

Davide Orsini, Ph.D.

Marie Sklodowska Curie Fellow, 2021-23

Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society,
Ludwig-Maximilians Universität

Positions

Marie Sklodowska Curie Fellow, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, LMU, Munich, Germany, 1.10.2021 – 30.09.2023.

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS, USA, August 2016 – May 2021

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Department of Science and Technology in Society, Northern Virginia Center, 2015-16.

Education

- **Ph.D. Anthropology & History**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2015
Graduate Certificate in Science, Technology & Society, 2015
- **Visiting Research Scholar**, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2005-06
- **M.S.C. Comparative and European Politics**, CIRCaP (Centre for the Study of Political Change), University of Siena, Italy, 2004
- **Certificate in Parliamentary Studies**, Associazione per gli Studi e le Ricerche Parlamentari “S. Tosi,” University of Florence, Italy, 2003
- **B.A. Political Science**, (summa cum laude) University of Siena, Italy, 2002

Grants, fellowships, & awards

MSCA-IF, NUCLEARDECOM (Grant Number 101023603), **REA European Union.**

Strategic Research Initiative Fellowship, College of Arts and Sciences, Mississippi State University, 2018.

ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan, 2016.

Roy Rappaport Prize in Environmental Anthropology, Finalist. American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting, Denver CO, November 2015.

Sidney Fine Prize for Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor in History, History Department, University of Michigan, 2014-15.

Rackham Humanities Research Fellowship, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan, 2014.

Mellon Dissertation Seminar in the Humanities, “Science Studies, Cultural Theory, and Scholarly Writing,” University of Michigan, 2013

National Science Foundation, Dissertation Improvement Grant SES-1155907, 2012

Rackham Humanities Candidacy Award, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan, 2012

Jean Monnet Graduate Fellowship, Center for European Studies, University of Michigan, 2010

Rackham International Research Award, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan, 2012

Jean Monnet Graduate Fellowship, Center for European Studies, University of Michigan, 2010

Global Transformations Fellowship, Center for International and Comparative Studies, University of Michigan, 2010

Lack Fellowship, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, University of Michigan, 2010

Publications and Work in Progress

The Atomic Archipelago: US Nuclear Submarines and Technopolitics of Risk in Cold War Italy, University of Pittsburgh Press, Spring 2022.

“Signs of Risk: Materiality, History, and Meaning in Cold War Controversies over Nuclear Contamination,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 63 (3), July 2020: 520-550.

“Taking samples: an envirotechnical account of radioecology in Cold War Italy,” *Annali Istituto Storico Italo-Germanico | Italienisch-Deutsches Historisches Institut ISIG/FBK* 2/2020, Special Issue on “Environmental history: new approaches and research perspectives,” pp. 153-180.

“L’eredità di Carlo Poni ed i punti di contatto fra microstoria e Science and Technology Studies (STS),” *Quaderni Storici* 161 (2) 2020: 20-29.

“Experts at Risk: Nuclear expertise, Military Secrets, and Radioecology in the Early 1970s around the US Navy base of La Maddalena, Italy,” in MacDowell, Laurel (Ed.), *Nuclear Portraits*, University of Toronto Press, 2017, pp. 94-120.

Selected conference papers & talks

“STS and the Return to Ideology: A Gramscian perspective,” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science, Prague, August 21-24, 2020.

“Governing nuclear waste disposal in Italy (1987 to the present),” Annual Conference of the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), Milan, Italy, October 24-27, 2019.

“I nodi di ricerca di Carlo Poni e una breve panoramica degli Science and Technology Studies (STS),” Conference in Honour of Carlo Poni, Bologna, Italy, October 3, 2019.

“Misunderstood Misunderstandings and the crisis of expertise: Re-reading and advancing Wynne's Classic Work,” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science, New Orleans, September 3-7, 2019.

“Below the Surface: A New Wave of Interdisciplinary Mediterranean Studies and Environmental Changes,” International Workshop, co-organized with Sciences Po, Paris, and Aix Marseille. Menton, October 18-20, 2018.

“When Knowledge is not There Yet: Towards a Semiotic Approach to Risk,” Annual Conference of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST), Lancaster, UK, July 20-22, 2018.

“On the crisis of expertise and the emergence of counter-critique: STS, history, and contingencies in the nuclear field,” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington DC, November 30-December 2, 2017.

“STS after truth: narrative, translation, and advocacy,” panel organized for the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S), Boston MA, August 30-September 2, 2017.

“Technologies of Secrecy in Cold War Italy: A Selected Catalogue and Some Methodological Clues,” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, November 18, 2016.

“Nuclear accidents and sociotechnical controversies: the rationalizing role of citizens’ participation in La Maddalena,” Annual meeting of STS Italia, Trento (Italy), November 26, 2016.

“Nuclear Dystopias: Imaginaries about Waste Disposal in Italy,” panel on “Regulating the Nuclear Imaginary,” Annual Meeting of the American Ethnological Society, Washington D.C., April 2016.

“Environmental Justice and Cold War Technopolitics in the Archipelago of La Maddalena (Italy),” panel on “International Perspectives on Environmental Justice and STS,” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science, Denver, CO, November 2015.

“Toward a Semiotic Analysis of Citizen Risk Perceptions,” Anthropology and the Environment Rappaport Prize Panel, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Denver, CO, November 2015.

“Waiting for Discovering The ‘Truth’: Uncertainty and Claims of Radiation Exposure in La Maddalena,” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C., December 2014.

“Bodies of evidence: Ecologies, Proofs, and the Politics of Risk Perception,” panel organized for the Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, Dearborn MI, November 2014

“History in the Anthropocene: The Environment, Natural Sciences, and Planetary Narratives,” Panel Discussion, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies Workshop

Series, University of Michigan, September 2014.

“Italian Radioecology and the Radiosurveillance System of La Maddalena,” invited presentation, ENEA Center for the Study of Marine Environments and Contamination, Fiascherino (La Spezia), Italy, December 16, 2013.

Teaching

- History and Politics of Climate Change (Graduate Seminar), Department of History, Mississippi State University, Spring 2020.
- Risk: History and Social Theories (Graduate Seminar), Department of History, Mississippi State University, Spring 2019.
- Europe after 1945: History of the European Integration, (Upper Division Course), Department of History, Mississippi State University, Fall 2019.
- History and Policy of Climate Change, Shackouls Honors College, Mississippi State University, Spring 2018.
- The Global Cold War (Graduate Seminar), Department of History, Mississippi State University, Spring 2018.
- History of Technology in Six Objects (Undergraduate Course), Department of History, Mississippi State University, Fall 2017, Spring 2019, Fall, 2019, Fall 2020.
- Great Books in the History of Science and Technology (Graduate Seminar), Department of History, Mississippi State University, Fall 2017.
- European History 1789-1914 (Upper-level undergraduate course), Department of History, Mississippi State University, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2019.
- Introduction to Science and Technology Studies (Graduate Seminar), Department of History, Mississippi State University, Spring 2017.

Courses taught at Virginia Tech University

- Main Themes in the History of Technology (Core Graduate Seminar), Department of Science and Technology in Society, Virginia Tech, Spring 2016.
- Environmental Knowledge and Risk: Ethnographic and Historical Approaches (Graduate Level Course), Department of Science and Technology in Society, Virginia Tech, Summer 2016.

Graduate Student Instructor, University of Michigan

- Global Nuclear Proliferation (Instructor: Prof. Gabrielle Hecht), Department of History, Fall 2013 and Fall 2010.
- History of Medicine (Instructor Dr. Joel Howell), Department of History, Winter 2013
- History of the Present: Climate Change, Nuclear Power, and Energy Futures - a post-Fukushima History (Instructors: Prof. Gabrielle Hecht and Prof. Paul N. Edwards), Department of History, Winter 2014
- Science, Technology, Medicine and Society (undergraduate survey in STS; Instructors: Prof. Gabrielle Hecht and Prof. Elizabeth Roberts), Department of History and Residential College, Winter 2011

Professional activities

Conference Organization

SoHoST (Southern Organization for the History of Science and Technology) annual conference, Mississippi State University, April 15-16, 2018.

“Below the Surface: A new wave of Interdisciplinary Mediterranean Studies and Environmental Changes,” Sciences Po, Menton (France), October 18-20, 2018.

Professional affiliations

Society for the History of Technology

Society for the Social Studies of Science

American Society for Environmental History

American Anthropological Association, Society for Cultural Anthropology

EASST, European Association for the Study of Science and Technology

STS Italia

Languages

Italian, native speaker

English, excellent spoken and written

French, intermediate

Spanish, intermediate