

## MARIASOLE PEPA- CURRICULUM VITAE

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### 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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