

# COSTANZA FRANCESCHINI

## Education

### PhD in Cultural and Social Anthropology

*University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy*

1 November 2020 – 28 May 2024

Thesis title: Assembling development. An ethnography of a Chinese infrastructure project in Ghana

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*Maximum cum laude*

### Master's Degree in Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology

*University of Turin, Italy*

September 2017 – March 2020

*110 cum laude*

### Bachelor's Degree in Cross-Cultural Communication

*University of Turin, Italy*

September 2014 – July 2017

*110 cum laude*

## Research Experience

### Postdoctoral research

**Ghana**, 26 January 2025 – 6 February 2025

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- Topic: Sino-African infrastructural entanglements and everyday interactions and practices of brokerage in China-Ghana relation
- Funding: LUF Impulse Grant, "Sea-ing Africa: Tracing Legacies and Engaging Future Promises of 'Big' Infrastructure Projects in Port City Territories in Ghana and Morocco"

### PhD research

**Ghana**, 13 October 2021 – 12 June 2022 | 12 July 2022 – 10 December 2022

- Topic: China's infrastructure development cooperation in Ghana
- Funding: PhD scholarship, Department of Human Sciences for Education "Riccardo Massa", University of Milano-Bicocca

### Master's research

**China**, 27 July 2019 – 26 September 2019

- Topic: heritage, tourism, and development in an ethnic rural community in China, Yunnan Province
- Funding: Thesis abroad scholarship, Department of Cultures, Politics and Society, University of Turin

### Italian Language Teaching to Roma pupils Project

**Italy**, 4 November 2019 – 13 September 2020

- Topic: school inclusion and the teaching of Italian L2 to Roma pupils
- Funding: "Italiano L2 a scuola" project, Department of Humanities, University of Turin

## Relevant Employment

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### Postdoctoral Researcher and Lecturer

01/06/2024 – present

*Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology, Leiden University*

- Projects: **PortCityFutures (PCF)** and **Sea-ing Africa: Tracing Legacies and Engaging Future Promises of 'Big' Infrastructure Projects in Port City Territories in Ghana and Morocco**
- Activities: Organisation of monthly seminars; coordination and participation in two thematic research groups, "Everyday Infrastructures" and "Mixed Methods and Design Strategies"; coordination of the "Sea-ing Africa" project; supervision of MA students in the master's programme in Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology.

### Teaching Assistant and Tutor

01/03/2024 – 31/05/2024

*Department of Human Sciences for Education "Riccardo Massa", University of Milano-Bicocca*

- Course: **Cultural Anthropology** (BA in Educational Sciences)
- Activities: preparation of lessons and teaching materials; individual and group teaching, both face-to-face and online; tutoring of BA students.

### Teaching Assistant and Tutor

04/12/2023 – 24/01/2024

*Department of Human Sciences for Education "Riccardo Massa", University of Milano-Bicocca*

- Course: **Cultural Anthropology** (BA in Educational Sciences)
- Activities: preparation of lessons and teaching materials; individual and group teaching, both face-to-face and online; tutoring of BA students.

### Teaching Assistant and Tutor

01/03/2023 – 26/09/2023

*Department of Human Sciences for Education "Riccardo Massa", University of Milano-Bicocca*

- Course: **Cultural Anthropology** (BA in Educational Sciences)
- Activities: preparation of lessons and teaching materials; individual and group teaching, both face-to-face and online; tutoring of BA students.

### Teaching Assistant and Tutor

01/10/2021 – 30/09/2022

*Department of Human Sciences for Education "Riccardo Massa", University of Milano-Bicocca*

- Course: **Anthropological Research Methodology** (MA in Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences)
- Activities: tutoring of MA students.

### Italian Language Teacher to Foreigners

04/11/2019 – 13/09/2020

*Department of Humanities, University of Turin*

- Laboratory: Italian as a second language (L2)
- Activities: labs and lesson planning; developing language teaching materials; teaching primary and secondary school students; regular activity reports; supervisory meetings.

### Tutor – Student Registry Office

01/02/2019 – 06/06/2019

*Department of Cultures, Politics and Society, University of Turin*

- Activities: Advising students on courses and study plans; assisting students with international mobility programmes, scholarships and internships.

### Italian Language Teacher to Foreigners – Internship

27/11/2017 – 17/05/2018

*Provincial Center for Adult Education C.P.I.A. 2, Turin*

- Activities: lesson planning and teaching.

### Italian Language Teacher to Foreigners

20/11/2017 – 26/03/2018

*Department of Humanities, University of Turin*

- Laboratory: Italian as a second language (L2)
- Activities: labs and lesson planning; developing language teaching materials; teaching primary and secondary school students; regular activity reports; supervisory meetings.

### Tutor – BA in Cross-Cultural Communication

27/10/2016 – 09/06/2017

*Department of Cultures, Politics and Society, University of Turin*

- Tutor for first year undergraduate students in Cross-Cultural Communication
- Activities: welcoming first-year students; advising students on courses and study plans; assisting students with international mobility programmes, scholarships and internships.

## Languages

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- Italian (Native proficiency)
- English (Full professional proficiency)
- Chinese (Limited working proficiency)
- French (Limited working proficiency)

## Academic Publications

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### Published:

Franceschini, C., Sordella, S. (2020) "Uno sguardo antropologico sull'esperienza di conduzione di alcuni laboratori di italiano L2 rivolti ad alunni Rom", *Italiano LinguaDue* 1, pp. 906-939. <https://doi.org/10.13130/2037-3597/13961>

Franceschini, C. (2022) "'You walawala too much!': Chinglish interactions between Chinese and Ghanaian construction workers", *Antropologia* 9(3), pp. 153-172. <https://doi.org/10.14672/ada20223pp153-172>

Franceschini, C., Pasquali, P. (2024) "La sinitude des projets chinois: le cas du Ghana", in Pairault, T., Aurégan, X. (Eds.) *L'Afrique et ses présences chinoises*. Paris: L'Harmattan, pp. 125-142.

Franceschini, C. (2024) "'Alleluia alleluia don't give you money'. Luoghi e dinamiche di lavoro dentro e fuori le imprese di costruzione statali cinesi in Ghana", *Narrare i Gruppi* 19(1), pp. 161-188. <https://www.narrareigruppi.it/index.php?journal=narrareigruppi&page=article&op=view&path%5B%5D=-6.30.07.2024>

Pasquali, P. Franceschini, C. (2024) "Defining Chineseness in Chinese infrastructure projects in Africa: The Case of Ghana", *China Perspectives* 139, pp. 59-69. <https://doi.org/10.4000/130gp>

Franceschini, C. (2025) "'Chinese English' interactions, jokes, and frictions on Chinese construction sites in Ghana", *Global China Pulse* 3(2), pp. 74-81. <https://doi.org/10.69131/GCP.03.02.2024>

### Forthcoming:

Franceschini, C., Gambino, E. "Narrazioni, percezioni, e rumours: Note etnografiche sullo sviluppo infrastrutturale sino-africano", in Ceccagno, A., Pepa, M. *La Cina in Africa*. Milano: FrancoAngeli.

Gambino, E., Franceschini, C. "South-South economic engagement: Flexible embeddedness in the internationalization of Chinese companies in Africa", *Review of International Political Economy*.

Franceschini, C. "Is it really about China? Heterogeneous actor configurations in Chinese infrastructure projects in Ghana", in Amoah, L.G.A. (Ed.) *Africa-China Relations: Partnership, Peonage or Pawnage?* London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Franceschini, C., Hanna, J. "The future is always on the other side: A visual ethnography of uneven infrastructure development projects in Ghana and Morocco", *Footprint 38: Africa Dreams: Re-enchantment through Relational Ontologies*.

### Under review:

Franceschini, C. Gambino, E. "Follow the MNC. Researching Sino-African infrastructure through money, networks, and controversies" [Under review by *Qualitative Research*].

### In progress:

Franceschini, C. "'This is not a harbour, this is a swimming pool': Temporal encounters with Chinese infrastructure development projects in Ghana" [Target Journal: *Focaal - Journal of Global and Historical Anthropology*].

Franceschini, C. "Harbours (past) dreams. The afterlife of a coastal infrastructure project in Ghana" [Target Journal: *Cultural Anthropology*]

Franceschini, C. "Networks of opportunity: African brokers, Chinese companies, and subaltern patronage in Sino-African business activities" [Target Journal: *Asian Anthropology*]

Franceschini, C. "Infrastructural politics, state agency and debt crises: The affective political economy of Sino-Ghanaian infrastructural entanglements" [Target Journal: *Economic Anthropology*]

## Conference Presentations

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**Conference, "Researching Global China: Innovation and Challenges"** 25/01/2025 – 26/02/2025

*The Open University, Milton Keynes, UK*

Paper presented: "Follow the MNC. Researching Sino-African infrastructure through money, networks, and controversies".

<https://fass.open.ac.uk/research/projects/define/researching-global-china-conference>

**Conference, "China-Africa Economic Interactions: Past, Present, and Future"** 12/09/2024 – 13/09/2024

*SOAS University of London, London, UK*

Paper presented with Elisa Gambino: "Beyond State-Backed Funding: Multiple Embeddedness and the Internationalisation of Chinese State-Owned Contractors in Africa".

<https://odi.org/en/events/cgf-odi-aerc-conference-2024-china-africa-economic-interactions-past-present-and-future/>

**18<sup>th</sup> EASA (European Association of Social Anthropologists) Biennial Conference** 23/07/2024 – 26/07/2024

*University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain*

Paper presented: "From great expectations to great delusions: the temporality and unevenness of a Chinese infrastructure development project in Ghana"

<https://nomadit.co.uk/conference/easa2024/p/14544>

**Conference, "China and Europe in the African Continent"** 30/11/2023 – 01/12/2023

*Sant'Anna, School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, Italy*

Paper presented with Elisa Gambino: "Beyond state-backed funding: multiple embeddedness and the internationalization of Chinese state-owned contractors in Africa"

<https://www.santannapisa.it/it/evento/china-and-europe-african-continent>

**16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the African Economic History Network (AEHN)** 05/10/2023 – 06/10/2023

*Future Africa Campus, Pretoria, South Africa*

Paper presented: "Framing African agency in Ghana's infrastructure development: global presences, politics, and the quest for economic growth"

<https://www.aehnetwork.org/conference/>

**4<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Italian Society of Cultural Anthropology (SIAC)** 21/09/2023 – 23/09/2023

*La Sapienza, University of Rome, Rome, Italy*

Paper presented: "Luoghi e dinamiche di lavoro dentro e fuori le imprese di costruzione cinesi in Ghana" [Workplaces and employment dynamics inside and outside Chinese construction SOEs in Ghana]

<https://www.siacantropologia.it/panel-03/>

**9<sup>th</sup> European Conference on African Studies (ECAS)** 31/05/2023 – 03/06/2023

*University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany*

Paper presented: "Is it really about China? Heterogeneous actor configurations in Ghana infrastructure development"

<https://nomadit.co.uk/conference/ecas2023/paper/71778>

## Invited Lectures

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20/03/2025

Lecture title: **“Researching Global China in Africa: An anthropological perspective on Sino-Ghanaian infrastructural entanglements”**

*University of Torino, Torino, Italy*

04/11/2024

Lecture title: **“Learning how to speak. Linguistic interactions and power relations at Chinese construction sites in Ghana”**

*University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy*

13/03/2024

Lecture title: **“Assembling development and non-harbours. An ethnography of a “Chinese” infrastructure project in Ghana”**

*University of Shanghai, Shanghai, China*

23/10/2023

Lecture title: **“Working for a Chinese construction SOE in Ghana: global and local systems of inequality and exclusion and/in Chinese-Ghanaian cross-cultural employment relations”**

*University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy*

LEIDEN, 02/04/2025

