

LORENZO PEZZANI

Lorenzo Pezzani is an architect and researcher. His work explores the spatial politics, visual cultures and political ecologies of migration and borders. Over more than a decade, as co-founder of projects such as Forensic Oceanography and Border Forensics, he has worked at the crossroad of academic research, the arts and non-governmental activism, bringing new interdisciplinary perspectives on pressing issues such as migration, border violence and the environmental crisis. He is currently Associate Professor in the Department of the Arts of the University of Bologna, where he directs LIMINAL, a laboratory investigating intersectional (im-)mobilities through forensic imagination, and leads the "Hostile Environments" ERC project. His work has been used as evidence in courts of law, published across different media, and exhibited internationally.

<https://liminal-lab.org/>

<https://forensic-architecture.org/category/forensic-oceanography>

<http://www.hostileenvironments.eu/>

<https://www.borderforensics.org/>

1. CURRENT POSITIONS

- 10/2022 – ongoing Associate Professor in the Department of the Arts, University of Bologna
- 01/2021 – 03/2023 Co-founder and co-director of Border Forensics, Geneva
- 08/2011 – 12/2020 Co-founder and co-director of Forensic Oceanography, London
- 09/2022 Reader in Forensic Architecture - Goldsmiths (University of London).
- 09/2016 – 08/2022 Lecturer in Forensic Architecture - Goldsmiths (University of London). Between January and April 2019, Acting Director of the Centre for Research Architecture.
- 03/2016 - 09/2016 Post-doctoral Researcher - Kent Law School (University of Kent)
- 09/2015 - 03/2016 Post-doctoral Fellow - Department of Politics (University of York)
- 01/2012 - 09/2015 Teaching Fellow - Bartlett School of Architecture (UCL, University of London)

2. EDUCATION

- 07/2015 PhD in Research Architecture, Goldsmiths, University of London
Supervisor: Prof. E. Weizman; Second Supervisor: Prof. S. Mezzadra
- 09/2009 MA in Research Architecture (with distinction). Goldsmiths, University of London
- 07/2007 MA in Architecture. Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio, USI

3. GRANTS and AWARDS

- 2022 European Research Council Starting Grant (€1,5mil over 5 years), "Hostile Environments" project
- 2020 European Cultural Foundation – Culture of Solidarity award (€40,000 - PI)
- 2020 Graham Foundation Grant to Individuals (\$ 5,000) to support the publication of *Agitated Waters. Migration, Bordering and Activism in the Wake of the Mediterranean Uprisings* (Zone Books).
- 2019 British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant, SRG1819\190298 (£10,000 - PI), "Hostile environment'(s): migration, borders and weaponised terrains" project

- 2019 Goldsmiths Public Engagement grant (£985.50 - PI), "Tempi morti" project
- 2018 Shortlisted for the Turner Prize as part of Forensic Architecture
- 2018 Open Society Foundation grant (£27,000 - PI), "Mare Clausum" project
- 2015 UK Economic and Social Research Council (£137,564 - PDRA). "Precarious Trajectories" project
- 2014 Shortlisted for the Artraker Award
- 2014 Nominated for the Derek Jarman Award
- 2010 Winner international open call, Delfina Foundation Artist's Residency

4. EXHIBITIONS (selected)

- 2021 *NEW ORDER. Über Kunst und Ordnung in ungewissen Zeiten*, Museum im Kulturspeicher, Würzburg, Germany; *How we will live together?*, 17th Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy; *Beyond States–The Boundaries of Statehood*, Zeppelin Museum, Friedrichshafen, Germany; Cairo; *Burning Glass, Reading Stone*, Blackwood Gallery, University of Toronto Mississauga, Canada; The Photographic Gallery, American University, Cairo, Egypt; *Le Déracinement – Over diasporische verbeeldingen*, Z33 House For Contemporary Art, Design and Architecture in Hasselt, Belgium
- 2020 "Hostile environment"(s), ar/ge kunst, Bolzano, Italy, Z33 House for Contemporary Art, Design and Architecture in Hasselt, Belgium; Biennale de L'Image Possible, Liege, Belgium; *SW5Y – Five Years of Civil Sea Rescue*, Weltkulturen Museum, Frankfurt am Main, Germany; *WE ARE OCEAN*, Art Port, Berlin, Marseille, Venice, Vancouver; *The Sea Around Us*, SHORT Festival, Rome, Italy; The Model, Sligo, Ireland; *Forensic Architecture: True to scale*, Museum of Art and Design, Miami Dade College, United States; *OUR PRESENT*, Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen, Germany; Movement Festival, Athens, Greece; Film i Samtidskonsten, Stockholm; Institutio Italiano di Cultura, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2019 Lugano Human Rights Film Festival, Switzerland; *Shifting Baselines, LiveInYourHead, HEAD, Bâtiment Général-Dufour, Genève, Switzerland*; LKUNSTENFESTIVALDESARTS, Brussels, Belgium; *Framing Macht Bilder*, Kallmann Museum, Ismaning, Germany; series of film screenings, *We Are Ocean*; Santarcangelo Festival, Italy; *Sink Without Trace: Exhibition on Migrant Deaths at Sea*, P21, London, UK; *Violence, Fast and Slow*, State of Concept, Athens, Greece; *Tense Present*, Kabla Portal, Maribor, Slovenia; *Homeless Souls*, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark; *Tierra Prometida*, OPC, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Lofoten International Arts Festival, Norway; *How the light gets in*, Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, New York, US
- 2018 *Liquid Violence*, Manifesta12 – Palermo; *Face Value – Transmediale*, Berlin; République Géniale - Kunstmuseum Bern; *Counter-Investigations – Institute for Contemporary Arts*, London; *From Ear to Ear to Eye – Nottingham Contemporary*; *Constellation – Malta*, Valletta 2018
- 2017 Ural Industrial Biennial of Contemporary Art - Ekaterinburg, Russia; *Neotopia: Data and Humanity – Art Centre Nabi*, South Korea; *A Summer of Truth – Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery*, Montreal; *It's Obvious from the Map – REDCAT*, Los Angeles; *La Terra Inquieta – Triennale*, Milan; *Forensic Architecture: Towards an Investigative Aesthetics – MACBA*, Barcelona
- 2016 *Disappearance at Sea*, Baltic, Newcastle; *Why Not Ask Again? Manoeuvres, Disputations and Stories*, Shanghai Biennale; *Are We Human? Istanbul Design Biennale*; *Frontières*, Musée National de l'Histoire de l'Immigration, Paris; *Insecurities: Tracing Displacement and Shelter*, MoMA, New York; *Reporting from the Front. Venice Architecture Biennale 2016*; *As Rights go by*, Q21, Vienna

2015 Big Bang Data – Somerset House, London; Making Use: Life in Postartistic Times – Museum Modern Art, Warsaw; Forensis – Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin; See You in The Hague (with Model Court) – Stroom Den Haag’ Resolution 978HD (with Model Court) – Gaworks Gallery, London and Pori Art Museum, Finland; Anti-Atlas of Borders – La Compagnie, Marseille; Other people’s problems – Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art

5. INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCES (selected)

04/07/2022 Summer School in Global Studies and Critical Theory, Bologna
 26/03/2022 Propositions: Expanded Practices, Reliable Copy, Bangalore, India
 09/01/2022 Studium Generale, Amsterdam
 30/04/2021 Borders: Forensic Oceanography and the Aesthetics of Borders- Carsey Wolf Center, UCSB
 16/04/2021 Border forensics - International lecture series, Bard College, NY
 04/03/2021 Digital Data Gathering & Changing Ways Of Knowing - Kevorkian Center, NYU
 07/09/2020 Short Theatre, Rome
 22/05/2020 The Model, Sligo, Ireland
 21/05/2020 Ermenautica, La Sapienza, University of Rome
 31/05/2019 Keynote: Spaces of Immobility – Oxford Migration Society Conference, UK
 12/04/2019 Imaginative Mobilities – New School for Social Research, NYC
 09/04/2019 ‘Hostile environment’ (s) – Bard College, NY
 06/03/2019 ‘Hostile environment’ (s) – International Lecture Series, Royal College of Art
 12/02/2019 London Liquid Traces – Architectural Association, London, UK
 31/01/2019 The Night of Water – French Cultural Institute, Cairo, Egypt
 12/07/2018 Floating Laboratory on Theory and Action at Sea – Lesvos, Greece
 11/06/2018 Architectures of Migrant Displacement, Detention, and Death – Birkbeck, University of London
 11/05/2018 Politics in the Face of Death – University of Edinburgh
 27/02/2018 Scapegoats for failed EU politics? Search and rescue NGOs in the Mediterranean – European Parliament, Brussels
 09/02/2018 Sites of Religious Memory in an Age of Exodus – Institute for Religion Culture and Public Life at Columbia University, New York
 09/02/2018 Ways of knowing Cities – GSAPP, Columbia University, New York

6. PUBLICATIONS (selected)

BOOKS

HELLER, C., PEZZANI, L. (forthcoming, contract signed), *Agitated Waters. Migration, Bordering and Activism in the Wake of the Mediterranean Uprisings*, New York, London: Zone Books.

WALTERS, W., HELLER, C., PEZZANI, L., eds., 2021, *Viapolitics: Borders, Migration and the Power of Locomotion*, Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS

HELLER, C., PEZZANI, L. (2021) “The Perils of Migration: Countervailing Mediations of Risk at the EU’s Maritime Frontier.” In: SARKAR, B., GHOSH, B., eds. *The Routledge Companion to Risk and Media*. London: Routledge.

HELLER, C., PEZZANI, L. (2020) "Forensic Oceanography: Tracing Violence Within and Against the Mediterranean Frontier's Aesthetic Regime". In LYNES, K. G., MORGENSTERN, T., PAUL, L., eds., *Moving Images. Mediating Migration as Crisis*. Bielefeld, Germany: transcript Verlag.

HELLER, C., PEZZANI, L. (2019), 'Hostile Environment'(s): Sensing Migration across Weaponized Terrains. In KURGAN, L., BRAWLEY, D., eds., *Ways of Knowing Cities*. New York: Columbia University Press.

HELLER, C., STIERL, M., PEZZANI, L. (2019) "Towards a Politics of Freedom of Movement." In JONES, R. (ed.). *Open Borders: In Defense of Free Movement*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press.

HELLER, C., PEZZANI, L. (2016) "Liquid Traces: Contesting the Lethal Architecture of the Mediterranean Sea." In Lluís Alexandre Casanovas Blanco et al. (eds.). *After Belonging: The Objects, Spaces, and Territories of the Ways We Stay in Transit*. Basel, Switzerland: Lars Muller Publishers.

PEZZANI, L. (2015) "Decolonizing Architecture Art Residency, Return to Jaffa." In SCOTT, E. E. and SWENSON, K. J. (eds.). *Critical Landscapes. Art, Space, Politics*. Oakland, CA: University of California Press.

HELLER, C., PEZZANI, L. (2014) Liquid Traces: Investigating the Deaths of Migrants at the Maritime Frontier of the EU. In FORENSIC ARCHITECTURE (ed.). *Forensis: The Architecture of Public Truth*. Berlin: Sternberg Press.

JOURNALS

PEZZANI, L. (2020) "At the Border – Hostile Environment", e-Flux, Architecture, May 2020

PEZZANI, L., (2019) "Liquid Violence." *Architectural Review*. April 2019: 54-57.

HELLER, C., PEZZANI, L., eds. (July 2019) "Contentious Crossings" *South Atlantic Quarterly* 118(3): 644-653.

HELLER, C., PEZZANI, L. (2019) "AIS politics: The Contested Use of Vessel Tracking at the EU's Maritime Frontier." *Science, Technology and Human Values*, 44(5): 881-899.

HELLER, C., PEZZANI, L. (2018), "Drifting Images, Liquid Traces: Disrupting the aesthetic regime of the EU's maritime frontier." *Anti-Atlas Journal*, no. 2 (Spring 2018).

CASAS-CORTES, M., COBARUBBIAS, S., HELLER, C., PEZZANI, L. (2016) "Clashing Cartographies, Migrating Maps." *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies*. 16(1): 1-33.

HELLER, C., PEZZANI, L. (2016) "Ebbing and Flowing: the EU's Shifting Practices of (Non-) Assistance and Bordering in a Time of Crisis". *Near Futures Online* 1.

PEZZANI, L. (2014) "Liquid Traces." *Harvard Design Magazine*, No. 39 - F/W 2014. p. 135.

PEZZANI, L. (2013) "The Mediterranean at the Borders of Europe." *New Geographies*. Volume 5: The Mediterranean, Harvard GSD (March 2013). p. 303-312.

BLOG POSTS/ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

SUNDERLAND, J., PEZZANI, L. Frontex delivers cruelty from the skies. Al Jazeera, December 22, 2022. <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2022/12/14/frontex-delivers-cruelty-from-the-skies>

HELLER, C., PEZZANI, L., MANN, I., MORENO-LAX, V., WEIZMAN, E. "It's an Act of Murder': How Europe Outsources Suffering as Migrants Drown." *The New York Times*, December 26, 2018. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/12/26/opinion/europe-migrant-crisis-mediterranean-libya.html>

HELLER, C., PEZZANI, L. "The Mediterranean Mobility Conflict: Violence and Anti-Violence at the Borders of Europe." Humanity Journal (blog), November 9, 2018. <http://humanityjournal.org/blog/heller-and-pezzani/>

REPORTS

- 2023 Mission Accomplished? The Deadly Effects Of Border Control In Niger. Available at: <https://www.borderforensics.org/investigations/niger-investigation/>
- 2022 Airborne Complicity – Frontex Aerial Surveillance Enables Abuse (with Human Rights Watch). Available at: <https://www.borderforensics.org/investigations/airborne-complicity/>
The death of Blessing Matthew – a counter-investigation on violence at the alpine frontier. Available at: <https://www.borderforensics.org/investigations/blessing-investigation/>
- 2018 Mare Clausum. Available at: <http://www.forensic-architecture.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/2018-05-07-FO-Mare-Clausum-full-EN.pdf>
- 2017 Blaming the Rescuers: Criminalising Solidarity, (Re)enforcing Deterrence. Available at: <http://blamingtherescuers.org>
- 2016 Death by Rescue. The Lethal Effects of the EU's Policies of Non-Assistance. Available at: <http://deathbyrescue.org>
- 2012 Report on the Left-to-die boat. Available at: <http://www.forensic-architecture.org/case/left-die-boat/>

7. FILMS AND VIDEO WORKS

The death of Blessing Matthews – a counter-investigation on violence at the alpine frontier, 18', 2022 (with Border Forensics). Available at: <https://www.borderforensics.org/investigations/blessing-investigation/>

The Sea Watch vs Libyan Coast Guard Case, 28', 2018 (with Forensic Oceanography). Available at: <https://www.forensic-architecture.org/case/sea-watch/>

The Crime of Rescue, 33', 2018 (with Forensic Oceanography). Available at: <https://www.forensic-architecture.org/case/iuventa/>

Death by Rescue, 16', 2016 (with Forensic Oceanography). Available at: <https://www.forensic-architecture.org/case/death-by-rescue/>

Liquid Traces, 17', 2014 (with Forensic Oceanography). Available at: <https://www.forensic-architecture.org/case/left-die-boat/>

Resolution 978HD, 35', 2013 (with Model Court)