



CLAUDIO SOPRANZETTI
Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA
Ph.D., Social Anthropology, September 2013.

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA
MA, Social Anthropology, July 2008.

University of Rome “La Sapienza”, Rome, Italy
BA, Anthropology, *cum laude*, May 2005

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Central European University	2021-
Director of the Doctoral Program, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, CEU	2021-
Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, CEU	2019-2021
All Souls Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Oxford University	2013-2019
Affiliated Faculty, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Oxford University	2013-2019

PROFESSIONAL HABILITATIONS

National Scientific Habilitation, Scientific Sector 10/N3 (Asian Studies)	2023
National Scientific Habilitation, Scientific Sector 11-A5 (Anthropology)	2018
Associate Professor Accreditation – Cataluña	2017
Harvard Bok Center Higher Education Teaching Certificate	2013

DIRECTORSHIPS of PROGRAMS and RESEARCH CENTERS

Director of the Doctoral Program, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, CEU	2021-
Associate Director of the Oxford Network for the Future of Cities	2014-2019

PUBLICATIONS – PRIZES AND AWARDS

GAD: New Directions in Anthropology Award – American Anthropological Association	2024
Kate Browne Creativity in Research Award – Society for Economic Anthropology	2024
ICAS Best Read for the General Public Accolade – International Convention of Asian Scholars	2023
Finalist, Victor Turner Prize in Ethnographic Writing - American Anthropological Association	2022
INDIES Award – Best Humanities Graphic Novel	2022
PROSE award Best Non-fictional Graphic Novel – Association of American Publishers	2021
Thai Editor Choice Award – Association of Thai Publishers	2020
Margaret Mead Book Award - American Anthropological Association	2019
Society for Urban, National, and Transnational Anthropology (SUNTA) Graduate Essay Prize	2012

PUBLICATIONS – BOOKS

The King of Bangkok, Toronto University Press, 2021, Winner of the Thai Editors’ Choice Award, PROSE Best Non-fictional Graphic Novel, INDIES Best Humanities Graphic Novel, Finalist for the Victor Turner Prize in Ethnographic Writing, Winner of the ICAS Best Read for the General Public Accolade, Winner Kate Browne Creativity in Research Award, Winner GAD: New Directions in Anthropology Award.

La Fragilità del Potere: Mobilità e Mobilitazione a Bangkok, Meltemi Editore, 2020



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Owners of the Map: Motorcycle Taxis Drivers, Mobility, and Politics in Bangkok, University of California Press, 2018, Winner of the 2019 Margaret Mead Award

Red Journeys: Into the Thai Red Shirt Movement, University of Washington Press and Silkworm Books, 2012

PUBLICATIONS – PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

David Graebers's Rhythm of Developing Thought: On poetics, imagination and estrangement, *Anthropological Theory*, Vol. 4, 2025

David Graeber: L'antropologia come Arte del Possibile, *Rivista di Antropologia Contemporanea*, Vol. 1, 2024

Beyond vernacular and metropolitan concepts: Good Governance, Translation and Word Coinage in Thailand, *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*, Vol.12, No.3, 2023

Shifting informalities: motorcycle taxis, ride-hailing apps, and urban mobility in Bangkok, *Geoforum*, Vol 42, N.2, 2022.

Informalities in urban transport: mobilities at the heart of contestations over (in)formalisation processes, *Geoforum*, Vol 42, No.2, 2022 (co-authored with Lela Rekhviashvili, Wojciech Kęblowski, and Tim Schwanen)

An experiment in Graphic Ethnography: reflections of the King of Bangkok, *JRAI: Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, Vol.28, No.3, 2022

The Making of a Page, *Cultural Anthropology: Theorizing the Contemporary*, Fieldsights, 2022

La "ruota della crisi" e le due opposte narrative della società thailandese, *RISE: Journal of International Relations and Political Economy*, Vol.6, No.2, 2021

The Possibilities of Graphic Ethnography, *Commoning Ethnography*, Vol.3, No.1, 2020 (with Sara Fabbri & Chiara Natalucci)

Book Symposium on Owners of the Map: Motorcycle Taxi Drivers, Mobility, and Politics in Bangkok (with Charles Keyes), *SOJOURN: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia*, Vol. 34, No.2, 2019

The Thai Elections of 2019: The Rise of the Illiberal Middle Classes, *Made in China Journal*, Issue 3, 2019

Il Re di Bangkok, *Tracce Urbane: Rivista Italiana Transdisciplinare di Studi Urbani*, Vol.3, No.5, 2019

Thai Constitutional Authoritarianism, *RISE: Journal of International Relations and Political Economy*, Vol.3, No.3, 2018

Shortcuts: Why Read the Classics?, *HAU*, Vol.7, No.3. 2017 (co-edited with Giovanni da Col)

The Tightening Authoritarian Grip on Thailand, *Current History*, Vol. 116, No. 791, 2017

Framed by Freedom: Emancipation and Oppression in post-Fordist Thailand, *Cultural Anthropology*, Vol.32, No. 1, 2017

Thailand's Relapse: The Implications of the May 2014 Coup, *Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol.75, No. 2, 2016

Political Legitimacy in Thailand, *Cultural Anthropology Hot Spot*, 2014



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Introduction to Thailand Hot Spot, *Cultural Anthropology Hot Spot*, 2014 (co-authored with Eli Elinoff, Felicity Aulino, and Ben Tausig)

The Owners of the Map: Motorcycle Taxi Drivers and Time/Space Decompression in Thai Street Protests, *City and Society*, Vol. 26, No.1, 2014 – Awarded the 2012 SUNTA Graduate Essay Prize

Provincializing Bangkok: Isan from ‘not yet’ to ‘now’, *Southeast Asia Research*, Vol. 20, No.3, 2012 (co-authored with Eli Elinoff)

Burning Red Desires: Isan Migrants and the Politics of Desire in Contemporary Thailand, *Southeast Asia Research*, Vol. 20, No.3, 2012

Angkor Wat: Pratiche Restorative e Usi Simbolici, *Meridiana*, Vol.56, No.1, 2010

Cars and Carts: Marketing, Circulation, and Fluidity in Bangkok’s Central Business District, *International Journal of Thai Studies*, Vol. 23, No.1, 2009

PUBLICATIONS – CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

In the Kitchen of ‘More Than Textual’ Ethnography, with Tomás Criado, Marina Peterson, Indrawan Prabaharyaka, and Maka Suárez, Jelena Tošić, Sabine Strasser & Annika Lems, eds. *Re-turns, Entanglements and Collaborations*, Berghahn Books, 2025

From Love to Fear: Chronicle of a Royal Succession, Pavin Chachavalpongpun, ed., *Rama X: a New Era of Kingship*, Yale University Press, 2024

Thai Ideas of Power: The Challenge of Legitimacy in Thailand, Pavin Chachavalpongpun, ed. *Coup, King, Crisis: Thailand's Troubled Politics and the Royal Succession*, Yale University Press, 2021

Mass Politics and Red Shirts, editor, *The Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Thailand*, Routledge, 2019

(Im)mobilizing the City, Setha Low, ed. *Routledge Handbook of Anthropology and the City: Engaging the Urban and its Future*, Routledge, 2019

Decolonizing Whiteness: White Voices in Rhodes Must Fall, with Arthur (Eirich), Anastassia Baichorova, Claudio Sopranzetti, JanaLee Cherneski, Max Harris, and Roné McFarlane, ed. *Rhodes Must Fall: The Struggle to Decolonize the Heart of the Empire*, ZED Books, 2018

The Politics of Simplification, Richard Sennet, ed., *Designing Politics: The Limits of Design*, LSE Press, 2016

Stanley Tambiah, John McGee and Richard Warms, eds. *Theory in Social and Cultural Anthropology: An Encyclopedia*, Sage Publications, 2013

PUBLICATIONS – EDITED SPECIAL ISSUES

Informal and Digitalization in Transportation *Geoforum*, 2022 (co-edited with Lela Rekhviashvili, Wojciech Kęblowski and Tim Schwanen)

Shortcuts: Why Read the Classics?, *HAU*, Vol.7, No.3. 2017 (co-edited with Giovanni da Col)

Thailand Wheel of Crisis, *Cultural Anthropology Hot Spot*, 2014 (co-edited with Eli Elinoff, Felicity Aulino, and Ben Tausig)

Provincializing Bangkok, *Southeast Asia Research*, Vol. 20, No.3, 2012 (co-edited with Eli Elinoff)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS – BOOK REVIEWS



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Review of Citizen Designs by Eli Elinoff, *Political Geography*, Vol. 97, No.2, 2022
Review of Gramsci’s Common Sense by Kate Crehan, *Anthropological Quarterly*, Vol.90, No.4, 2017
Review of Interrupted Revolutions by Tyrell Haberkorn, *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, Vol.44, No.1, 2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

At Central European University 2019-present

- History of Capitalism, undergraduate
- Urban Scale, graduate
- Key Issues in Anthropological Theory, graduate
- Anthropology of Capitalism, graduate
- Professional Development Seminar, graduate
- Grant Writing Seminar, graduate
- Thesis Writing Class, graduate
- Mobility and Mobilization, graduate
- Transforming Research into Graphic Form, graduate
- Nature’s Production, graduate
- Global Capitalism, graduate

At Oxford University 2014- 2019

- Introduction to Anthropology, undergraduate
- Space, Place, Power, graduate
- Anthropology of Capitalism, graduate
- Urban Transformation, graduate

At Harvard University 2012-2013

- Mobility and Mobilization, undergraduate
- Thesis Writing Seminar, undergraduate

TEACHING AWARDS and CERTIFICATES

Harvard Bok Center’s Teaching Certificate	2013
Finalist for “Best Teaching Fellow” Levenson Teaching Award	2012
Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching	2011

CURRENT PHD SUPERVISION:

First Advisor:

- Arev Papazian
- Zsofia Bacsadi
- Natasa Szabo
- Dmytro Kozak

Second Advisor:

- Tilde Siglev
- Dragan Djunda
- Slobodan Golusin
- Kaan Kubi Asar
- Derek Basler
- Seyma Yetkin
- Amina Dessouki
- Lili Vanko



RESEARCH FUNDING & GRANTS

CEU Research Seed Fund	2021-2024
All Souls Public Life Grant	2018
Oxford Fell Fund Research Grant	2016
All Souls Public Life Research Grant	2015
NUS Asia Research Institute Postdoctoral Research Grant	2013
Cora-DuBois Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Cora-Dubois Foundation	2012
Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University	2012
Research Grant, William E. Braden 1941 Fund, Harvard Asia Center	2011
Summer Research Grant, Teschmacher Fund, Harvard Asia Center	2011
Research Grant, Geographic Analysis Center, Harvard University	2011
Merit-Time Fellowship, Harvard University	2011
Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation	2009
International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council	2009
Sheldon Dissertation Fellowship, Harvard University	2009
ENITS Fellowship, Chulalongkorn University	2009
Pre-dissertation Fellowship, Harvard Asia Center	2008
Language Development Grant, Harvard Asia Center	2007

FELLOWSHIPS and VISITING POSITIONS

All Souls College Quondam Fellow, Oxford University (life-long fellowship)	2019-
Visiting Professor, School of Cultural Studies, Modena University	2024
Visiting Professor, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore	2021
Visiting Professor, Kyoto Center for Southeast Asian Studies	2017
Visiting Professor, Chulalongkorn University	2014

AFFILIATIONS TO SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES and EDITORIAL BOARDS

Associate Editor, Current Anthropology, Wenner Gren Foundation	2025-
Associate Editor, ANUAC, Journal of the Italian Society of Cultural Anthropology	2024-
Member of the Consiglio di Dottorato in Anthropology, University of Milan Bicocca	2023-
Member of the Scientific Awards Committee of the American Anthropological Association	2020-2024
Member of the Scientific Awards Committee of Society for Applied Anthropology	2020-2024
Editorial Board of <i>Commoning Ethnography</i>	2019-
Editorial Board of <i>International Journal of Thai Studies</i>	2015-
Editorial Board of <i>Naresuan University Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences</i>	2013-
Editorial Board of <i>HUA: Journal of Ethnographic Theory</i>	2017-2019
Member of the Scientific Committee for the Oxford Programme for Future of Cities Institute	2014-2019

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS & NETWORKS

Member of the Scientific Committee, The F word, funded by ERC Starter (PI Maddalena Gretel Cammelli), 2022-2025

Dissemination Partner, 'Higher Education, States of Precarity and Conflict in the 'Global North' and 'Global South', Funded by ESRC (PI Jo-Anne Dillabough), 2021-2024

Academic Advisor, Watching the Rice Grow, Senior Architecture & Urban Design Studio, Parson School of Architecture and New School of Social Research, funded by National Science Foundation (PI. Brian McGrath), 2017-2020

Academic Board Member, Oxford Future of Cities Programme, funded by the ESRC (PI. Michael Keith), 2013-2019



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Academic Advisor, Laboratoire International Associé (LIA) MediterraPolis, funded by research unit TELEMME (UMR 7303) with the support of the MMSH (USR 3125), 2017- 2018

Academic Advisor, Comics and Graphic Novels: The Politics of Form, Funded by OXFORD Torch and Leverhulme Trust, 2017- 2020

Advisory Board, European Network for Ethnographic Theory, sponsored by EASA, 2017-2018

SEMINARS SERIES ORGANIZING

Organizer, Phd Students Professionalization Workshops, CEU	2022-
Organizer, Extraction: Frontiers of Power and Resistance, CEU	2022
Convener of the Doctoral Seminars, CEU	2021-2023
Organizer of the Open Learning Initiative Seminar	2020-2023
Collaborator in LAPE (Laboratory of Ethnographic Practices)	2017-2021
Organizer and Founder of Oxford City Debates, Oxford University	2015-2019
Convener of the Future of Cities Seminar and Film Series, Oxford University	2013-2019
Coordinator Southeast Asia Seminar, Oxford University	2013-2014
Thai Film Series Committee, Harvard University	2011-2012
Coordinator Southeast Asia Working Group, Harvard University	2007-2009
Coordinator Southeast Asia Conference Series, Harvard Asia Center	2007-2008

SELECTED INVITED LECTURES and KEYNOTES – LAST FIVE YEARS

Multimodal Anthropology: Appreciating the King of Bangkok, Humbolt University, 12 January 2024

Mobility, Logistics, and Political Mobilization in the Po Valley, University of Milan “La Bicocca”, 4 December 2023

Comics and Ethnographic Realism, National University Singapore, 14 January 2023

From Motorcycle Taxi Drivers to Riders: Informality and Politics in the Era of COVID-19, Asia Research Institute, National University Singapore, 16 March 2022

The Making of the King of Bangkok, Department of Social Anthropology Seminars, Cambridge University, UK, 7 February 2022

The King of Bangkok: the making of an ethnographic graphic novel, Ethnography and Social Theory Colloquium, Department of Anthropology, Yale University, USA, 8 November 2021

Logistics, Blockages, Precarity, Anthropology Seminars, London School of Economics, UK, 6 March 2020

The Making of the King of Bangkok, Visual Studies Seminars, Central European University, Budapest, 1 February 2020

From Anthropological Research to Graphic Novel, Minima Docta, LUCA School of Art, Ghent, Holland, 29 October 2019

Toward an Anthropology of Antifascism in Italy, Departmental Seminars, Department of Anthropology, Reed College, USA, 21 November 2018

Transforming Ethnographic Research into Graphic Narratives, University Lectures, Gottingen University, Germany, 3 July 2018

Mobility and Mobilization: Politics of Transportation in Asia, Keynote for the Marshukta Project Summer School, Tbilisi University, Georgia, 25-30 June 2018



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What it means to be a Bangkokian?, Keynote for New Urban Identities International Conference, Department of Architecture, University of Florence, Italy, 19-20 June 2018

Owners of the Map, Department Seminar, The New School and Parsons School of Design, USA, 1 March 2018

Owners of the Map, Anthropology Colloquium, City University of New York, USA, 2 March 2018

Owners of the Map, Department Seminar, Weatherhead East Asia Institute, Columbia University, USA, 5 March 2018

The Rise of Southeast Asian Authoritarianism, Institute for International Studies, Stanford University, USA, 7 March 2018

Bangkok Informality, Department Seminar, Global Metropolitan Studies, University of California Berkeley, USA, 8 March 2018

Owners of the Map, Anthropology Colloquium, John Hopkins University, USA, 13 March 2018

Owners of the Map, SEAP, Gatty Lecture Series, Cornell University, USA, 15 March 2018

INVITED PRESENTATIONS in INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS

Toward an Anthropology of Freedom, Freedom in Comparative Anthropological Perspective, Cambridge University, UK, 12 June 2024

Good Governance, Translation and Word Coinage in Thailand, Elementary Words of Political Life Workshop, Kings College, Cambridge University, UK, 23-25 May 2020

Food and Politics: the Case of Genuino Clandestino, Cambridge University Italian Society Annual Workshop, Cambridge University, UK, 5-7 May 2019

Love and Fear in a Time of Succession, Coup, King, Crisis: Thailand's Troubled Politics and the Royal Succession Workshop, Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), University of California Berkeley, USA, 3-5 September 2018

Informality and Digitalization among Transportation Providers, The Marshrutka Project: Fluid mobilities for cities in transformation: spatial dynamics of marshrutkas in Central Asia and the Caucasus Annual Workshop, Humboldt University, Germany, 2-5 October 2018

Austerity and Sovereignty, Theorizing Austerity Workshop, London School of Economics, UK, 9-11 June 2016

The Politics of Simplification, Designing Politics: The Limits of Design, Annual Theatrus Mundi Workshop, Paris, 19-20 May 2016

SELECTED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

For an Anthropology of Fascism, DISTRIBUTE 2020, A Biennial conference of the Society for Cultural Anthropology and Society for Visual Anthropology, 7-9 May 2020 (panel organizer)

Urban (Im)Mobilization, in a panel titled Anthropology and the City: Engaging the Urban and its Future, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Toronto, Canada, 19-23 November 2019

Economic Restructuring, Logistics, and Blockages, in a panel titled Mobility, Belonging, Infrastructure, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Toronto, Canada, 19-23 November 2019



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Beyond Rights to the City, inside the Annual Oxford City Debates, Oxford University, UK, 3-5 February 2016 (panel and conference organizer)

Urban Failure as a Form of Life, in a panel titled Urban Failures, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, USA, 20-24 November 2013 (panel organizer)

Return to Regulated Neoliberalism, in a panel titled After Neoliberalism, Annual Social Science Research Council Inter Asian Connections Conference, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey, 2-5 October 2013

The Fast and the Idle, in a panel titled Urban Mobilities: Rhythms, pace, and the city, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, USA, 15-19 November 2012 (panel organizer)

Mobilizing the City, presentation in a panel on “Mobilization in Southeast Asia,” International Conference of Thai Studies, Bangkok, 12-14 July 2011

Burning Red Desires, presentation in a panel titled “Provincializing Bangkok”, Annual Meeting of the Association Asian Studies, Honolulu, USA, 31 March- 3 April 2010 (panel organizer)

Informality and Development in Bangkok, in a panel titled “Frontiers of Informality,” International conference of Thai Studies Chulalongkorn University, 3 December 2010

Flexible Mobilities in Bangkok, presentation in a panel titled “Urban Asia: an updated agenda”, Annual Meeting Association of Asian Studies, Chicago, 26-19 March 2009

Reactions to Modernity, Asia Research Institute Annual Conference, Singapore National University 16-18 July 2008

In Search for the Neighborhood, Harvard Asian Studies Annual Symposium, Harvard Yenching Institute, USA, 5-7 May 2008

NON-ACADEMIC RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

The King of Bangkok, Ethnographic Graphic Novel on Thai politics with cartoonist Sara Fabbri and editor Chiara Natalucci, 2015-2019

Rhodes Must Fall Oxford, Organizing Member, 2016-2018

The Bridge, Ethnographic Radio show on the City of Oxford with Max Harris, Tara Paterson, Sizwe Mpfu-Walsh, 2015-2016

Motorcycle Taxis Experience Room, Art project in collaboration with Agnes Dherbeys (photographer), Benjamin Tausig (ethno-musicologist), Aphiwat Seangpatthasima (documentary-maker), and Harvard Geographical Analysis Center, 2012-2013

Urban Influencer, Design for the other 90%: Sustainable Cities, an exposition at the UN Headquarters and book by Cynthia Smith for the Cooper-Hewitt Smithsonian National Design Museum, 2011

What Shall We Do When We lose Our Way?, Art project in collaboration with Thai Museum Serve at Bangkok Art and Culture Center, 2011

Regenerating Public Spaces in Minburi Old Market Community, Participative architecture intervention in collaboration with Carla Betancourt (architect) and CASE (Community Architects for Shelter and Environment), September 2009-March 2010

SELECTED OPEDs and MEDIA COVERAGE

The Protest in Thailand are Making History, *Al-Jazeera*.

20th October 2020



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BBC News, On the Thai protests	4 th November 2020
Esquire, The Dark Side of Thailand	20 th May 2019
Il Manifesto, The Enigma of Thai Elections	15 th March 2019
Sky Art, the King of Bangkok tells the History of Modern Thailand	23 rd April 2019
Art Tribune, The King of Bangkok: a Preview	21 st April 2019
Washington Monthly, The Tragedy of Thailand	April 2018
Bangkok Post, Weaving Through Bangkok, Weaving Through Life	16 th February 2018
Al Jazeera, How a princess entered, shook and left Thai politics in one day	12 th February 2019
Al Jazeera, It's Time We Listened to the Plight of Thai Dissidents Abroad	31 st January 2019
Al Jazeera, The "Alternative Facts" of a Coup	2 nd December 2017
KhaoSod English, Kinokinuya Pulls Oxford Researcher's Book	1 st December 2017
Khaosod, Will Bangkok Prove Greater than Those who Would Remake It?,	14 th April 2017
Al Jazeera, From Love to Fear: the Rise of King Vajiralongkorn	11 th April 2017
Radio 3 -'Tutta la citta' ne parla, Contemporary Italian Social Movements	5 th February 2016
France 24 – FOCUS, Thai Junta Continues to Stifle Dissent	29 th October 2015
New York Review of Books, Thailand: Revolution by Motorcycle?	23 rd July 2014
Al Jazeera, Thailand's army declares war on 'vice'	18 th July 2014
Al-Jazeera, Thailand Under the Junta: Paranoia and Conspiracy	22 nd July 2014
Associate French Press, Politics of Two Wheels in Thailand's Capital	16 th August 2011
Der Standard, Thaksin tut etwas fur die Armen	3 rd July 2011
Matichon, When the northeasterners understand the world	22 nd April 2011
Liberation, Le pouvoir thailandais courtise les motos-taxis	25 th March 2011
The Economist, Enter the orange shirts: the capital's two-wheeled political class	17 th February 2011
Bangkok Post, The art of motorsai politics	22 nd August 2010
Thai PBS, Motorcycle taxi and politics	17 th August 2010
Al Jazeera TV, Thai "orange vests" a transport tool	24 th July 2010

LANGUAGES

Italian (Native); English (Advanced); Thai (Advanced); Spanish (Advanced); French (Beginner); German (beginner)

