

DR ALEXANDRA D'ONOFRIO

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PROFILE

Phenomenological and Existential Anthropology – Migration and Refugee Studies – Memory and Imagination – Visual and Multimodal Anthropology – Collaborative and Creative Methods – Public Anthropology - Egypt/Italy/Mediterranean

Early-career anthropologist; migration/refugee studies expert; arts-based methods and visual anthropology; theatre and film directing; research experience in both Italy and Egypt. Strong interdisciplinary background; record of academic achievements and awards, track record of securing funding. Rigorous researcher; passionate and versatile teacher with 'excellent' ratings in student feedback. Professional and voluntary experience of work with international NGOs and civil society organizations, advocacy and community engagement and outreach. Professional experience of community arts facilitating and active experimental pedagogy for adults and children.

EDUCATION

2017. **Ph.D. in Anthropology Media and Performance (AMP)**, University of Manchester, UK.
 Supervisors: Andrew Irving; Johannes Sjöberg. Examiners: Christopher Wright; Michelle Obeid
 (Pass with no corrections)
2008. **MA in Visual Anthropology** (Distinction), University of Manchester
2004. **BA(Hons) in Social Anthropology** (Second Upper Class), SOAS, London

CERTIFICATES

- 2016 **Associate Fellow** Accreditation by The Higher Education Academy, UK

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2021 - ongoing **Lecturer in Social Anthropology**, department of Social Anthropology, University of Manchester
- 2022 – ongoing **Course convenor in Ethnographic Filmmaking** for Short Course in Ethnographic Filmmaking, Granada Centre for Visual Anthropology, University of Manchester
- 2019 **Sociological Review Fellowship**, School of Social Science and Public Policy, Keele University
- 2019 **Guest Lecturer** for the Centre for New Media and Feminist Public Practices, University of Thessaly
- 2019 **Guest Lecturer** for post-graduate students of MA in Migration&Mobility and MA in VisualAnthropology, Goldsmiths University of London

2019 **Guest Lecturer** for post-graduate students of MA in Visual Anthropology and Communication & Media Studies, Aarhus University, Denmark

2015-16 **Teaching Assistant**, Dept. Social Anthropology, University of Manchester

Units Taught

'Regional Studies of Culture: Japan' (tutorial groups' size 10-15)

'Materiality and Representation' (tutorial groups' size 10-15, guest lecturer, class size 70)

'Short Course in Ethnographic Documentary' (class size 16)

2016 **Lecturer** "Storytelling practices for researching lived experiences" for Artsmethods, University of Manchester.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

April 2013 to March 2014: 1st *Maternity Leave*

October 2014 to March 2015: 2nd *Maternity Leave*

September 2018 to August 2017: 3rd *Maternity Leave*

2020 ongoing **Researcher** for AMAKA (nonprofit organization) for the project TO MONOPIATI THY MNHMHS/THE PATH OF MEMORY, supported and sponsored by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, as an initiative for the preservation of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The project consists of using audio-visual media to collect and map oral (hi)stories from ten Greek mountain villages crossed by the European long-distance path E4.

2020 - 2021 **Film Programmer/Curator** for the Student Category at the Ethnofest (Athens Ethnographic Film Festival, Greece).

2018 – 2019 **Guest lecturer** for the programme "Visual Media and Gender" for GVC (NGO) within the project MedFilm4All, project funded by the European Union to train delegates from civil society organizations coming from Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon.

2014 – 2015 **Coordinator and facilitator** of MAdRI project, Italy. Carrying out community-based storytelling workshops on experiences of motherhood, using text, performance, handicrafts, installation. Administration of social media communication.

2009 – 2011 **Co-founder, Teacher and Researcher** at ASINITAS ONLUS – ASNADA ONLUS, Italy. Coordination of school, pedagogical research, training and public outreach activities. Teaching Italian language to migrants and refugees, coordinating participatory media production, manual and storytelling workshops, creating internet blogs with students.

2011 **Mentor** at Archivio delle Memorie Migranti (AMM) – Archive of Migrant Stories, Italy. Supervision, creative and technical support for the project "Benvenuti in Italia", where six new directors with refugee background were being trained and supported in the production of their own short documentary film. The six shorts were then distributed nationally and internationally by the Archive.

2009 **Citizenship and Film Project Coordinator** at Enrichment Department at Mulberry School for Girls, UK. Coordination of Year 9 students in an audio-visual project discussing social issues related to their communities. The whole process culminated in the organization of a

public screening organized within the school, for students to share their views and achievements with peers, teachers, families and wider community.

2006 – 2011 **Project Coordinator and Artistic Director** of FANDEMA international theatre group, at Naga – Voluntary Association for Socio-Sanitary Assistance and for the Rights of Nomads and Immigrants, Italy. Project writing with artistic and socio-political aims, financial budgeting, organizing meetings with funding parties, associations and institutions.

PUBLICATIONS

Book:

2024 *Future Perfect - A creative ethnography of imaginations and Mediterranean crossings* Manchester University Press Series entitled “Anthropology, Creative Practice and Ethnography”- under contract January 2020.

Articles and Book Chapters:

2020 “Moving Global Horizons: imagining selfhood, mobility and futurities through creative practice in ethnographic research” co-authored with Sjöberg, J. *Culture & Psychology*, Vol. 26(4) 732–748.

2019 “Performing Im/mobility: going beyond the testimony trap”, in Special Issue *Theatre and Migration between Ethics and Aesthetics* edited by Szabolcs Musca, Alison Jeffers (Perspectives) and Vicky Angelaki (Reviews), of the journal *Performing Ethos*.

2019 “It was Tomorrow”, published in the *Journal of Anthropological Films* 3(02) e2757, <https://doi.org/10.15845/jaf.v3i02.2757>

2019 “Attivare immaginari. un incontro tra ricerca sociale e pratiche artistiche” co-authored with Francesca Cogni and Paul Schweizer, in *Adolescenza delle Città. Diario di una metropoli che cresce* edited by Piscitelli, P. and Troglio, S. for Fondazione Feltrinelli editions.

2018 “Anthropology and Theatre” in *International Encyclopaedia of Anthropology*, edited by Hilary Callan, published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

2017 “Reaching for the Horizon: Exploring Existential Possibilities of Migration and Movement within the Past-Present-Future through Participatory Animation” in *Anthropologies and Futures - Researching Emerging and Uncertain Worlds*, editors Juan Francisco Salazar, Sarah Pink, Andrew Irving and Johannes Sjöberg, Bloomsbury.

FILMOGRAPHY

2022 (in production) *The Secret Life of Toys* (documentary series, 6x 20mins episodes) for broadcast TV and digital platforms, produced by ZaLab

2017 *It was Tomorrow* (53mins, [FILM], Italy/UK: the University of Manchester, distribution: RAI, <https://raifilm.org.uk/films/it-was-tomorrow/>), ethnographic documentary resulting from the Ph.D, **Wiley Blackwell Student Film Prize**, Special Commendation at RAI FILM FESTIVAL

2019, Bristol - UK.

2012 *La vita che non CIE*, trilogy (54 mins [FILM], Italy: Fortress Europe, presentation of project and trailers with ITA/ENG/ARA/FRE subtitles <http://fortresseurope.blogspot.com/2012/05/la-vita-che-non-cie-film-on-italian.html>), full version of film with ITA subtitles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXDdeYwytyw>

- *Love at the time of Borders* (20mins), part of the trilogy *La vita che non CIE*
- *Luck will save me* (18mins) part of the trilogy *La vita che non CIE*, winner of **Jury Prize** at LAVORI IN CORTO Film Festival, Turin – Italy
- *Daddy's not coming back* (15mins) part of the trilogy *La vita che non CIE*

2008 *Caught in between Darkness and Light*, (15mins, [photographic audio-documentary], France/UK: the GCVA, University of Manchester, <http://granadacentre.co.uk/project/caught-darkness-light/>), ethnographic audio-visual project resulting from MA in Visual Anthropology, winner of the **Richard Werbner Visual Culture Award** for The Best Research Project of the year.

2007 *Senso* (15mins [FILM], Italy: Civic School of Cinema Luchino Visconti), winner of the **VITA award** at the Filmmaker Film Festival, Milan - Italy 2007.

EXHIBITIONS

- 2020** participation to Virtual Art Exhibition “The Anticipation of Place” as part of the RAI conference 2020.
- 2008** participation to and co-curation of *SENSORIA – Representations of Cultural Encounters*, collective exhibition of final projects from MA in Visual Anthropology (University of Manchester), Victoria Baths, Manchester.

AWARDS AND RESEARCH-RELATED ACADEMIC ESTEEM INDICATORS (SELECTED)

- 2020** **Member of the editorial board and reviewer** – Sociological Review Journal.
- 2020** **Member of European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA).**
- 2020** **Member of the Collaboratory for Ethnographic Experimentation network – #Colleex (EASA)**
- 2014** **Member of the Future Anthropologies Network – FAN (EASA).**
- 2019** **Wiley Blackwell Student Film Prize**, Special Commendation for It was Tomorrow, RAI FILM FESTIVAL, UK.
- 2008** **Richard Werbner Visual Culture Award** for The Best Research Project of the year 2008, awarded by Dept. Social Anthropology, University of Manchester.

FUNDING

- 2011** **Ph.D. Funding Scholarship**, AHRC, SALC at the University of Manchester
- 2007** **MA Funding Scholarship**, AHRC, SOSS at the University of Manchester

RESEARCH AND FIELDWORK

2012 – 2014 Ph.D. Fieldwork in Egypt (Cairo, provinces of Faiyoun and Kafr Sheikh) and in Milan (Italy).

2008 MA research fieldwork between Milan (Italy) and Calais (France)

2004 BA research fieldwork in the London Underground.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED TALKS

2022 Keynote “Drawing and Animating Futures Past: Exploring existential possibilities of migratory experiences” for the Colouring In: The Past symposium, Chelsea College of Arts (UAL), London, UK

2022 Keynote “Re-endangering words, images and stories of migration” for the Film, Migration and the Archive, ECREA Film Studies conference, at ICS, Lisbon, Portugal

2022 “Animating the possible as part of collaborative ethnographic documentaries on migration” in a panel entitled *Crafting and grafting images: Collaboration between visual artists and documentary filmmakers*, BFTSS conference (online)

2020 “Animating mobility: From Imaginative Horizons to Experiences of Illegalised Border Crossing, and back” as part of the panel *The Anticipation of Place - exhibition and round-table discussion*, at the RAI conference, online event

2022 (CHAIR) for Exhibition of a VR experimental DOC by Rossella Schillaci, Interactive Film & Media Conference 2022 (online)

2020 “Where does the Sea end? Envisaging life's beginnings from its margins” as part of the panel *Mapping the migrant experience: places, affect and imaginaries from the margins*, at the RAI conference (online)

2020 (by invitation) “Discussing It Was Tomorrow, a film made with three Egyptian men recollecting their migratory experience to Italy through the use of animation, theatre and storytelling” in the panel entitled *Fruitful collaborations: roundtable discussion with filmmakers and anthropologists working collaboratively*, at the RAI conference (online)

2020 “From multimodal research to imagining the future of publishing a multimodal monograph” in a panel entitled *Languages of Entanglement: mapping the ethnographic modes and media*, at the 16th EASA Biennial Conference, (online)

2020 (CHAIR) at the panel entitled *Filming Futures: ethnographic film and future-making in critical contexts* [cohosted by FAN and VANEASA] at the 16th EASA Biennial Conference, (online)

2020 (by invitation) Guest Speaker and Q&A at the Point of Departure Festival at the Moscow City Museum

2020 (by invitation): Interdisciplinary post-graduate seminar “Creative ethnographic practices to explore existential possibilities of migration” at Institute of Social Sciences (ICS), Lisbon, Portugal

- 2019 (by invitation):** Seminar “Theatre and Refugees”, at MIAU (Center for Migration and Integration research), Aarhus University, Denmark
- 2019 (by invitation):** Eye and Mind Seminar with screening of *It was Tomorrow*, Aarhus University, Denmark
- 2019 (by invitation):** “Entre arte, cinema y etnografía de las migraciones” for the Doctoral Programme in Migration Studies, at the Instituto de Migraciones, Universidad de Granada, Spain
- 2019 (by invitation):** Departmental Seminar “Moving Global Horizons: imagining selfhood, mobility and futurities through creative practice in ethnographic research at Goldsmiths University, London, UK
- 2018 (by invitation):** Departmental Seminar at the University of Bern, Switzerland
- 2018 (by invitation):** Departmental Seminar, Panteio University, Athens, Greece
- 2017 (by invitation):** “Migration Crossings: Possibilities in Loop” in academic workshop entitled The Production of Possibilities: Living and Governing Potential Futures in Africa, at the ZMO (Zentrum Moderner Orient) – Berlin, Germany
- 2017** “Reaching Horizons: Remembering and Imagining Existential Possibilities of Migration through Participatory Animation” in a panel entitled *Documentary and Animation* at the *Animation and Memory* international conference – Nijmegen, Holland
- 2016** “Horizons – exploring existential possibilities of migration through participatory animation” at the 3rd Biannual Northern Postcolonial Network Symposium, Salford – Manchester, UK
- 2016** “Reaching New Horizons: Creative Anthropological Approaches in Exploring and Representing Existential Possibilities of Migration and Movement” within a panel entitled: *Beyond the Disaster Discourse: Redrawing Borders of “Us” vs. “Them” in the Migration Debate*, at SeSaMO conference – Catania, Italy
- 2016** “Who Am I?: the question of narrating one's self in Calais” in a panel entitled: *From worlds to lifeworld: re-assessing the role of narratives in the context of crisis*, at the ASA conference – Durham, UK
- 2016** “Scratching surfaces: a quest for new creative anthropological approaches in exploring and representing existential possibilities of migration and movement” in a panel entitled: *Possible/plausible/probable/preferable: concepts and techniques for realizing futures* at the EASA – Milan, Italy

CONFERENCE PANELS AND WORKSHOPS

- 2020** Convenor of the roundtable entitled “Shooting in Lockdown: the challenges for ethnographic filmmaking and audio-visual production” for the Athens Ethnographic Film Festival (Greece).
- 2016** Co-convenor with Johannes Sjöberg of one of the sections of the “World-making futures Lab”, Future Anthropologies Network Lab at EASA 2016, Milan (Italy).

- 2014** Co-convenor with Johannes Sjöberg of one of the sections of the “Anthropology at the edge of the future: forward play”, Future Anthropologies Network Lab at EASA 2014, Tallinn (Estonia).

PRESENTATIONS AND SCREENINGS IN AND BEYOND ACADEMIA

- 2019** Screening of *IWT* at Inncontro Film Festival, Innsbruck, Austria
- 2019** Screening of *It was Tomorrow* at Ethnografische Filmtage, Bremen University, Germany
- 2019** Screening of *IWT* at the Royal Anthropological Institute Film Festival, official selection in the Student Category, **award of special commendation**
- 2018** Screening of *IWT* at Ethnofest – Athens Ethnographic Film Festival and Masterclass “Liv-in Stories Creative Storytelling in Collaborative Ethnographic Practice” at the Ethnofest – Athens Ethnographic Film Festival
- 2018** Screening of *IWT* as part of the competitive selection of *TerradiTutti* Film Festival – Bologna, Italy
- 2018** Screening of *IWT* as part of the competitive selection Student Films, of *Astra International Film Festival* – Sibiu, Romania
- 2018** Screening of *IWT* at *Ethnocineca International Documentary Film Festival* – Vienna, Austria
- 2017** Screening of *IWT* at Ca' Foscari, Dept. Social Anthropology – Venice, Italy
- 2017** Screening and discussion of *IWT* at the Feltrinelli Bookshop as part of the festival organised by *Razzismo E' Una Brutta Storia* – Milan, Italy
- 2017** “Recording Traces – Storytelling and participatory media” screening, discussion & workshop, at Babylonia e.V. - Berlin, Germany
- 2012** *La vita che non CIE* – three short documentaries on experiences of detention and deportation from Italian Centri di Identificazione ed Espulsione (Identification and Repatriation Centres), screened in Italy, Portugal, UK, Germany, Switzerland, Tunisia and Egypt in festivals (*Lavori in Corto* – winner of jury prize, Turin, Italy), in prisons (Bollate – Milan, Italy) and in grassroots’ organized events
- 2009 – 2011** *Caught in between Darkness and Light*, photographic audio-documentary screened at conferences and workshops at universities (ASA conference 2016 – Durham, UK; Orientale – Naples, Italy), grassroots organizations and festivals (Ethnocineca – Vienna, Austria).

LANGUAGES

- Italian, Greek, English: mother tongues (UK born, Italian father, Greek mother)
- Spanish: advanced speaking and comprehension, average writing
- Portuguese (Brazilian): advanced speaking and comprehension, average writing
- French: good speaking, comprehension and writing
- Arabic: basic speaking, reading and comprehension

COMMUNICATION SKILLS – I have developed a natural, communicative and relational approach to overcome initial cultural, social barriers without overstepping my limits and mindful of other people's sensibilities. My multicultural background and my predisposition in learning languages quickly and easily, have supported me and will continue to support me in communicating with many people from many different cultural backgrounds.

ORGANISATIONAL/MANAGERIAL SKILLS – I have learned to deal with many organizational and planning issues as well as supervising, managing resources and public relations, self and group assessment workshops.

DIGITAL SKILLS

- Good command of office suite (word processor, spread sheet, presentation software)
 - Good command of photo editing software gained as a reportage photographer
 - Excellent command of audio and visual editing software by editing my own film and audio-documentaries (final cut, premiere)
 - Good command of virtual meeting technology: ZOOM, MICROSOFT TEAMS
 - Familiar with learning technologies: BLACKBOARD, LEARN, VOICETHREAD, PERUSALL
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REFEREES

Prof. Andrew Irving

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