

MARIASOLE PEPA- CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal information

Date of birth: 20/02/1994

Email: mariasole.pepa@phd.unipd.it

Current position

From July 2023

Postdoc Research Fellow ("assegnista di ricerca"), "Geography of African Past, Tomorrow Ontology on the Present (GAPTOP)", research project funded by Foundation Cariparo PHD@UNIPD

University of Padua, Dissgea

From February 2023

Vice-President, Italian Association of Africa-China Studies (AISAC)

From September 2022

Adjunct Professor, Geographical space: concept, tools and practice, Master's degree in Local Development

University of Padua, Dissgea

From June 2022

STSM Grant Coordinator, Cost-Action Decolonizing Development

From November 2020 - ongoing

Subject Expert ("cultrice della materia") for the Master Course in "**International Cooperation for Development**", Department of Culture, Politics, and Society,

University of Turin

Education

2022 **Ph.D. in Human Geography**

University of Padua | University of Verona | University Ca' Foscari Venice Thesis: China-Africa agricultural cooperation in the making: old patterns and new narratives

Supervisor: Professor Paola Minoia

2018 **Master's degree, Local Development**

University of Padua

Thesis: What is the role of China as land grabber in Sub-Saharan Africa? Between reality and myth: a literature overview

Supervisor: Prof. Matteo Bortolini

Final grade: 110/110 cum laude

2016 **Bachelor's degree, International Cooperation and Development**

University of Bologna

Thesis: Cambiamento climatico e migrazioni: siccità e desertificazione come drivers di fenomeni migratori

Supervisor: Prof. Anna Montini

Final grade: 110/110 cum laude

International academic experiences

Associate Researcher, CEDEJ-Khartoum (ongoing)

Visiting Researcher, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies,

University of Khartoum (February- March 2023)

Visiting Researcher, Global Partnership Network (GPN), University of Kassel,

Coordinator: Prof. Aram Ziai (May 2022-June 2022)

Visiting PhD, Department of Global Development Studies, University of Helsinki.

Supervisor: Prof. Franklin Obeng-Odoom (September 2019- December 2019)

Visiting PhD, Center for African Studies, Peking University.

Supervisor: Prof. Liang Xu (May 2019- July 2019)

Erasmus Project- Salamanca (Spain)

University of Salamanca– Master in Cultural anthropology and tropical health (October 2017- March 2018)

Erasmus Project - Manchester (UK)

Salford University (September 2015- January 2016)

Research Grant

PHD@UNIPD - 2 years postdoc research grant funded by Foundation Cariparo (2023-2025)

Local Chapter Initiative Grant - Chinese in Africa/Africans in China (CA/AC) Research Network (2023-2025)

Research Grant – French Centre for Economic, Law and Social Studies in Sudan (CEDEJ Khartoum) (2023)

Short Term Scientific Mission - COST Action CA19219 Decolonising Development: Research, Teaching and Practice, Kassel University, Department of Development and Postcolonial Studies/GPN (22/05/2002- 13/06/2022)

Erasmus programme – Helsinki University (September - December 2019)

Other education experiences

School of Higher Education in Geography, Associazione Geografi Italiani. Monteortone, 14-17 September 2021

TOCHINA Summer School – Torino World Affairs Institute- online, 21/06/2021 – 02/07/2021

Summer School MobiLab 2020. Mobility & humanities: experience and digital instruments University of Padua - online, 14-22 September 2020

BRICS SUMMER SCHOOL – Fudan University- online, 15- 30 July

2020

Work and volunteer experience

June 2022 - June 2023

Postdoc Research Fellow (“assegnista di ricerca”), Research Project of National Interest (PRIN) “Contested wetlands in Sahelian drylands: which kind of development and for whom?”

University of Padua, Dissgea

February - June 2022

Research collaborator –PRIN “Contested wetlands in Sahelian drylands: which kind of development and for whom?”

University of Padua, Dissgea

Task: coordination of the co-researcher in the field (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Sudan), analysis of materials

From January 2021- ongoing

Academic Tutor – University of Padua

Between 2013 and 2022 – **Several work and volunteer experience**

- July- August 2013 **Volunteer**, Don Bosco Centre, Soddo, Ethiopia -
- August- September 2016 **Volunteer**, Amani for children, Mtwo Wa Mbu, Tanzania
- December 2017 **Volunteer**, REVI, Turkey
- March- May 2018 **Project Assistant**, Salamanca Acoge, Spain -
- December- January 2018 **Project Assistant**, Una mano per un sorriso for Children, Kilis, Turkey
- April 2019 **European Solidarity Corps**, Asociacion al Hamam, Spain
- May- July 2020 **Communication Volunteer**, CVM, Italia

Teaching activities

A.A. 2023-2024 Course **Geographical Space: Concepts, tools, and practice**, Master's degree in Local Development, DISSGEA, University of Padua

A.A. 2022-2023 Course **Geographical Space: Concepts, tools, and practice**, Master's degree in Local Development, DISSGEA, University of Padua

A.A. 2022- 2023 **Kick off seminar** – Deconolonize your eyes, Master's degree in Local Development, DISSGEA, University of Padua

A.A. 2021-2022 **Supplementary activities (“didattica integrativa”)** in the course **“Geographical Space: concepts, tools, and practice”**, Master's degree in Local Development, DISSGEA, University of Padua.

A.A 2020-2021 **Supplementary activities (“didattica integrativa”)** for the Master's degree in Local Development, DISSGEA, University of Padua. Organization of a cycle of seminars on **“China-Africa/ Africa-China relations”**

Other teaching experiences

22 March 2022 - **Seminar** "South-South Cooperation and China-Africa relations". University of Turin, Course in International Cooperation: space, approach, and politics (CPS013), Bachelor Degree in International Science, Development, and Cooperation

14 January 2022 - **Workshop** "Exploring Chinese discourse on China-Africa relations: doing discourse analysis". University of Padua, Course in Geographical Space: concepts, tools, and practice, Master's degree in Local Development

14 December 2021 - **Workshop** "Development a project without a territory: the case of China-Africa agricultural cooperation". Course in Geographical Space: concepts, tools, and practice, Master's degree in Local Development

18 October 2021 - **Seminar** "Reflecting on China-Africa agricultural cooperation: The Chinese Agricultural Technology Demonstration Center in Tanzania". University of Bologna, Course China in Africa (90450), Master's degree in Sociologia e Servizio Sociale

18 May 2021 - **Seminar** "China-Africa/Africa-China relations". Università of Venice, Course in International Economic History (LM3040), Master's degree in International Relations

3 May 2021 - **Seminar** "Emotions as part of the research process: my fieldwork in Tanzania". University of Bologna, Course in Methodologies of Social Work (90529), Master's degree in Sociology and Social Work

27 April 2021 - **Seminar** "BRICS, South-South Cooperation and China-Africa relations". University of Turin, Course in International Cooperation for Development (CPS0375), Master's degree in Area and Global Studies for International Cooperation

28 April 2021 - **Seminar** "Rethinking the political economy of Chinese-African agricultural cooperation: The Chinese Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centers". University of Turin, Course in International Cooperation for Development (CPS0375), Master's degree in Area and Global Studies for International Cooperation

20 April 2021 - **Seminar** "South-South Cooperation and China-Africa relations". University of Turin, Course in International Cooperation: space, approach, and

politics (CPS013), Bachelor Degree in International Science, Development, and Cooperation

20 November 2020 – **Seminar** “An overview of Tanzania-China relations”. University of Padua, Master's degree in Local Development

4 December 2020 – **Seminar** “How to rethink China-Africa relations?”. University of Padua, Master's degree in Local Development

13 novembre 2020 – **Seminar** “Africa-China relations amid Covid-19”. University of Padua, Master's degree in Local Development

30 October 2020 – **Seminar** “Rethinking the political economy of Chinese-African agricultural cooperation: The Chinese Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centers”. University of Padua, Master's degree in Local Development

16 October 2020 – **Seminar** “China-Africa relations: past and present”. University of Padua, Master's degree in Local Development

13 October 2020- **Seminar** “Rethinking the political economy of Chinese-African agricultural cooperation: The Chinese Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centers”. University of Bologna, Course China in Africa (90450), Master's degree in Sociology and Social Work

Pubblication

Caretta, M.A., Pepa, M. (under review, Journal of Geography in Higher Education). Co-creating decolonial geographies: engaging with cuerpo-territorio in class.

Pepa, M., Minoia, P. (under review, Political Geography). The power of the Chinese discourses on China-Africa agricultural cooperation.

Pepa, M. (accepted, J-Reading). Multi-sited visual dissemination: re-imagining proximities between Khartoum and Padua.

Ceccagno, A., Pepa, M. (2022). Africa e Cina: tra vecchie e nuove geografie del potere. *Africa e Mediterraneo*, 97: 64-69.

Giunta, I., Pepa, M. (2022). Geografie policentriche della cooperazione internazionale. Differenze e Convergenze fra cooperazione Nord-Sud e Sud-Sud in agricoltura. *Semestrale di Studi e Ricerche di Geografia*, 2: 55-72. DOI:

10.13133/2784-9643/18146.

Pepa, M. (2021). Cooperazione agricola Cina-Tanzania: innovazione o dipendenza? *Rivista Geografica Italiana*, 3: 138-138.
<https://doi.org/10.3280/rgioa3-2021oa12537>.

Pepa, M. (2020). Cina-Africa e le sfide della cooperazione Sud-Sud: l'erosione del principio di non-intervento.

Pepa, M. (2020). Rethinking The Political Economy of Chinese-African Agricultural Cooperation: The Chinese Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centers. *Afrika Focus*, 33: 63-77. Brill. <https://doi.org/10.1163/2031356X-03302007>

Book Chapter

Pepa, M., Giunta, I. (published in December 2023). "Geografías policéntricas de la cooperación internacional en agricultura" in *La cooperación internacional en la encrucijada: reglobalización versus ordenes mundiales solapados*, RIACI.

Review

Pepa, M. (2022). "Il grande gioco del Sahel. *Dalle carovane di sale ai Boeing di cocaina*". Aime, M., De Georgio, A, *Rivista Geografica Italiana*. 3: 16-19.

Pepa, M. (2021). "Pasado y presente de la cooperación internacional: una perspectiva crítica desde las teorías del sistema mundo, a cura di Giunta, I., Caria, S", *Rivista Geografica Italiana*, 3: 198-200.

PhD Thesis

Pepa, M. (2022, unpublished). "China-Africa agricultural cooperation in the making: old patterns and new narratives". Dottorato in Studi Storici, Geografici e Antropologici.

Visual Projects

Photo Exhibition "Never ending (always transforming) irrigation spaces", CEDEJ-Khartoum <https://cedejsudan.hypotheses.org/5729> (March 2023)

Photo Exhibition "Infiniti, irrequiti spazi irrigui", Museum of Geography, University of Padova (April 2023)

Presentation at national and international conferences

4-5 May 2023 Naples - **Speaker** 7th Sudan Conference, University of Naples "L'Orientale"

9 Decemeber 2022 – **Session convenor** "Pluriverse. Multilpe narratives between South and North". Oltre la Globalizzazione, Como.

9-14 October 2022 - **Coordinator of the first panel in** "Covid-19 in Drylands Conference". Masai Mara, Kenya.

7 June 2022 Barcellona- **Speaker** "VI Encuentro Seminario Internacional del GICSS-REEDES"
Prsentation title: Cooperación Sur-Sur y convergencias hacia el paradigma de la modernización agrícola

21-23 April 2022 Naples – **Speaker** VII CUCS Congress, University of Naples "Federico II" and "L'Orientale"
Presentation title: China-Africa agricultural cooperation and FOCAC 2021

16-18 February 2022 Helsinki – **Panel Convenor** "Putting the win-win narratives to test: vulnerabilities and power relations in China's engagement in the Global South", International Conference Development Days 2022, Helsinki University

8-10 September 2021 Padua/online – **Speaker** XXXIII Italian Geographic Congress, University of Padua
Presentation title: Policy transfer or technology transfer? The case of China-Africa agricultural cooperation

12-16 July 2021 Groningen – **Speaker** Summer School on Local Initiatives for Sustainable Development, University of Groningen
Presentation titles: Local Development: a geographic perspective;
Experiences of Local Development From Italy

5-8 July 2021 L'Aia/online – **Speaker** EADI ISS International Conference 2021: Solidarity, Peace and Social Justice
Presentation title: Emotions as part of the research process

16-19 February 2021 Online – **Speaker** International Conference on Global Food Systems in Local Contexts Understanding Contemporary Food Systems Through Time, Carribean Foodscapes.
Presentation title: Agroecology and feminism: alternatives from Tanzania

11 February 2020 Florence/online– **Speaker** Conference Beyond Globalization
Feedback, Society for Geographical Studies
Presentation title: China-Africa and the challenges of South-South Cooperation 3.0

13-14 December 2019 Ghent – **Speaker** International Conference on China in Africa
and Africa in China – Impact on local societies, economies and cultures, Ghent
University
Presentation title: Rethinking the political economy of Chinese-African agricultural
cooperation: The Chinese Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centers

Other seminar and conference

22 June 2023 - **Speaker** "Pluriversal Geographies: Africa-China agricultural
cooperation", China, Europe and the changing Global Order. Open University.
Moderator: Prof. Giles Mohan and Prof. Idrajit Roy

From October to December 2021- Organizer and moderator of the Cycle of
Seminar "Rethinking extractivism and development", Master's degree in Local
Development A.A 2021/2022, University of Padua.
Speakers: Markus Kröger, Sara Caria, Julia Schöneberg

November 24th 2021- **Speaker** seminar "China-Africa relations: a critical analysis"
organized by the research group AGEI GE.CO in the frame of the Cycle of Seminar
"Where is development cooperation going?"

November 19th 2019 – **Speaker** seminar "China-Africa agricultural cooperation.
What are the implications at the local level?", HELSUS Global South Encounters
Helsinki.

Research Groups

Geography, development cooperation and local development, Research
group AGEI, Coordinator: Valerio Bini.

**COST-ACTION CA19129 Decolonising Development: Research, Teaching and
Practice** (DecolDEV), Coordinators: Julia Schöneberg, Juan Telleria

COVID-19 in African, Asian, and North American Drylands, Natural Hazard Center,
Coordinators: Joana Roque De Pinho, Angela Kronenburg García

Academic Membership

2023 **Italian Association of Africa-China Studies**

2022 **Italian Geographical Society**

2022 **Red Española de Estudios del Desarrollo (REEDES)**

Language Skills

Italian – C2

English- C1

Spanish C1

Franch - A1

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