



Mara Simonazzi

Post-doc (1st Mar 2024 – present)
University of Bologna (Italy)
Dep. Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences
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ID ORCID

Place and date of birth
Rimini (Italy), 1st October 1992
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Research interests

Microalgae and cyanobacteria · Toxins ·
Drinking water monitoring · Water
treatment · Biotechnology applications ·
Microalgal cultivation · Bioactive
compounds · Phytodepuration

Language knowledge

Italian
Native
English
Proficient (B2/C1)
Finnish
Basic (A1)
Norwegian (Nynorsk)
Basic (A1)
Spanish
Basic (A1)
Common EU Reference for Languages

Technical skills

Identification and isolation of microalgae
and cyanobacteria; culturing techniques
PAM fluorimetry
Biomass characterization (lipids, protein,
polysaccharides, pigments, organic C and
N) with spectrophotometric methods,
GC-MS/MS and CHN analyser
Ion chromatography for nutrient
analyses (N, P, S)
Ecotoxicity bioassays
Toxins determination LC-MS/MS
Molecular techniques (DNA extraction,
PCR, cloning, genome data analysis)
Statistical data analysis and processing

IT skills

Advance user:
Office © suite, Windows operating
system, Mendeley Ltd, PAST 3.0
Basic knowledge:
UNIX shell command, R, OriginLab,
ArcGIS/QGIS, MEGA, antiSMASH

Publications

Zoffoli G. et al. 2025. Harmful Algae, 146,
102870
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.hal.2025.102870>
Pistocchi M. et al. 2024. Italian Botanist 18: 193-
214
<https://doi.org/10.3897/italianbotanist.18.143333>
Simonazzi M. et al. 2024. Chemosphere, 364,
142976
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2024.142976>
Simonazzi M. et al. 2024. Algal Res, 82, 103648
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.algal.2024.103648>
Pezzolesi L. et al. 2023. Algal Res, 74, 103196
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.algal.2023.103196>
Simonazzi M. et al. 2022. Int. J. Environ. Res.
Public Health, 19(21), 14075
<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph192114075>
Simonazzi M. et al. 2021. International Journal of
Biological Macromolecules, 191 (2021) 92-99
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbiomac.2021.09.054>
Simonazzi M., et al. 2019. Bioresource
Technology, 292, 121921
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biortech.2019.121921>

Education

2019 – 2023 **PhD in Earth, Life and Environmental Sciences (35th cycle)**, University of Bologna (Italy) [SSD BIO/01]. Toxic cyanobacteria in water intended for drinking purpose: improvement of cells and toxins' analyses and of treatments for their removal.
2014 – 2017 **M.Sc. Marine Biology**, University of Bologna, Italy. 110/110 cum laude
2011 – 2014 **B.Sc. Biological Sciences**, University of Urbino, Italy. 109/110
2006 – 2011 **State Scientific Highschool**, Liceo Scientifico G. Marconi Pesaro, Italy. 100/100

Scientific production

H-index 4, total number of citations: 49 (Scopus, accessed on May 16th, 2025)
Co-authoring 8 publications peer-reviewed journals (5 as first-author, 3 as co-corresponding author)
Conferences 4 posters and 12 oral communications at national and international conferences

Research experience

01 Mar 2024–
PRESENT **Post-doc research fellow**, University of Bologna, Italy. Project: Cyanotoxins oxidation by atmospheric plasma, a green technology for water decontamination – PLASMADETOX, 2022EFEEKR - CUP J53D23008640 006.
01 Mar 2023–
29 Feb. 2024 **Post-doc research fellow**, University of Bologna, Italy. Project: Microalgae as circular ingredients to reduce the carbon footprint in aquaculture feeds. CN Biodiversity Spoke2 Activity3 “Action 3.1 Circular feeds for carbon neutrality” – PNNR Project
01 Nov. 2021–
01 Mar. 2022 **Research mobility**, University of Helsinki, Finland. Discovery of new secondary metabolites from cyanobacteria through bioinformatics. Erasmus+ Mobility for Traineeship.
01 Nov. 2019–
01 Jan. 2023 **PhD candidate**, University of Bologna, Italy. Project: Distribution of cyanobacteria and their toxins in Emilia Romagna freshwater reservoirs and evaluation of the effectiveness of drinking water treatments
06 May 2019–
31 Oct. 2019 **Post-graduate scholarship**, University of Bologna, Italy. Inter-laboratories procedures for calibration of fluorometric tools used in microalgae and cyanobacteria detection in drinking water
11 Jun. 2018–
11 Dec. 2018 **Post-graduate scholarship**, University of Bologna, Italy. Spectrophotometric methods and fluorometric probes for cyanobacteria monitoring in drinking water
30 Nov. 2016–
14 Dec. 2017 **Trainee graduating student**, University of Bologna and Micoperi Blue Growth, Ravenna, Italy. (M.Sc. Thesis preparation)
18 Jan. 2016–
18 Apr. 2016 **Trainee**, Fjordforsk A/S, Norway. Evaluation of marine fish population decline along Norwegian coasts due to local pollution. Erasmus+ Mobility for Traineeship.

Teaching activities

2025 **Adjunct professor (22 h)**, University of Bologna, Italy. “Experimental Marine Laboratory (Module 2)” (M.Sc. students)
2019 – 2025 **Teaching tutor (20 h)**, University of Bologna, Italy. “Plant biology” (B.Sc. students)
2018 – 2022 **(Co)-Supervisor of 8 M.Sc. and 4 B.Sc. thesis**. University of Bologna

Third mission

22 May 2024 **Unione Bolognese Naturalisti**, Bologna, Italy. Seminar (2 h). Lecture's title: Cianobatteri nelle acque destinate alla potabilizzazione: rischi e vantaggi per l'uomo.
2020 – present **Notte Europea dei Ricercatori**, University of Bologna, Italy. Dissemination activities on microalgal and cyanobacterial research; mixed audience (age 5-99)
13 Apr. 2021 **Career counselling seminar for high school students (2 h)**, online. Lecture's title: From environment to industry: blue biotechnologies for the production of natural compounds from microorganisms. ISCOM-ER (Istituto per lo Sviluppo del Commercio e del Turismo dell'Emilia-Romagna, Ente di formazione di di Confcommercio Emilia-Romagna)

Training courses

03 Feb. 2020–
07 Feb. 2020 **Metabarcoding and metagenomic data processing and analyses: a practical overview**. Stazione Zoologica Anthon Dohrn, Naples, Italy
29 Jul. 2019–
02 Aug. 2019 **Determination Course of Freshwater and Terrestrial Cyanobacteria**. University of South Bohemia, Czech Republic
19-22
Feb. 2018 **Theoretical-practical course of Multi-techniques for the study of the ecology of phytoplankton**. Società Italiana di Biologia Marina (SIBM), University of Naples Federico II, Italy

Awards

2022 **Best Talk Award**. VIII International Plant Science Conference (IPSC). € 150 book voucher for Koeltz Botanical Books
2020 **Best Poster Award**, NaToxAq-Natural Toxins: Environmental Fate and Safe Water Supply. International conference 24th-25th September 2020 (online).