale.
- Sept 2015 – Jun 2016: **Diploma "Scuola di Politiche"** AREL (Agenzia di ricerche e legislazione), Rome.
Multidisciplinary lectures on political issues and policy-making, group simulations (US elections, G8, UN).

SKILLS

Research Skills

Experience in interdisciplinary research on social and political processes, with particular attention to field-based methodologies in sub-Saharan Africa.

Solid experience in qualitative research, including ethnographic methods, structured and semi-structured interviews and participatory research. Basic experience in quantitative research methods (survey administration) and data analysis.

Demonstrated ability to analyze socio-political and cultural contexts and interpret qualitative data.

Communication Skills and Outreach

Experience in research dissemination and public-oriented writing, including the development of accessible and non-stereotypical narratives on social issues.

Preparation and editing of tailored content for websites, social media, newsletters, and institutional reports.

Experience supporting communication strategies and advocacy initiatives for NGOs and civil society organizations.

Digital Skills

Excellent command of Microsoft Office and Google Workspace.

Good working knowledge of major social media platforms (X, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube), Canva, and WordPress.

Languages

Inglese B2

Spagnolo C1

Francese B1 Hausa A1

Transferable skills

Excellent teamwork skills and experience working in multicultural environments.
Partner coordination and stakeholder engagement in collaborative projects.
Proactive and solution-oriented approach to project development and implementation.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Various recognitions

- 2025: **Winner of the Don Gennaro Somma Graduation Award** for the master's thesis.
- 2017: **Third Prize Winner Eastwest Forum**, awarded with a short internship at the Communications Office of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) in Rome.
- 2017: **Co-winner of a internal contest promoted by "La Scuola di Politiche"** on a simulated U.S. electoral debate. The prize included the opportunity to participate in the Model United Nations (MUN) General Assembly Simulation in New York, USA.
- 2014: **Winner of the Campiello Giovani Writing Award** for the short story "*Odore di Sogni*".

Scientific Networks and Affiliations

- 2024 – Present: Friend of the **Italian Association of African Studies (ASAI)**.

Social and Volunteer Activities

- 2014 – Present: **Amnesty International Italy** activist and member of the West and Southern Africa Coordination Group.
- 2020 – 2023: Volunteer with the **Community of Sant'Egidio**, Naples.
- 2014: Volunteer with the **Crescere Insieme Association** (Pontedera, PI) with Saharawi children.