

## ALESSANDRA RUSSO



**Short Bio:** I work as an Associate Professor in International Relations and Security Studies at the University of Trento (Italy). I held postdoctoral research positions in Italy, France and Belgium and have been awarded 2 personal grants for carrying out multi-year research projects, respectively on “*International Determinants in the Production of Regional Counter-crime Norms, Policies and Practices*” and “*Countering Terrorism, Radicalisation, Extremism: EU’s Schemes and Local Responses*”. I am the co-editor of the Open Access academic journal *Inter-disciplinary Political Studies*, and the co-chair of the Standing Group on Russia and the Post-Soviet Space of the Italian Political Science Association.

### UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

*January 2012 – September 2015:* PhD (with Honors) in Politics, Human Rights and Sustainability; Research Area: Conflict and political systems in international relations – Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, Pisa (Italy)

*April 2008 – April 2011:* MA (with Honors) in International Relations and European Studies – University of Florence (Italy)

*September 2004 – April 2008:* BA (with Honors) in International Studies – University of Florence

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

*January 2023 – to date:* Associate Professor, School of International Studies and Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento

*January 2020 – January 2023:* Senior Researcher/Assistant Professor, School of International Studies and Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento

*October 2019 - December 2019:* Chargée de Recherches FNRS (Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique, Belgium), Recherche et Etudes en Politique Internationale, Université Libre de Bruxelles

*June 2019 - September 2019:* Research associate, Center for Social Sciences, Tbilisi, Georgia

*December 2016 - May 2019:* Post-Doctoral Researcher - Centre Émile Durkheim, Sciences Po Bordeaux (Recipient of the fellowship “IDEX - Initiative d’Excellence de l’Université de Bordeaux”)

*December 2015 - December 2016:* Post-Doctoral Researcher - Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna

### CAREER BREAKS

1/09/2017 - 28/02/2018: Maternity leave

16/04/2022 – 16/12/2022: Maternity leave

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Books published by an academic publisher

1. *Regions in Transition in the Former Soviet Area: Ideas and Institutions in the Making* (2018). Basingstoke: Palgrave  
- reviewed by Bernardo Teles Fazendeiro for *Europe-Asia Studies*, 71:5, 2019: 865-866.
2. *Fringe Regionalism: When Peripheries Become Regions* (2018). Cham: Palgrave Pivot (with Frank Mattheis and Luca Raineri)

## Editorships

1. *Governance Beyond the Law: The Immoral, The Illegal, The Criminal* (Abel Polese, Alessandra Russo and Francesco Strazzari eds.) (2019). Palgrave Macmillan (International Political Economy Series) - reviewed by Predrag Bejaković for *Public Sector Economics*, 43:3, 2019: 325-335.
2. "Islands of Organised Crime: Spatiality, Mobility and Confinement" (2019). Special issue in *European Review of Organised Crime* (guest editors: Alessandra Russo and Francesco Strazzari)
3. "Reaching for allies? The dialectics and overlaps between International Relations and Area Studies in the study of politics, security and conflicts" (2022). Special issue in *Italian Political Science Review/Rivista Italiana di Scienza Politica* (guest editors: Alessandra Russo, Silvia D'Amato, Matteo Dian)
4. International Relations and Area Studies. Debates, Methodologies and Insights from Different World Regions (Silvia D'Amato, Matteo Dian, Alessandra Russo eds.) (2023). Springer (Contributions to International Relations Series)

## Articles in scientific journals

1. "The European Union's Approach to Post-conflict Displacement and 'the Local Turn': A Study on Georgia's Second-wave Internally Displaced People (with Francesca Zambelli). *Caucasus Survey* 11(2-3), 312-340
2. "Counter-radicalisation and countering violent extremism in the Western Balkans and South Caucasus: the cases of Kosovo and Georgia" (with Ervjola Selenica). *Critical Studies on Terrorism*, DOI: 10.1080/17539153.2022.2111777
3. "Reaching for allies? The dialectics and overlaps between International Relations and Area Studies in the study of politics, security and conflicts" (with Silvia D'Amato e Matteo Dian), *Italian Political Science Review/Rivista Italiana di Scienza Politica* 52(2): 153-171
4. "The External Dimension of the EU's Fight against Transnational Crime: Transferring Political Rationalities of Crime Control" (with Eva Stambøl). *Review of International Studies* 48(2): 326-345
5. "Actors and Sites for Knowledge Production on Radicalisation in Europe and Beyond" (with Ervjola Selenica). *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*: DOI 10.1080/14782804.2021.1997729
6. "Whose Enemy at the Gates? Border Management in the Context of EU Crisis Response in Libya and Ukraine" (2020). *Geopolitics* (26)5: 1486-1509 (with Chiara Loschi)
7. "Rethinking Space, Violence and Control: Criminal Insularities at Europe's Borders and Beyond" (2019). *European Review of Organised Crime* 5(1): 1-9 (with Francesco Strazzari)
8. "The Securitisation of Cultural Heritage" (2018). *International Journal of Cultural Policy* <https://doi.org/10.1080/10286632.2018.1518979> (with Serena Giusti)
9. "Region-making at last in the former Soviet area: our 'two-cents' for future research" (2018). *Mir Rossii* 7(4): 120-128 (with Caroline Dufy)
10. "Why do Authoritarian Leaders do Regionalism? Ontological Security and Eurasian Regional Cooperation" (2018). *The International Spectator* 53(3): 20-37 (with Edward Stoddard)
11. "Overlap with contestation? Comparing norms and policies of regional organisations in the former Soviet area" (2017). *Central Asian Survey* 36(3): 331-352 (with Andrea Gawrich)
12. "Comparative Regionalism: still emerging, already to be reformed?" (2016). *International Politics Reviews* 4(1): 7-16
13. "Regional security governance in the former Soviet space? Researching on institutions, actors and practices" (2016). *Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe* 24(3): pp. 273-291
14. "A regional house...of cards? Discursive and imaginative processes of region-building within and around Georgia" (2015). *Caucasus Social Science Review* 3(1): 1-18
15. "Democratic diffusion failures or successful authoritarian protection? Central Asian undeclared policies vis-à-vis the 'Arab Spring'" (2014). *Italian Political Science Review* XLIV (3): 247-265 (with Elisa Piras)
16. "US mainland, EU archipelago? Convergence and divergence on transnational organised crime" (2014). *European Security* 23(4): 529-545 (with Francesco Strazzari)

## Book chapters

1. "Bridging the Gaps Between International Relations and Area Studies" (with Silvia D'Amato and Matteo Dian). In *International Relations and Area Studies. Debates, Methodologies and Insights from*

- Different World Regions (Silvia D'Amato, Matteo Dian, Alessandra Russo eds.) (2023). Springer, pp. 1-15.
2. "In Lieu of a Conclusion: The Ongoingness of a Debate" (with Silvia D'Amato and Matteo Dian). In *International Relations and Area Studies. Debates, Methodologies and Insights from Different World Regions* (Silvia D'Amato, Matteo Dian, Alessandra Russo eds.) (2023). Springer, pp. 161-169.
  3. "L'Europa di fronte alla guerra". In Alice Engl, Günther Pallaver, Elisabeth Alber (eds) *Politika 2023* (Yearbook of Südtiroler Gesellschaft für Politikwissenschaft). Bolzano: Edition Raetia.
  4. "The State Before Criminal Firearms" (with Francesco Buscemi). In Felia Allum and Stan Gilmour (eds.) *Routledge Handbook of Transnational Organized Crime* 2nd edition. London: Routledge.
  5. "In the Field" (with Ilyas Saliba, Ellen Lust, Emma Beals, Osama Diab) (2020). In J. Grimm, K. Koehler, E. Lust, I. Saliba, I. Schierenbeck (eds.) *Safer Field Research in the Social Sciences: A Guide to Human and Digital Security in Hostile Environments*. London: SAGE
  6. "The Politics of Safe Research in Violent and Illiberal Contexts" (with Francesco Strazzari) (2020). In Berit Bliesemann de Guevara and Morten Boas (eds.) *Doing Fieldwork in Areas of International Intervention*. Bristol: Bristol University Press
  7. "Caring, protecting and disciplining: The surveillance of social science researchers in the dangerhood" (with Francesco Strazzari) (2019). In Nina Græger and Halvard Leira (eds.) *The Duty of Care in International Relations*. London: Routledge (Routledge Advances in International Relations and Global Politics) <https://www.routledge.com/The-Duty-of-Care-in-International-Relations-Protecting-Citizens-Beyond/Graeger-Leira/p/book/9781138545892>
  8. "'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly': Transnational Perspectives on the Extra-legal Field" (with Abel Polese and Francesco Strazzari) (2019). In Abel Polese, Alessandra Russo and Francesco Strazzari (eds) *Governance Beyond the Law: The Immoral, The Illegal, The Criminal*. Berlin: Springer.
  9. "Le armi nel mondo: mercati legali ed extralegali, tra prospettive globali e locali" (2018). In Paolo Beccegato e Walter Nanni (eds.) *Il peso delle armi. Rapporto di ricerca sui conflitti dimenticati*. Bologna: Il Mulino, pp. 49-80
  10. "A 'Potemkin Village'? Governance Transfer by the CIS" (2015). In: Tanja A. Börzel and Vera van Hüllen (eds.) *Governance Transfer by Regional Organizations*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 141-156

## Other publications

1. "La sicurezza europea guarda al Vicinato Orientale: instabilità politiche nel Caucaso meridionale e conflitto nel Nagorno-Karabakh viste da Bruxelles". In "La questione del Nagorno-Karabakh e la geopolitica del Caucaso", per Osservatorio di Politica Internazionale di Senato della Repubblica, Camera dei Deputati e Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale.
2. L'unione Europea, la Russia e lo Spazio Post-Sovietico. Geopolitical Brief del progetto "La Russia nel contesto post-bipolare (RUSPOL). I rapporti con l'Europa tra competizione e cooperazione" del Centro Studi Geopolitica.info, finanziato dall'Unità di Analisi, Programmazione, Statistica e Documentazione Storica del Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale.
3. "The EU at the Borders: Crisis Response and Border Management in Libya and Ukraine" (with Chiara Loschi) (2018). EUNPACK Project Deliverable
4. Working paper on implementation of EU crisis response in Ukraine (with Roman Petrov, Pernille Rieker, Kateryna Ivashchenko-Stadnik) (2018). EUNPACK Project Deliverable <http://eunpack.eu/publications/working-paper-implementation-eu-crisis-response-ukraine>
5. "Free to think, free to research: challenges to academic freedom in the context of contemporary global politics" (2017). *Interdisciplinary Political Studies Issue* 3(1): 7-10 (editorial, with Federico Russo)
6. "Book review of Christopher Baker-Beall, The European Union's Fight Against Terrorism. Discourse, Policies and Identity" (2017). *Europe Now Journal* <https://www.europenowjournal.org/2017/11/01/the-european-unions-fight-against-terrorism-discourse-policies-and-identity/>
7. Monuments under attack: from protection to securitization (2017). Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS) Working Paper No. 32. European University Institute, Global Governance Programme (with Serena Giusti)
8. Policy brief: A summary of perception studies in Ukraine (with Kateryna Ivashchenko-Stadnik, Roman Petrov) (2017). EUNPACK Project Deliverable <http://eunpack.eu/publications/policy-brief->

#### [summary-perception-studies-ukraine](#)

9. How the EU is facing crises in its neighbourhood: evidence from Libya and Ukraine (with Kateryna Ivashchenko-Stadnik, Roman Petrov, Luca Raineri, Pernille Riecker, Francesco Strazzari) (2017). EUNPACK Project Deliverable <http://www.eunpack.eu/publications/how-eu-facing-crises-its-neighbourhood-evidence-libya-and-ukraine>
10. "Decontaminating the University - or the Cognitive Repression of Radical Thinking" (2017). *SecurityPraxis* <https://securitypraxis.eu/anti-radicalisation-universities/>
11. "Cartografie per una ricerca sicura" (2016) *Il Manifesto* <https://ilmanifesto.it/cartografie-per-una-ricerca-sicura/>
12. "Cause of Death: Research - On Giulio Regeni's abduction and killing in Cairo" (2016). *Security Praxis* <https://securitypraxis.eu/cause-death-research/>
13. "Walking between Praxis and Practices" (2016). *Security Praxis* <https://securitypraxis.eu/walking-praxis-practices/>
14. "Mercato delle armi, guerre, migrazioni" (2015). *Il Mulino. Rivista bimestrale di cultura ed di politica* 6/2015 (Anno LXIV - Numero 482): 1039-1045
15. "Armi e armamenti: mercato in crescita, immune dalla crisi" (2015). In *Cibo di Guerra. 5^ Rapporto di Ricerca sui Conflitti Dimenticati*. Bologna: Il Mulino, pp. 30-33
16. "Practice ... If You Dare. How do films end? How does the 'practice turn' in IR end? A few impractical and impertinent considerations" (2014). *Security Praxis* <https://securitypraxis.eu/practice-dare-2/>
17. "The Ivory Tower under Siege: the Ultimate Frontier of Governmentality" (2014). *Security Praxis* <https://securitypraxis.eu/ivory-tower-siege-ultimate-frontier-governmentality>
18. "Why Grounded Theory is not for emotional PhD students" (2014). *Security Praxis* <https://securitypraxis.eu/grounded-theory-emotional-phd-students/>
19. "Algorithmic sovereignty in a post-preemptive world" (2014). *Security Praxis* <https://securitypraxis.eu/algorithmic-sovereignty-post-preemptive-world/>
20. "Sicurezza energetica eurasiatica e cooperazione regionale" (2013). *Informazioni della Difesa* S6: 154-164
21. "Il Mercato Internazionale delle Armi" (2012). In: Paolo Beccegato, Walter Nanni, Francesco Strazzari (eds.) *Mercati di Guerra. Rapporto di Ricerca su Finanza, Povertà, Ambiente e Conflitti Dimenticati*. Bologna: Il Mulino, pp. 54-56

#### **Forthcoming**

1. "Diplomacy and Transnational Repression: The Case of Italian-Egyptian Relations" (with Saipira Furstenberg e Gillian Kennedy). Book chapter for "Transnational Repression in the Age of Globalization", edited by Dana M. Moss and Saipira Furstenberg (under contract with Edinburgh University Press, forthcoming in April 2024)
2. "The Eurasian Economic Union and Authoritarian Regionalism". Book chapter for the Elgar Companion to the Eurasian Economic Union, edited by Alexander Libman e Evgeny Vinokurov (under contract with Edward Elgar Publishing, forthcoming in March 2024)

#### **Under review**

1. "The pandemic sovereign: the war against the virus and the changing manifestations of sovereignty during the health emergency in Italy and Spain" (with Alice Martini) (submitted to *Critical Military Studies* in November 2023)

#### **TEACHING AND TUTORING ACTIVITIES**

Since 2015 I have been invited as a guest lecturer to a number of universities in Italy and abroad – i.e. Università L'Orientale – Naples, University Ca' Foscari – Venice, University of Bologna, Catholic University – Milan, Spring Hill College Italy Centre, University of South Wales, Northumbria University, Universitas Airlangga.

University of Trento, School of International Studies and Department of Sociology and Social Research

- Course "Research Design" (Master in European and International Studies);
- Course "European and International Politics" (Master in European and International Studies);
- Course "The Use of Force in International Politics" (Master in International Security Studies);

- Course “The European Union and its neighbours” (BA in Internal Studies);
- ECTS Seminars “Critical Approaches to Security Studies” (elective subjects for BA and MA students);
- PhD Seminars “European and International Security”; “Research Ethics and Safety”
- Supervision of BA and MA theses and PhD dissertations;
- Supervision of 1 Marie Skłodowska Curie postdoctoral fellow.

## **INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

*University of Trento (January 2020 - ongoing):* From January 2023 I am the Coordinator of the Master’s Degree in International Security Studies and a member of the taskforce for innovative teaching methods. I am the co-convenor of the Research Cluster on “International Security” and a member of the PhD Board, PhD Programme in International Studies; I am the contact point for the OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions; I have been member of a number of commissions for the award of thesis prizes and MA admissions. Until April 2022 I have been a member of the Coordination Team for the Honours Degree “Talents and Territories” (advanced training programme on the themes of global interdependence) and the School of International Studies’ Delegate for Internships and Placement.

*Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, Pisa (May 2016 - January 2018):* Member of the taskforce mandated by the Dean to design the university’s “Fieldwork Research Policy”

## **RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS AND EXPEDITIONS**

*June 2019 - September 2019:* collaboration to the EU-funded project SHADOW: An exploration of the nature of informal economies and shadow practices in the former USSR region

*May 2019:* Visiting Researcher – Center for Social Sciences (Tbilisi)

*January 2019 – January 2020:* Participation to the ERASMUS + Jean Monnet Network “Peace, War and the World in European Security Challenges”

*January 2018 – January 2020:* Collaboration to the project “SAFEResearch” (University of Gothenburg), contributing to the draft of a multi-authored handbook (authors’ workshop, Swedish Institute of Athens, January 2018)

*March 2017:* Research collaboration with Karelian Institute, University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, in the framework of the project “The Transformation of Soviet Republic Borders to International Borders”

*October 2016 - April 2019:* Research affiliate at Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, for the Horizon2020 Project “EUNPACK Good intentions, mixed results - A conflict sensitive unpacking of the EU comprehensive approach to conflict and crisis mechanisms” (Working Package: Crisis in the Neighborhood)

*June-July 2016:* Visiting Researcher – Center for Social Sciences (Tbilisi), Foreign Policy and Security Research Program

*June 2015:* Visiting Researcher - Ion Creangă Pedagogical State University (Chisinau)

*October 2014 – March 2015:* Visiting PhD Fellow – Freie Universität Berlin, Otto Suhr Institute for Political Science + collaboration to a project of the Collaborative Research Center (SFB) 700 “Governance in Areas of Limited Statehood”

*October 2013 – June 2014:* Department Visiting Doctoral Student – University of Oxford, Department of Politics and International Relations

*March – April 2014:* Visiting Researcher – American University of Central Asia (Bishkek), Central Asian Studies Institute

*April – June 2013:* Visiting Researcher – Center for Social Sciences (Tbilisi), Foreign Policy and Security Research Program

*October – December 2012:* Department Visiting Doctoral Student – University of Oxford, Department of Politics and International Relations

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

- University of Trento's Teaching and Learning Center (FormID): funding of a teaching innovation proposal to develop the project-based/challenge-based learning initiative "Unconventional Perspectives on International Politics: a student-led project" (September-December 2024)
- Italy's Ministry of University and Research – PRIN (Research Projects of National Interest): 24-months funding for the project "Defending Art: Italy and the International Security of Cultural Heritage" (role: Principal Investigator) – November 2023 – November 2025
- Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 12-months grant for the project "Il 'modello italiano' per la protezione del patrimonio culturale in aree di crisi: possibili traiettorie di cooperazione nei vicinati allargati" – November 2023 – November 2024
- Italian Political Science Society, Standing Groups funding 2023 (for the Standing Group Russia and the post-Soviet space, which I coordinate), for the organization of the roundtable "The War in Ukraine and the changing character of armed conflicts, political violence and security in the former Soviet area" (School of International Studies, University of Trento, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023)
- University of Trento's Short Term Programs for International Students (call 2022, awarded in 2023 for the realization of a 2-week Winter School on Arms Transfers and Control <https://international.unitn.it/incoming/winter-school-on-arms-transfers-and-control-artco>)
- International postdoctoral fellowship FNRS (Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique, Belgium), 36 months, started in October 2019
- International postdoctoral fellowship "IDEX - Initiative d'Excellence de l'Université de Bordeaux", Investment for the Future Schemes (France), December 2016 - May 2019
- European International Studies Association: Young Researchers' Workshops Funding, Barcelona, September 2017
- Erasmus+ Training Mobility Grant (agreement between Sciences Po Bordeaux and University of Oslo), June 2017
- Completion Grant, Freie Universität Berlin, Research College "The Transformative Power of Europe", October 2014 – March 2015
- Mobility Scholarship, Erasmus Consortia Placement, October 2013 – June 2014
- Research Fellowship Awarded by Open Society Georgia Foundation, Center for Social Sciences (Tbilisi, Georgia), April 2013 – June 2013
- PhD Scholarship, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa, January 2012 – January 2015

## TRAININGS

- Swedish Institute of Athens (January 2018): "SAFERResearch Workshop" - Digital Security Training + Hostile Environment Awareness Training*
- University of Oslo (June 2017): Training "Academic Refuge" - Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership to Promote Core Academic Values and Welcome Refugees and Threatened Academics to European Campuses*