

Francesco Giovanni Lizzi

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🇮🇹 Italian
🏠 Bologna, Italy
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🌐 Language skills

Italian native

English C1 level - University of Florence certificate

German B2 level - University of Florence certificate

French B2 level

Chinese Beginner level - Peking University certificate

★ Memberships and Awards

Section chair of the S02 section on Economic security for the upcoming European International Studies Association (EISA) 2026 Pan-European Conference

Member of CONNECT - Transnational Connections and Global Governance (University of Bologna), Italian Political Science Association (SISP), ECPR Standing Group on the EU (SGEU)

Selected for the 2025 edition of the Spinelli Forum, German-Italian Young Leaders Dialogue, joint initiative of the German Federal Foreign Office and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Selected for the 2024 Think7 task force on the future of global economy, G7 official engagement group that brings together leading think tanks

Education

11/2022 -
10/2026

PhD program in Political and Social Sciences
University of Bologna Bologna, Italy

- Research project: *From Open Doors to National Security Concerns: An Evolution in the German and Italian Approaches towards Chinese Investments in Critical Sectors*, focus on how domestic political dynamics and external influences have an impact on the framing of Chinese FDI in Italian and German strategic sectors
- Co-organized the 2023 and 2024 NATO Model Event simulations (proposed by University of Bologna and NATO ACT)
- Co-organized seminars on International Relations and research methods with international guests
- Co-organized the International Relations Roundtables, internal workshops for the early career scholars of the University of Bologna, aimed at receiving feedback by peers and selected discussants on ongoing research progresses
- Participated in academic training courses for advanced qualitative and quantitative methods

02/2025 -
05/2025

Visiting PhD Researcher
Hertie School of Governance Berlin

- Period of fieldwork for data gathering (elite interviews with experts and policymakers) on German approaches to Chinese FDI in critical sectors
- Funded by the German Academic Service (DAAD) grant "Research Grants in Germany"
- Took part in the departmental workshops and presented ongoing PhD research during a lecture of the course "The Rise of China" of the Master in International Affairs of the Hertie School of Governance

02/2024 -
07/2024

Visiting PhD Researcher
Brussels School of Governance Brussels

- Part of the Center for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS) academic staff
- Involved in the activities of the Sinatra ERC project on China-EU-US relations and the CODE ERC project on global technological competition
- Co-organised the event "Economic Security and Space", first CSDS event on space issues under the CODE ERC

09/2019 -
05/2022

Master's Degree in International Relations and European Studies
University of Florence Florence, Italy

- Thesis: an analysis of the negotiations of the Comprehensive Agreement on Investment between EU and China

04/2021 -
07/2021

Erasmus Program
University of Bonn Bonn, Germany

- Main subjects: Strategic Foresight, Nexus between climate change and security, Geopolitics of critical raw materials

10/2015 -
12/2018

Bachelor's Degree in International and Diplomatic Sciences
University of Trieste Gorizia, Italy

- Main subjects: International relations, International public law, International economics



Additional training

Participated in the summer school "The rise of China in a turbulent world, alternative perspectives" organized by *Centro Studi sulla Cina Contemporanea* in July 2023

Work experience

11/2025 -
09/2026

Master Program Tutor

University of Bologna Bologna

- Tutor for the Master in Diplomacy, preparatory course for the Italian diplomatic examination
- Coordinated academic activities (lectures, simulations, lab activities) acting as liaison between faculty, students, and administrative offices
- Supported the planning and execution of academic projects (courses, seminars, assessments) from preparation to completion
- Managed the online learning platform, including course setup, content uploads, access management, and troubleshooting

10/2025 -
02/2026

Teaching assistant

University of Bologna Bologna

- Teaching assistant of the undergrad course "International Politics of East Asia"
- Assessed and graded exams and coursework in accordance with course guidelines and evaluation criteria
- Provided academic support to students through regular office hours, clarifying course material and assessment requirements
- Provided guidance for Bachelor theses and acted as second reader for the Bachelor of European Studies (BAES) undergrad dissertations

04/2025 -
11/2025

Panel Sherpa at CELIS Forum on Investment Screening (CFIS 25)

CELIS Institute Berlin, Germany

- Coordinated speakers and moderators for a high-level policy panel, supporting content design and discussion structure
- Prepared background materials (background paper, blog content, policy updates) to anchor discussions in current debates on FDI screening and economic security, specifically on balancing innovation and sovereignty and the role of FDI Screening and FSR in shaping strategic technologies
- Provided on-site organizational and logistical support during the Forum

05/2024

Note taker

European External Action Service, EEAS Bruxelles

Drafted notes and readouts for a roundtable on Chinese FIMI (Foreign Information Manipulations and Interference) organised by the European External Action Service

09/2021 -
12/2021

Intern

Italian Embassy to Vietnam Hanoi, Vietnam

- Drafted reports on Vietnamese politics, culture and economics
- Reported on key events, e.g. annual South China Sea international conference

Participation in academic conferences and workshops

Academic conferences and workshops:

Presentation of research papers in national (Italian Standing Group of International Relations and Italian Political Science Association annual conferences, 2023-2024-2025) and international conferences (Pan-European Conference of the European International Studies Association, 2023-2024-2025; European Union in International Affairs Conference, 2025); participation in international workshops (REMIT workshop "The Geopolitics of Strategic Technology Governance"; SINATRA workshops "Sino-American Competition and European Strategic Autonomy" and "Economic Security and China-European Relations")

Policy conferences and workshops:

Participation in the BDI-CELIS Investment Screening Conference, Berlin (2025, March) and in the ISPI roundtable on de-risking (2025, September)

Academic publications

Dian, M. & Lizzi, F.G. (2026). EU-China Relations in the Era of Great Power Competition: Threats, Dependencies, and Strategic De-Risking. *Polis*. (upcoming)

Lizzi, F.G. & Berloto, S. (2026). Framing China First: EU Parliament on Chinese Infrastructure Deals. *European Foreign Affairs Review*, 31(1), pp. 85 – 104.

Lizzi, F. G. (2026). A New Cold War or a Weaponised Stalemate? Rivalry and Interdependence in US-PRC Relations: A new Cold War: US-China relations in the 21st century/Zeno Leoni.-Bristol: Bristol University Press, 2024.-iii, 200 p.-ISBN 978-1-529-22754-3; 978-1-5292-2755-0 (ePub); 978-1-5292-2756-7.

Lizzi, F.G. (2026). *Italy's approach to China and Indo-Pacific*, in The Palgrave Handbook of Geopolitics and Security in the Indo-Pacific. (upcoming)

Politi, A. & Lizzi, F.G. (2025). *European Union*, in: The Palgrave Geopolitical Atlas. States and Quasi-States in Great Power Competition, Singapore, Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 273 - 283.

Berloto, S. & Lizzi, F.G (2024). *Il posizionamento delle istituzioni europee verso gli investimenti infrastrutturali cinesi*, «ORIZZONTE CINA», 15, pp. 35 - 60.

Policy publications

Lizzi, F. G. (2024, May 31). *Competitor, Rival but Partner No More? EU-China Economic Relations and the European Elections*. CSDS Policy Brief 16/2024. Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy. <https://csds.vub.be/publication/competitor-rival-but-partner-no-more-eu-china-economic-relations-and-the-european-elections/>

Benson, E., Cianforlini, M., Iotti, R. M. P., Lizzi, F. G., & Tajoli, L. (2024, May). *Technology Policy in an Economic Security Era: Recommendations for a G7 FDI Screening Toolkit*. Think7. <https://think7.org/technology-policy-in-an-economic-security-era-recommendations-for-a-g7-fdi-screening-toolkit/>

Berloto, S. & Lizzi, F.G. (2023, December 18). Relazioni Cina-Ue nel 2024: Same old story?. In *In Cina e in Asia*. China Files

Lizzi, F. G. (2023, November 16). *Which way for the Belt and Road?*. 9DASHLINE. <https://www.9dashline.com/article/which-way-for-the-belt-and-road>

Lizzi, F. G. (2023, June 14). *Parting ways? The uncertain future of the Belt and Road Initiative in Italy*. 9DASHLINE. <https://www.9dashline.com/article/parting-ways-the-uncertain-future-of-the-belt-and-road-initiative-in-italy>