

# Curriculum Vitae

## Chiara Lovotti

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

First name, family name: Chiara Lovotti

Date of birth:

Emails:

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **01/09/2015–present. Research Fellow, Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI)**

- **Research focus:** Russian foreign policy in the Mediterranean, Middle East, North Africa and Sahel (drafted briefs and notes for internal use, and published extensively). Research output targeted at policymakers, industry partners and academia;
- **Scientific Coordinator** of the “Rome MED-Mediterranean Dialogues” conference, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ annual flagship event convening Heads of State, Ministers and dignitaries. Designed and implemented the conference’s programme, as well as the related “MED Regional Meetings” held at host partner institutions (Atlantic Council, Carnegie, Brookings, Chatham House, EU, HSE Moscow, International Crisis Group, RIAC, UN, OECD, and others);

#### **2022–present. Guest Lecturer, “Master in Interdisciplinary Research and Studies on Eastern Europe” (MIREES), Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna, Italy.**

- Seminar series (MPhil) on Soviet/Russian relations with countries of the Middle East and North Africa, especially Syria;
- Graduate thesis supervision, mentoring and career development support.

#### **2021/2022. Tutor and Teaching Fellow, Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna.**

- Undergraduate course in “International History” (91229, A-L):
  - Undergraduate teaching;
  - Undergraduate supervision (third year, small group teaching, essay marking).
- Master course in “History and IR of the Middle East” (77918):
  - Graduate teaching;
  - Graduate supervision (second year, small group teaching, thesis supervision, mentoring and career development support).

#### **Nov.-Dec. 2020. Guest Lecturer, School of Asian Studies, Higher School of Economics (HSE), Moscow, Russia.**

- Course in “Russia and Countries of the East” (featuring both undergraduate and postgraduate students).

#### **07/11/2017–02/05/2019. Coordinator, EuroMeSCo Joint Policy Study ISPI–IEMed Institute–EU Commission.**

- Designed, implemented and coordinated the Joint Policy Study on “Russia in the MENA Region. Strategy or Opportunism?” (including allocating budget and resources, liaising with EU donors);
- Co-edited the Study’s final publication;
- Presided the launching conference at the European Commission (Nov. 2017); organised the mid-term research meeting with the Study’s authors in Milan (Oct. 2018) and the final conference in Tunis at the Columbia Global Centre (May 2019).

**Feb.-Jun. 2014. Research Assistant, Département d'Études du Développement, Université de Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.**

- Media monitoring: researched on questions of conflict management/resolution pertaining to the African Continent, especially the Sahel, Central Africa, and Great Lakes region;
- Organised seminars and workshops, and provided general administrative assistance to the Department.

**Jun.-Sept. 2012. Research Assistant, European Friends of Armenia (EuFoA), Brussels, Belgium**

- Media monitoring: researched and drafted briefs for internal use on the evolution of the conflict in Nagorno Karabakh, peacekeeping strategies, and relations between Armenia and the European Union;
- Administrative tasks: managing the contact database, supporting the website update, drafting correspondence.

## **EDUCATION**

**01/11/2018–15/06/2022. PhD in Global Histories, Cultures and Politics, University of Bologna.**

Thesis title: *Beyond weaponry and socialist internationalism. Soviet engagement with postcolonial state-building in the Arab Middle East, 1954-1966.*

Supervisor: Prof Massimiliano Trentin

Awarded 15/06/2022, with “Excellence” (no corrections)

**19/01/2015–01/12/2015. MSc in Middle Eastern Studies, Post-Graduate School of Economics and International Relations, Milan.**

Main courses: IR of the Middle East; Global Security and Jihadism; Area Studies (Arab Levant, Caucasus, Central Asia, Gulf States, Iran, Iraq, Maghreb, Sub-Saharan Africa, Turkey); Basic Modern Standard Arabic.

**06/09/2012–04/12/2014. MSc in Sciences de la Population et du Développement, Université de Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.**

Main courses: Théories du Développement; Analyse Socio-Politique du Développement; Démographie, Methodes de la Recherche; Analyse Quantitative; Analyse Qualitative; Langue Russe «advanced»; Modern Standard Arabic.

**15/09/2008–13/04/2012. BA Foreign Languages and International Relations, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan.**

With Study Abroad at the Russian Language Centre, Lomonosov Moscow State University (2011).

Main courses: Russian language, English language, International relations theories, Geopolitics, History of cultures and European civilizations, European institutions, International law.

## **EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

**04/06/2021–04/12/2021. Recognised Student (DPhil level), Russian and Eastern European Studies Centre, OSGA, University of Oxford.**

Visiting period granted by the University of Oxford to carry out existent doctoral research at the REES, Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (Academic Advisor: Professor Roy Allison).

**20/04/2020–03/10/2021. Fellow, Europaeum Scholars Programme, The Europaeum.**

The Europaeum is a network of 18 leading European universities. The Europaeum Scholars Programme is a 2-year Fellowship for doctoral researchers awarded through a competitive selection process. Professional policy trainings, seminars, workshops and group projects are taken at the Europaeum member Universities and are focused on contemporary international and European politics.

## STUDY ABROAD

**July-Aug. 2017; Jan.-Jun. 2011; July-Aug. 2010:** Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russian language courses (grammar and conversation, advanced level)

**Dec. 2016-Feb. 2017; July-Aug. 2016:** Ahlan World, Amman Jordan Arabic School, Modern Standard Arabic courses (grammar and conversation, basic level)

**Oct.-Dec. 2013:** CLL Centre des Langues, Louvain-la-Neuve, Modern Standard Arabic courses (grammar)

**Summer 2009:** Russian Educational Centre of Moscow, Russian language

## LANGUAGES

Native **Italian** speaker; excellent **English**; fluent **Russian**; fluent **French**; Passable but improvable **Arabic** (can read, write and communicate, grammar needs revision and practice); passive knowledge of **Ukrainian** and **Spanish**.

## OTHER ROLES AND EXPERIENCES

- Since 2022, I am Associate Research Fellow, Middle East Institute Switzerland
- Since 2023, I am a Senior Associate Fellow at Crisis Response Council
- GLOBSEC Young Leader 2022
- Regular contributor to the “International Politics Observatory” of the Italian Parliament
- Regular contributor to public debates on Italian media, commenting on Russia and MENA issues
- Contributor, *Limes*, Italian Review of Geopolitics
- Consultant, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
- Member, 100Esperte (a project promoting women presence in the media)
- Since 2009, I am a member of *Mir v Dvizhenii/Mondo in Cammino*, an Italy-based non-profit organisation active in the fields of conflict management and human/environmental rights in Northern Caucasus, Ukraine, and Belarus.

## FUNDING

The University of Bologna awarded me an annual 15,000 Euros scholarship to contribute to maintenance expenses during my PhD studies.

The University of Bologna awarded me an addition £4000 covering tuition fees for my 6-month visiting at the University of Oxford as Recognised Student at the Russian and Eastern European Studies (REES) centre of the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA).

The University of Bologna awarded me circa 3,000 Euros to contribute to expenses for my fieldwork in Russia.

The Europaeum awarded me an annual £10,000 Scholarship covering fees and expenses for the 8 Modules of courses held at European universities associated with the network.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Edited volumes:**

- \*2024, Frassinetti, F., Lee, S-J., and Lovotti, C. (eds.) *The Role of Public Diplomacy in Reconnecting Asia and the Middle East*. London: Routledge. (Publication in Spring 2024)
- 2020, Lovotti, C., Tafuro Ambrosetti, E., Hartwell, C. and Chmielewska, A. (eds.) *Russia in the Middle East and North Africa: Continuity and Change*. London: Routledge.
- 2019, Talbot, V. and Lovotti, C. (eds.), *The Role of Russia in the MENA Region. Strategy or Opportunism?* Joint Policy Study, n° 12, EuroMeSCo, Barcelona: European Institute of the Mediterranean. (open-access)

### **Peer Reviewed Journal Articles (open access):**

- \*2024, "Education, Tourism and Media: Russia's Soft Power Strategy in the Middle East". In Frassinetti, F., Lee, S-J., and Lovotti, C. (eds.) "*The Role of Public Diplomacy in Reconnecting Asia and the Middle East*". London: Routledge (Publication in Spring 2024).
- \*2024, "Russia in Africa from the Cold War to contemporaneity: The evolutions of a continental strategy". *South Africa Journal of International Affairs*. (Abstract accepted for submission; publication in Fall 2024).
- 2021, "Russia in a Post-American Middle East: The Shaping of a New Regional Order". *Orient*. German-Orient Institute. 4:62. (Special Issue: External actors' role in the MENA region).
- 2021, Lovotti, C. and Proserpio, L. The October 2019 Protest Movement in Iraq: An Analysis of the "Early Moments" of the Mobilisation. *Partecipazione e Conflitto*. 4:12, pp. 644-662.

### **Peer Reviewed Book Chapters (open access):**

- 2023, Lovotti, C. *Interesse nazionale e strategie globali nell'evoluzione di lungo corso della politica estera russa*. In Casini, E. and Manciuilli, R. (eds.), "La guerra tiepida. Il conflitto ucraino e il futuro dei rapporti tra Russia e Occidente", LUISS University Press, Rome.
- 2020, "Prospects for International Cooperation in the MENA Crises: The cases of Lebanon and Syria". In Kortunov, A., and Magri, P. (eds.) *After the Storm. Post-pandemic Trends in the Southern Mediterranean*. ISPI and the Russian International Affairs Council Report. Milano: Ledizioni.
- 2020, "Russia in Syria: Between Past, Present and Future". In Lovotti, C., Tafuro Ambrosetti, E., Hartwell, C., and Chmielewska, A. (eds.) *Russia in the Middle East and North Africa: Continuity and Change*. London: Routledge.
- 2019, "Redistribution of Power in the Middle East: Moscow's Return to Syria". In Mezran, K. and Varvelli, A. (eds.) *The MENA Region. A Great Powers Competition*. ISPI and the Atlantic Council. Milano: Ledizioni.
- 2018, Lovotti, C. and Tafuro Ambrosetti, E. "How Does the European Union Perceive Russia's Role in the MENA Region?" In Talbot, V. and Lovotti, C. (eds.) *The Role of Russia in the MENA Region. Strategy or Opportunism?* Joint Policy Study, EuroMeSCo, Barcelona: European Institute of the Mediterranean.

### **Policy Analyses:**

- \*2024, Lovotti, C. *Pechino alla guida del Sud Globale? Obiettivi, sfide e prospettive cinesi sul conflitto fra Israele e Hamas*. Focus Cina e Indo-Pacifico, International Politics Observatory of the Italian Parliament and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, No. 3.
- \*2024, Lovotti, C. and Fasulo, F. *Da Mosca a Pechino: Un'occasione per Russia e Cina?* In: Magri, P. (ed), "Conflitto senza fine. Dieci domande sullo scontro Hamas-Israele". Milano: Mondadori.

- 2023, Lovotti, C. (ed). *Arabia Saudita-Iran: prospettive di un accordo "made in China"*, Approfondimento, International Politics Observatory of the Italian Parliament and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, No. 201.
- 2023, Lovotti, C. et al. *Libia: una crisi pluridimensionale. Nuova roadmap, riallineamenti regionali e criticità del Maghreb profondo* ("Libya: A multidimensional crisis. New roadmap, regional re-alignments, and critical issues the Deep Maghreb"), Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.
- 2022, Lovotti, C. *La guerra di Putin all'Ucraina: implicazioni per la partita russa in Medio Oriente e Nord Africa*. Policy Paper, "Focus Mediterraneo Allargato", International Politics Observatory of the Italian Parliament and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, No. 19.
- 2021, Lovotti, C. *Everything Has to Change so that Nothing Changes: Russian Policy in Syria*. ISPI Commentary In: Lovotti, Chiara and Valeria Talbot (eds.) *Syria Ten Years On: How Far is Peace?* ISPI Dossier.
- 2021, Renard, N., Lovotti, C., Vihma, P., et al. *Lost in Transition? Charting a Course for Europe's Automotive Industry Workers*. Europaem Scholars Policy Proposal.
- 2021, Lovotti, C. *Difficile ma Necessario: Un Dialogo tra Unione Europea e Russia nelle Crisi del Mediterraneo (Siria e Libia)*. Policy Paper, "Focus Mediterraneo Allargato", International Politics Observatory of the Italian Parliament and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, No. 15.
- 2020, Lovotti, C. and Suchkov, M. *Russia: in Medio Oriente per tornare a contare. Limes, Italian Review of Geopolitics*.
- 2019, Lovotti, C. *Syria in Russia's MENA Policy: Necessary but Not Enough*. ISPI Commentary.
- 2019, Lovotti, C. *Russia in the Middle East: The Biggest Challenge is Yet to Come*. ISPI Commentary.
- 2018, Lovotti, C. *Moscow's Syrian Challenge: Dream vs Reality*. ISPI Commentary.
- 2018, Lovotti, C. *La Russia in Medio Oriente. Una presenza destinata a durare?* International Politics Observatory of the Italian Parliament and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Issue No. 79.
- 2015, Lovotti, C. and Talbot, V. *Rilancio della Cooperazione Euro-Mediterranea*. International Politics Observatory of the Italian Parliament and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Issue No. 111.

### **Forthcoming publications**

- 2023, Lovotti, C. and Borck, T. *Russia and the MENA. Dangerous Liaisons for Europe?*, Policy Paper, ISPI and Royal United Services Institute (RUSI). (open-access)
- 2024, Frassinetti, F., Lee, S-J., and Lovotti, C. (eds.) *The Role of Public Diplomacy in Reconnecting Asia and the Middle East*. London: Routledge. (Publication in Spring 2023)
- 2024, "Education, Tourism and Media: Russia's Soft Power Strategy in the Middle East". In Frassinetti, F., Lee, S-J., and Lovotti, C. (eds.) *The Role of Public Diplomacy in Reconnecting Asia and the Middle East*. London: Routledge (Publication in Spring 2023).
- 2024, "Russia in Africa from the Cold War to contemporaneity: The evolutions of a continental strategy". *South Africa Journal of International Affairs*. (Abstract accepted for submission; publication in Fall 2023).

## WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

2023, *Great Power Competition Re-Igniting in The MENA: Power Relations since the Ukraine War*, **Atlantic Council**, Washington, 18 September 2023.

2023, *Redrawing Energy Relations in the Wider Mediterranean Space*, **Egyptian Center for Economic Studies**, and **King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center of Saudi Arabia**, Cairo, 7 September 2023.

2023, *Small States, Great Power? The Challenges of a Global Gulf*, **Middle East Council on Global Affairs**, Doha, 6-7 June 2023.

2023, *Libia: una crisi pluridimensionale. Nuova roadmap, riallineamenti regionali e criticità del Maghreb profondo*, Paper presentation, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rome, 29 May 2023.

2023, *The Future of Peace in the MENA Region: Managing Conflict in a 'Post-Middle East' International Order*, **University of Oxford**, 18 May 2023.

2023, *Foreign Policy Club*, European Council on Foreign Relations and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rome, 4 May 2023.

2023, Private Roundtable with UK Cabinet Officers on “The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Russia”, **Royal United Services Institute (RUSI)**, 13 April 2023. (No information is available online).

2022, *Atlantic Dialogues*, **Policy Center for the New South**, Marrakesh, 11-14 December 2022.

2022, “*Arab normalisation*” with *Damascus: What implications for the Syrian conflict?* Chaired the public conference hosted by ISPI in partnership with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

2021, *Defining Influence: The Heydays of the USSR in the Middle East and North Africa*. Paper presented at the academic symposium “The end of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union at its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Trajectories, Projections and Legacies”, University of Bologna, 16-17 December 2021.

2021, *Crisis as an opportunity for Europe?*, Presented the final group project of The Europaeum Scholars Programme, Toledo, Madrid, 1-3 October 2021.

2021, *The Soviet Union and State-Building Processes in Egypt. Role and Impact, 1954-1958*. Paper presented at the conference “How communism became global Building connections between Soviet, European and African communists”, University of Bologna, Scuola Normale Superiore University of Pisa, and University of Siena, 4-5 March 2021, Bologna.

2021, *Russian perspective on the Libyan crisis*, Organised and chaired the close-door meeting hosted by the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) with Russian colleagues of RIAC, HSE, IMEMO, RAN, and others, 1 April 2021, online.

2020, *New Regional Dynamics in the Eastern Mediterranean?* Talk given at the public conference hosted by Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC) and the Higher School of Economics (HSE), 17 December 2020, Moscow (Participated online due to COVID-19 travel restrictions).

2019, *Da Hong Kong a Beirut: Le Proteste che Scuotono l'Oriente*. Organised, chaired and gave a talk at the public conference hosted by the University of Bologna, 16 December 2019, Bologna. Also chaired the panel.