

Hani EL DEBUCH

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Education

Sapienza University of Rome

Rome, 09/2021 - 10/2022

Master's degree in International Relations and Supranational Institutions

Main subjects: European Law, International Humanitarian Law, History of International Politics

Thesis: Armed Non-State Actors and Non-State Diplomacy: the case study of Syria.

Final grade: 110/110 *cum laude* – certificate of excellence – publication recommended.

Research focus: Analyzed armed non-state actors' roles in governance, diplomacy, and peacebuilding, examining their historical and legal evolution, contested recognition, and Syria's Arab Spring, while integrating cultural heritage protection as a tool for social peace and post-conflict reconstruction.

Sciences Po Strasbourg

Strasbourg, 08/2021 - 06/2022

Erasmus+ Program (2nd year Master)

Main subjects: European Law, European Institutions, French Language

Research focus: Conducted in-depth study of EU institutions and external action, focusing on refugee crisis response, MENA engagement, and migration governance, while developing comparative knowledge of integration policies and strengthening French as a working language in European diplomacy.

Sapienza University of Rome

Rome, 09/2018 - 10/2020

Bachelor's degree in Political Sciences and International Relations

Main subjects: History, Sociology, Political Economy, Political Thought

Thesis title: Causes of the Syrian diaspora: case study of the Political Confessionalization in Syria

Final grade: 110/110 *cum laude*

Research focus: Studied the Middle East's fragile state system, Syrian politics, Sunni–Shia tensions, sectarian identity, proxy conflicts, and ISIS, showing how civil war revealed enduring confessional structures influencing diaspora identities and regional political dynamics.

Sciences Po Rennes

Rennes, 08/2019 - 06/2020

Erasmus+ Program (3rd year Bachelor)

Main subjects: Geopolitics, European Urbanization, Radical discourse and Euroscepticism in EU

Research focus: Critically examined Euroscepticism and refugee crisis impacts, analyzing how migration reshaped European identity debates, with focus on cities and suburbs as key spaces for social integration, political contestation, and the emergence of radical discourses.

Publications

- [The Construction of Hybrid Identity among Second-Generation Arab Muslims in Italy: Cultural Heritage, Daily Experiences, and Legal Frameworks](#)
Heritage in War and Peace IV, University of Strathclyde Publishing, pp. 1-14,
DOI: 10.17868/strath.00093379
- [Cultural Heritage and International Security through the role of Armed Non-State Actors](#)
Law & Visual Jurisprudence, Volume 12/2023, Springer Law Book Series, pp. 331-352,
DOI: [10.1007/978-3-031-47347-0_22](#)

- [The Virtual Museum: how technology and virtual reality may help protect and promote cultural heritage](#)
Law & Visual Jurisprudence, Volume 12/2023, Springer Law Book Series, pp. 149-164,
DOI: [10.1007/978-3-031-47347-0_10](#)
- [Armed Non-State Actors in International Humanitarian Law: The Need for a Definition for Legal Adaptation](#)
McGill GLSA Research Series, Volume 2/2022, pp. 1-19,
DOI: [10.26442/glsars.v2i1.194](#)
- [Urban Warfare and Cultural Heritage: Current Challenges and Future Perspectives](#)
McGill GLSA Research Series, Volume 1/2021, pp. 1-36,
DOI: [10.26443/glsars.v1i1.143](#)

Conference Participation

Panel Chair/Discussant

- [The Fight Against Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Objects: a Coordinated Action through Diplomacy, Law, Technologies, and the Carabinieri's role](#)
Palazzo WeGIL, 07/2025
- [Post-War/Post-Disaster Reconstruction of Historic Urban Landscapes](#)
Politecnico di Milano-Mantua UNESCO Chair, 05/2025
- [Syrian Heritage Week](#)
Heritage International Institute, 01/2025
- [Heritage and Human Rights Perspectives through Past, Present and Future](#)
University of Strathclyde, 12/2024
- [Heritage in war and peace: Legal and political perspectives for future protection](#)
European University Institute, 05/2024
- [Humanitarian Diplomacy and current crisis scenarios: the need for a rethinking of the humanitarian system?](#)
Alma Mater Studiorum Bologna University, 05/2024
- [Images of the Other: History and stories of the feminine in Mediterranean cultures](#)
Alma Mater Studiorum Bologna University, 03/2023
- [Heritage 15th Annual Conference of the McGill Graduate Law Students Association](#)
McGill University, 05/2022
- The Dean Maxwell and Isle Cohen Doctoral Seminar in International Law
McGill University, 05/2021

Organizer

- [Heritage in War and Peace V: Technology and Heritage through Past, Present and Future](#)
Vytautas Magnus University, 12/2025
- [Syrian Heritage Week in Italy](#)
Heritage International Institute, 01/2025
- [Heritage and Human Rights Perspectives through Past, Present and Future](#)
University of Strathclyde, 12/2024
- [Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage through Past, Present and Future](#)
Alma Mater Studiorum Bologna University, 01/2024

- [Heritage in War and Peace II Spaces of Conflict, Spaces of Justice: Between Natural Landscapes and Cityscapes](#)

McGill University,

11/2022

- [Cultural Heritage: From the Dust of War to the Brink of Peace](#)

Sapienza University of Rome,

12/2021

Professional Experience

CSD – Commissione Sinodale per la Diaconia

Milan, 07/2024 - 10/2025

Social Inclusion and Humanitarian Corridors Worker

- Responsible for many extraordinary reception centers (CAS) for asylum seekers in Milan territory
- Responsible for receiving and escorting humanitarian flights from Lebanon (Humanitarian Corridors) and Uganda (UNICORE)
- Offering social and bureaucratic support dealing with public and private institutions to manage administrative documentation
- Coordinating with local entities to organize activities to promote integration

Territorial Commission for the Recognition of International Protection

Rome, 04/2024 - 12/2024

Cultural Mediator

- Interpreting services from Italian into the migrants' mother tongue (Arabic and French) and vice versa under the Italian Ministry of the Interior
- Cultural mediator to the Italian Ministry of Interior Public Security Department in coordination with UNHCR and EUAA for humanitarian flights from Sudan.

Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna

Forli, 02/2024 - 12/2024

Assistant to the Professor of International and European Diplomatic and Consular Law

- Taught classes, examined students, and supervised Master's theses, with focus on international law and migration issues.
- Supported Professor in organizing seminars and conferences with diplomats and academics, fostering discussion on Middle East and humanitarian topics.

UNHCR Egypt

Cairo, 05/2023 - 12/2023

Refugee Status Determination Intern

- Supported refugee admission and registration, including South Sudanese Dinka and Nuer communities, ensuring culturally sensitive data collection.
- Conducted research on Country of Origin information to inform refugee analyses.
- Assisted in interpretation during donor meetings and facilitated communication.
- Participated in participatory assessments and field activities organized by the Community-Based Protection Unit, contributing to qualitative data for social and political research.

Springer Nature

Remote, 12/2022 - 08/2023

Junior Editor

- Reviewing contributions for Springer Nature 2023 "Law and Visual Jurisprudence."
- Evaluated works related to International Humanitarian Law and the Middle East, including Syrian conflict contexts.

Italian Institute of Culture in Egypt

Cairo, 12/2022 - 04/2023

Project Manager

- Drafted and implemented cultural projects promoting Italian culture in Egyptian museums via VR, linking cultural diplomacy to heritage preservation.

- Managed logistics for international visual arts exhibitions, connecting heritage, historical migration, and cross-cultural research.
- Italian Permanent Representation at the Council of Europe** Strasbourg, 01/2022 - 04/2022
Human Rights Intern
- Prepared draft reports for the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers.
 - Analyzed Italy–Council of Europe relations and monitored ECtHR decisions.
 - Reported on Russian-Ukrainian conflict developments, with comparative insights on refugee and displacement issues.

- Heritage International Institute** Hybrid, 12/2021 - ongoing
Director of the Special Task Force for Syrian Heritage
- Organized high-level international conferences on Syrian cultural heritage with universities and Italian institutions to bring the Syrian community closer to the Italian academic world.
 - Serving on the Academic Board of the Department of Heritage and Human Rights, linking heritage protection to post-conflict reconstruction and migration studies.
 - Leading the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Syrian government and Ministry of Culture, including the establishment of a joint task force to support preservation and sustainable management of Syrian heritage sites.

Honors & Awards

- Recommendation of Publication Master thesis *Sapienza University of Rome,* 10/2022
- Path of Excellence Master *Sapienza University of Rome,* 2020-2022
- First Prize for innovative research on IHL *McGill University,* 05/2021

Courses & Trainings

- Refugee Status Determination Induction Program UNHCR 12/10/2023
- Introduction to Vulnerability EUUA 16/08/2025

Volunteer

- Delivering rugby-based inclusion programs with All Reds and Stella Rossa teams, engaging asylum seekers, women, and LGBTQIA+ communities.
- Promoting social integration, team-building, and empowerment through sports, fostering intercultural dialogue and participation.

Language Skills

Italian: Native speaker English: Full professional proficiency	Arabic (Levantine): Native speaker French: Full professional proficiency
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