Elisa Armando



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Italian Native **English** C1 **Spanish** B1 **French** B1

Summary

PhD in Anthropology with research experience in East Africa, particularly Uganda and Kenya. My research focuses on family-making, intimacy, and sexual and reproductive health in displacement contexts.

Core Skills

Research Interests: family-making; gender and sexuality; reproductive health; gender-based violence and intimate partner violence; sexual violence; menstrual health; sexually-transmitted infections and diseases; fertility, pregnancy and childbirth; displacement and humanitarian contexts; East Africa

Methods and Data Analysis: long-term ethnography; participant observation; interviews and focus groups; life histories; ethnographic workshops; visual and creative methods; survey design and analysis; qualitative data coding and analysis (NVivo); quantitative analysis (R)

Research Design & Project Management: research design; ethical research practices; fieldwork planning and management; international research coordination; supervision of research assistants; stakeholder and community engagement; interdisciplinary collaboration

Research Dissemination & Collaboration: academic publications; public writing; science communication; conference presentations; organization of conferences, workshops and academic events; editorial collaboration; public engagement; international research networks

Education

- **PhD in Anthropology** — University of Turin (Italy) 2022–March 2026
  Fully-funded scholarship; merit-based Erasmus+ Fellowship
  Thesis Title: "Shifting Intimacies and Gender Roles in a Context of Displacement: An Ethnography of Congolese Refugees in Kampala, Uganda".
  Supervisors: Prof. Alessandro Gusman; Cecilia Pennacini
- **Visiting Researcher in International Development** — London School of Economics and Political Science (UK) 2025
  3rd ranked subject department worldwide, QS Rankings 2026
  Supervisor: Prof. Tim Allen
- **Master of Research in Anthropology** — University College London (UK), *Merit* 2020–21
  4th ranked subject department worldwide; 9th ranked university worldwide, QS Rankings 2026
  Thesis Title: "Women, Agency, and Violence. "Victimhood" and "Perpetratorhood" in Sub-Saharan Civil Conflicts."
  Supervisor: Prof. Marcas Mag Oireachtaigh
- **Master's Degree in International Sciences** — University of Turin, *110/110, cum laude and honorable mention* 2018–20
  "Peace and Conflict Studies" Track
  Thesis Title: "Dealing with the Aftermath of Sexual Violence in War-Torn Northern Uganda: The Role of Civil Society Organizations."
  Supervisor: Prof. Stefano Ruzza
- **Master 2 in Political Science** — Université Lumière Lyon 2 (France), *Mention bien* 2019–21
  "International Politics and Humanitarian Assistance" Track
  Thesis Title: "La gestion des conséquences de la violence sexuelle dans le nord de l'Ouganda : Le rôle des organisations de la société civile."
  Supervisor: Prof. Dorota Dakowska
- **Diploma in Governance and Human Sciences** — Scuola di Studi Superiori "F. Rossi" (Italy), *70/70 cum laude* 2015–20
  State-accredited honours institution with highly selective admission; continued enrolment conditional upon outstanding annual academic performance; international-level faculty. Five-year fully-funded merit-based scholarship. Awarded competitive exchange scholarship with the École Normale Supérieure, Paris (2020)
  Thesis Title: "Vulnerable Women's Recovery Paths: An Anthropological Case Study of Work in Dedicated Community Gardens in the Acholi Subregion."
  Supervisor: Prof. Alessandro Gusman
- **Bachelor's Degree in Classical Studies** — University of Turin, *108/110* 2015–18
  Thesis Title: "An Analysis of the Homeric Funeral Laments from the Origins to the Contemporary Literature: An Anthropological Study from Homer to Derek Walcott Focused on Funeral Laments and Death Rituals."
  Supervisor: Prof. Tommaso Braccini
- **Classical High School Diploma** — Liceo Classico G. Arimondi (Italy), *100/100* 2010–15

Additional Training (selected)

- XV International Summer School CeTAmb: Climate-resilient Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Solutions in Low-Income Countries (University of Brescia, DICATAM, Italy) 2026
- Summer School on Wealth and Inequality Research in Africa (Makerere University, Uganda; University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany; University of Michigan, U.S.) 2024
- Summer School in Forced Migration (University of Oxford, UK) 2022
- Summer School in Gender and Conflict (School of Oriental and African Studies — SOAS, UK) 2021

- Public Policies, Technology and Politics "Impact" Course + Expertise and Technology "Impact" Course (Scuola di Politiche, Italy) 2021–2022
- Complimentary Merit-Based Academic Diploma Course (Collegio R. Einaudi, Torino, Italy) 2015-2020

Academic Experience

Postdoctoral Researcher 2026–Present
Gender Centre, Geneva Graduate Institute (Switzerland)

- Researcher in the SNSF-funded *The Remaking of the Family in East Africa (FamilEA)* project (2023–2027), examining processes of family transformation in Kenya and Uganda
- Conduct qualitative and quantitative data analysis and contribute to the development of analytical frameworks on family change, kinship and relatedness
- Collaborate within an interdisciplinary international research team and contribute to comparative research outputs and academic publications

Researcher 2026-Present
University of Turin – Dept. of Cultures, Politics and Society (Italy / Uganda)

- Part of the Uganda-focused team of SAIMP, an international cooperation project promoted by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and implemented across 4 countries (Italy, Ethiopia, Congo DRC, Uganda), aimed at reinforcing cultural relationships between Italy and Africa
- Contribution to the analysis, cataloguing, and digitisation processes for 1000+ artistic artefacts at the Uganda National Museum; coordination with local research partners
- Participation in the production of project deliverables and outputs (cataloguing records, analytical reports, 1 working paper, academic contributions, 1 international workshop, 1 artistic exhibition)

Ph.D. Researcher - Knowledge Production and Dissemination 2022–2026
University of Turin – Dept. of Cultures, Politics and Society (Italy / Uganda)

- Independently designed and conducted 12 months of ethnographic research on Congolese refugees' gender roles, intimacy dynamics, and sexual and reproductive health in Kampala, Uganda (60+ interviews, 20+ focus groups)
- Examined key dimensions of sexual and reproductive health through dedicated thesis chapters on sex life and intimate relationships, sexually transmitted infections and diseases, menstrual health, and motherhood, pregnancy and childbirth
- Produced reports (2), policy briefs (1), working papers (1), scientific publications (6), presentations at conferences (15+); contributed to knowledge dissemination, capacity development and evidence-based policy dialogue
- Coordinated a research assistant and collaborated with international research partners and humanitarian organizations

Research Associate – Gender, Migration & Policy May–Oct 2024
Department of Gender and Sexuality, Refugee Law Project (Uganda)

- Conducted qualitative research with refugees on gender-based violence and sexual health
- Attended needs assessments sessions and referral activities to healthcare pratictioners, counselors, and legal officers (20+)
- Assessed policy frameworks and formulated evidence-based recommendations to inform advocacy strategies and support the development of awareness materials
- Participated in a field visit to Nakivale refugee settlement to assess refugee family structures and displacement-induced intimacy changes
- Collaborated with multidisciplinary teams including legal officers, counsellors and healthcare practitioners

Professional Experience (selected)

Program Officer - Outreach and Academic Events (2022) | Support Officer (2023–Present) 2022–Present
TOAfrica Initiatives, University of Turin (Italy)

- Support the organization and management of academic events with European and African partners (4 summer schools; 2 forums; 1 international conference; 4 workshops; 20+ seminars and talks) and cultural initiatives (2 exhibitions; 1 music event)
- End-to-end support to project implementation, including planning and activity tracking, budget follow-up, logistics and procurement coordination, participant coordination, venue and catering management, and on-site problem solving
- Contribute to the preparation of research project proposals and funding applications supporting the development of new initiatives and partnerships
- Manage relationships with academic partners, researchers and institutional stakeholders across Europe and Africa
- Support knowledge dissemination through events, publications, outreach activities and digital communication platforms

Community Engagement Trainee – Gender & Reproductive Health Programs Jun–Aug 2024
Reproductive Health Uganda

- Completed theoretical training in community-based sexual and reproductive health and outreach; led on-ground awareness and sensitization activities in underserved areas (3)

Clinical Observational Researcher Sept–Oct 2024
Kawempe National Referral Hospital (Uganda)

- Conducted ethnographic observation within the Family Planning department.
- Observed clinical encounters and healthcare practices, gaining insight into institutional routines, patient needs, and the organisation of reproductive healthcare.

Digital Heritage Project Officer – Archival Systems & Data Structuring Oct 2021–Feb 2022
Italian Ethnological Mission in Equatorial Africa, University of Turin

- Designed and implemented a digital archive of 1,200+ audiovisual records, building a classification protocol and data structure to enable efficient retrieval and analysis
- Cleaned, standardised and organised data across sources; produced analysis-ready outputs to support reporting and content selection for publications and dissemination

Outreach & Advocacy Intern – Social Media & Public Engagement May–Aug 2020
Women Rights Initiative, Uganda (Remote)

- Developed a digital communication strategy against gender-based violence, improving visibility; organized 3 advocacy workshops

Research Groups and Affiliatons

- Member of SwissRepro | Swiss Research Network for Reproductive Studies 2026-ongoing
- Member of the Interdepartmental Center for Research and Technical Scientific Cooperation with Africa 2025-ongoing
- Member of the Italian Ethnological Mission in Equatorial Africa (University of Turin, Italy) 2022-ongoing
- Erasmus + Research Fellow at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (Makerere University, Uganda) Feb-Oct 2024
- Member of the Mobility, Migrations, and Refugees in East Africa: The Role of Uganda research project (University of Turin, Italy and Makerere University, Uganda) 2023-ongoing
- Affiliated to AIPH: Associazione Italiana di Public History (Italian Association for Publich History)
- Affiliated to ASAI: Associazione per gli Studi Africani in Italia (Association for African Studies in Italy)

Research and Academic Output

Publications portfolio | Conference Presentations

Outreach

Outreach Initiatives Portfolio

Teaching

- **Teaching Assistant**,"African Studies" (MA); "Therapeutic Communication and Patient Education" (BA). University of Turin, Italy. 2026–2027
- **Examination Assistant**, "Introduction to Cultural Anthropology" (BA), "Ethnology of Africa" (MA), "Visual Anthropology" (MA). University of Turin, Italy. 2022–Present

Guest Lectures:

- "Anthropology, Gender and Reproductive Health: What Can Anthropology Teach Us about Sex, Gender and Sexuality?". BA Course "Introduction to Cultural Anthropology". University of Turin, Italy. 02/11/2026
- "The Impact of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence on Menstrual Health among Congolese Refugees in Kampala, Uganda. Reproductive Health in a Humanitarian Setting". MA Course "African Studies". University of Turin, Italy. 09/04/2026
- "Anthropology, Gender and Reproductive Health: What Can Anthropology Teach Us about Sex, Gender and Sexuality?" MA Course "Introduction to Cultural Anthropology". University of Turin, Italy. 22/10/2025
- "Reproductive Health and Gender Roles among Congolese Refugees in Kampala, Uganda: Understanding Changes in Gender, Relatedness and Intimacy through Reproductive Health". BA Course "Ethnography I". Sapienza University of Rome, Italy. 17/11/2025

Thesis Supervision

- Co-supervisor. Candidate: Matilde Canavoso. Master's Course: Area and Global Studies for International Cooperation - University of Turin. Thesis title: "Paid in recognition: how trust and social capital drive motivation and commitment of Community Health Promoters in Kenya. A qualitative study within the World Friends ETS project". 16/03/2026
- Co-supervisor. Candidate: Giulia Ademi. Master's Course: Area and Global Studies for International Cooperation - University of Turin. Thesis title: "South Sudanese Refugees and the Quest for Integration in Suburban Uganda: Xenophobic Experiences among First and Second Generations and Internal Migration". 13/11/2025
- Co-supervisor. Candidate: Fabiola Maria Cafe. Master's Course: Area and Global Studies for International Cooperation - University of Turin. Thesis title: "South Sudanese Refugees and the Quest for Integration in Suburban Uganda: Xenophobic Experiences among First and Second Generations and Internal Migration". 21/11/2024

Awards and Prizes

- YounG-20 Policy Brief Contest: Member of the winning team of the G20 Italy 2021 Sherpa Office Policy Brief Challenge; resulting work published in a collective volume (Scuola di Politiche, Italy) 2021
- Five-year merit-based full scholarship covering tuition fees, accommodation, and a yearly stipend, renewed annually based on the timely completion of exams and a GPA above 27/30 (Scuola di Studi Superiori Ferdinando Rossi, Italy) 2015-2020
- FAO Zero Hackaton Merit Student Selection (FAO, Italy) 2015-2020

References

Alessandro Gusman, Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology, University of Turin, Italy | alessandro.gusman@unito.it
Dominica Dipio, Full Professor of Literature and Film, Makerere University, Uganda | dodipio@yahoo.com

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