

Dr Sabina Barone

Honorary Senior Research Fellow, University College London

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ACADEMIC RECORD

PhD in Social Science, University College London	2018 - 2023
Viva on 13 March 2024: Pass with No Corrections	
Title of the thesis: <i>Returns Upturned: A Critical Ethnography of the IOM's 'Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration' Programme from Morocco towards West and Central Africa</i>	
19-month-long fieldwork in Morocco with Guinean, Senegalese, Cameroonian and Nigerian migrants	
MSc Migration Studies, University of Oxford	2016 - 2017
With Distinction	
MA Anthropology of Public Orientation, Autónoma de Madrid University	2012 - 2015
3-year part-time programme	
MA International Education, University of Sussex	2000 - 2001
With Distinction	
Honours Degree in Philosophy, Ca' Foscari University of Venice	1991 - 1999
First Class (Pre-Bologna course system, 55,000-word dissertation, equivalent to MPhil)	

AWARDS AND FUNDING

- 2025: University College London IoE Geoff Whitty Award for PhD thesis contributing to social justice - £2,000
- 2024: University College London IoE Early Career Impact Fellowship, April- September - £1,000
- 2023: Royal Anthropological Institute Radcliffe-Brown Sutasoma Award for PhD thesis - £500
- 2018 – 2021: University College London Graduate Research Studentship - Full tuition fees, monthly stipend and per annum: £80,000
- 2018: Journal of Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Law (JAINL) Prize for Best Dissertation (MSc Migration Studies) and publication in the journal
- 2017: University of Oxford, MSc Migration Studies, Examiners' Prize - £100
- 2015: Autónoma de Madrid University, MA Anthropology of Public Orientation, Best Dissertation Prize
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AFFILIATIONS

- 30 July 2025: Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (AFHEA, reference: PR323203).
- Since January 2025: Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Social Research Institute, University College London (2 years).
- Since August 2021: Affiliated to MOVIDA - International Interdisciplinary Research Lab on Mobilities, Travelling, Innovations and Dynamics in Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan Africa, <https://movida.hypotheses.org/>
- October 2019 - September 2020: Affiliated to Centre Jacques Berque (French Institute and CNRS support and research unit - UAR), Rabat, Morocco.
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PUBLICATIONS

- Published: 2025 'Using Informal Conversations in Qualitative Social Research With People in Situations of Marginalization and Vulnerability', co-authored with Jon Swain, *SAGE Research Methods*, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781036221799>
- 2025 'It Takes Courage to Return': West African Migrants Making Sense of (In)Voluntary Return from Morocco amid Adventure, Failure and Destiny, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 51(4): 1040-1057, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2024.2377863>
- 2024 'Migrants' Decision to Return and Pre-departure Process'. [Digital scholarly resource: Infographics]. <https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/10196844/>
- 2023 Questioning the Narratives Underpinning Voluntary Return Programmes: Evidence from the IOM Morocco Return Scheme, *COMPAS Blog*, University of Oxford, 7 February 2023 <https://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/2023/questioning-the-narratives-underpinning-voluntary-return-programmes-evidence-from-the-iom-morocco-return-scheme/>
- 2022 'African Apocalypse': Unveiling the trail of colonial violence and its enduring legacy, *IoE Student Blog*, 22 December 2022 <https://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ioe-student-blog/2022/12/22/african-apocalypse-unveiling-the-trail-of-colonial-violence-and-its-enduring-legacy/>
- 2021 'To Accompany and to Observe: Engaged Scholarship and Social Change Vis-à-Vis Sub-Saharan Transmigration in Morocco', *Migration and Society: Advances in Research*, (April) 4: 185-194, DOI: [10.3167/arms.2021.040117](https://doi.org/10.3167/arms.2021.040117)
- 2020 *Mujeres en marcha. Women on the Move*. Report on violence against refugee, migrant or displaced women in selected locations of eight African countries: https://www.alboan.org/sites/default/files/mujeres_en_marcha.pdf
- 2019 'Locked in Mobility: Negotiating Legal Residence in a Border Setting. The Case of Moroccan Women in Melilla, Spain', *Journal of Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Law*, (June) 33(2): 152-176, Part of ISSN: 17467632
- 2018 'Book Review: Mavelli, Luca and Erin K. Wilson, eds. 2017. "The Refugee Crisis and Religion. Secularism, Security and Hospitality in Question"', *Migration and Society: Advances in Research*, (December) 1: 212–225, DOI: [10.3167/arms.2018.010120](https://doi.org/10.3167/arms.2018.010120)
- In preparation: - 'Insubordinate and captive mobilities: Time and agency in irregularised return trajectories between North and West Africa
- 'Illegible Vulnerabilities: Migrant Mothers' Experience of the Everyday Administrative Practices of the IOM's 'Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration' Programme from Morocco to West Africa.

ACADEMIC TEACHING

Postgraduate Teaching Assistant, University College London, London

BA course 'Introduction to Social Theory'

October – December 2024

MA course 'Rights and Education'

October 2021 – Febr 2022

January - July 2024

Lecturer, Pontifical University Madre y Maestra, Santo Domingo

January 2003 - May 2004

BA course 'Philosophical Anthropology'

BA course 'Political Philosophy'

BA course 'History of Philosophy: Ancient and Medieval'

Lecturer, Philosophic Institute Pedro F. Bonó, Santo Domingo

September 2003 - May 2004

BA course 'Philosophical Anthropology'

BA course 'Introduction to Phenomenology'

Dissertation Supervision

Lecturer, Royal University of Phnom Penh-II, Phnom Penh

January - June 2000

MA course 'Political Philosophy'

Dissertation Supervision

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND GUEST LECTURES

- Participation in the round table ‘Political issues surrounding migration. New challenges related to research in the North and West Africa regions in light of ongoing socio-political changes’, at the MOVIDA Conference: *African migrations: 10 years of research*, at International University of Rabat, 3-3 November 2025 (in French).
- ‘The IOM will dribble us’: Mistrust, rumours and narrative control in the everyday operations of ‘voluntary’ return programmes, Panel 302: West African perspectives on return migration, 4 July 2025. IMISCOE Conference: *Decentring Migration Studies*, Paris, 1-4 July 2025.
- ‘Voluntary’ return migration policies in question: The IOM’s Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme from Morocco’, guest lecture at the UCL Comparative Social Policy module, London, 27 March 2025.
- ‘Human mobilities: Labelling mobile people, freedom of movement, opening or closing borders’, guest lecture at the UCL MA Rights and Education course, London, 27 January 2025.
- ‘Mobilités captives, agencéité migrante indisciplinée et production partielle de connaissances : Le cas des retours volontaires de l’OIM depuis le Maroc’ [Captive Mobility, Unruly Migrant Agency, and Partial Knowledge Production: The Case of IOM Voluntary Returns from Morocco], MOVIDA International Lab seminar, 2 March 2023 (in French).
- ‘Resilient mobilities and denied agency: Returning and re-migrating at the threshold of Europe’, COMPAS work-in-progress seminar, University of Oxford, 27 October 2022.
- ‘Trajectories of (non) return: Intersecting temporalities and agentic mobilities with and beyond the International Organization for Migration’s return programme’, Panel 236: Return and deportation: Policy experiences before and after, 1 July 2022. IMISCOE Conference: *Migration and Time: Temporalities of mobility, governance, and resistance*, Oslo, 29 June-1 July, 2022.
- ‘Sous le radar : Vulnérabilité, bureaucratie et tactiques lors de la gestion pré-départ du programme de retour volontaire de l’OIM Maroc pour les femmes migrantes et leurs enfants’ [Under the Radar: Vulnerability, bureaucracy and tactics during the pre-departure procedure of IOM Morocco’s voluntary return programme for migrant women and their children], MOVIDA International Lab seminar, 2 June 2022 (in French).
- ‘*Souffrance*, ‘voluntariness’ and waiting: Everyday experiences of ‘voluntary’ returns from Morocco’, Panel 73: The affective economy of deportation and return, 23 July 2020. European Association of Social Anthropologists - EASA Conference: *New anthropological horizons in and beyond Europe*, Lisbon, 21-24 July 2020.
- ‘Las mujeres hablan: Principales hallazgos de un diagnóstico multisituado con mujeres sobrevivientes de violencia en contexto de refugio, migración y desplazamiento’ [Women Speak Up: Main findings of a multi-sited research on violence against refugee, migrant or displaced women in selected locations of eight African countries - Angola, Cameroon, DRC (Kivu), Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, South Africa, and South Sudan], University of Deusto, Bilbao, and ALBOAN Foundation, 18 - 19 October 2018 (in Spanish).
- ‘Locked in Mobility: Negotiating legal residence in a border setting. The case of Moroccan women in Melilla’, III International Symposium EDiSo, *Inequality and New Social Discourses*, Barcelona, 28 - 30 June 2017.
- ‘La hospitalidad como un desafío y un compromiso multidimensional’ [Hospitality as a multidimensional challenge and engagement], International Conference *Migration: A Culture of Hospitality for a More Just World*, UCA - Central American University of Nicaragua, Managua, 29 - 30 September 2015 (in Spanish).
- ‘Por una Cultura de la Hospitalidad: Avances de la campaña en América Latina y el Caribe’ [Fostering a Culture of Hospitality: Campaigning in Latin America and the Caribbean], International Colloquium *Opening up Ways for Hospitality with Migrants and Refugees*, ITESO - Western Technologic Institute of Superior Studies, Jesuit University of Guadalajara, Guadalajara, Mexico, 3 - 4 November 2014 (in Spanish).

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Visiting Fellow, Global Development Institute, University of Manchester November – December 2025

Research Coordinator, ALBOAN Foundation, Bilbao and Madrid, Spain July 2017 - December 2018

PI of multi-sited fieldwork research on violence against refugee, migrant and displaced women in selected locations of Angola, Cameroon, DRC (Kivu), Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, South Africa, and South Sudan.

Legal Adviser, Jesuit Migrant Service, Madrid and Melilla, Spain March - Sept. 2016

In charge of a legal clinic for migrants and asylum seekers: lead case manager, legal advice and advocacy reporting.

Campaign Coordinator, Latin-American Network for Migrants, Bogota, Colombia December 2013 - July 2016

Coordinator of an advocacy campaign on migrants' rights in Latin America and the Caribbean. Visits to Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Venezuela. Production of advocacy reports and media resources.

Legal Adviser, Jesuit Migrant Service, Madrid, Spain Oct 2011 - April 2014 (part-time)

Legal adviser to migrants in the Administrative Detention Centre of Madrid.

Advocacy Coordinator, Entreculturas Foundation, Madrid, Spain September 2008 - November 2013

Coordinator of an advocacy campaign for fully implementing the right to education in Latin America and the Caribbean. Production of reports and case studies. Participation in and organisation of regional advocacy initiatives for the right to education, such as the international conference on best education practices in Latin American marginalised social contexts (19-21 October 2009, Lima, Peru) co-organised with World Bank and Magis America Foundation. Visits to Bolivia, Brazil, Peru and Venezuela.

Education Programmes Coordinator, Fe y Alegría International Federation, Santo Domingo,

Dominican Republic March 2004 - July 2008

Member of the coordination team of a federation of community-based educational organisations inspired by Paulo Freire's emancipatory pedagogy in 14 Latin American and Caribbean countries. In charge of participatory designing, monitoring and evaluating international development and education projects, particularly regarding community context assessment, education planning, teacher training and action research. Visits to Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Panama and Venezuela.

LANGUAGES

English: Full proficiency

French: Full proficiency

Spanish: Bilingual

Italian: Native

Portuguese: Intermediate

December 2025