

## Contact details

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## Expertise

- Russia: foreign policy and military thought
- NATO: defence and deterrence, cooperative security
- Security studies
- IR theory and history

## Education

### PhD Political Science and International Studies \_\_\_\_\_ OCT2018 – JUL2023

University of Birmingham (GBR)

- Thesis title: 'Russia's Way of War: Reinterpreting Russian Strategic Culture'
- Supervisors: Dr Derek Averre, Prof Mark Webber
- Thesis defence (DEC2022):
  - examiners: Prof Stefan Wolff (University of Birmingham); Prof Tracey German (KCL)
  - outcome: passed with no corrections

### MA Interdisciplinary Research and Studies on Eastern Europe \_\_\_\_\_ SEP2015-2017

Joint degree: University of Bologna (ITA), Saint Petersburg State University (RUS), Vytautas Magnus University at Kaunas (LTU), Corvinus University in Budapest (HUN)

- Graduation mark: 110/110 *cum laude*
- Thesis title: 'Recasting Strategic Culture: The Cultural Roots of Russia's Strategic Behavior'
- Supervisors: Prof Sonia Lucarelli (UNIBO), Prof Stanislav Tkachenko (SPGU)

### BA International and European Studies \_\_\_\_\_ SEP2012 - JUL2015

University of Milan (ITA)

- Graduation mark: 110/110 *cum laude*
- Thesis title: 'Why Not to Use Biological Weapons? The Balance Between Strategic Enablers and Institutional Concerns' (in Italian)
- Supervisor: Prof Alessandro Colombo

## Research experience

### Research Fellow \_\_\_\_\_ APR2023 – *present*

University of Bologna (ITA)

- (since OCT2024) Recipient of the *Roberto Ruffilli Postdoctoral Fellowship*, the University's flagship research fellowship in Political Studies. Conducting research on the reorientation of Russia's foreign policy towards the Global South, with a particular emphasis on narratives, strategies, and actions in the Asia-Pacific region.
- (APR2023 – MAR2024) Conducted research on Russia's foreign and security policy, with particular attention to relations with NATO, the EU, and military matters.

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### Research Consultant

FEB2022 - present

Worldwide

- Providing clients within the private and public sectors with research-led analysis on Russia-related matters, including war-fighting, security policy, relations with China, and the Ukraine war.
- Examples:
  - 2024: contributor to the task force on *Peace, Security, and Global Governance* of [Think-7](#), which provided policy input to the Italian presidency of the G7.
  - 2026: contributor to the *Russia Strategic Initiative* (RSI), within the US Department of War/EUCOM.

### Visiting Research Fellow

NOV2025 – JUN2026

Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale (ISPI), Milan (ITA)

- Conducting research and sharing expertise across policy-makers and the wider public on Russian foreign policy and European security.

### Visiting Lecturer

OCT2025

Jagiellonian University, Institute of European Studies, Krakow (POL)

- Delivered lectures on Russia-EU relations and Italian foreign policy. Academic POC: Prof Natasza Styczyńska.

### Visiting Research Fellow

FEB2025

German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg (DEU)

- Conducted research on Russia's relations with major non-Western regions and players. Academic POC: Prof Patrick Köllner.

### Visiting Research Fellow

NOV-DEC 2023

Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH), Hamburg (DEU)

- Conducted research on the integration of Outer Space into the Russian thinking on strategic stability, arms control, and military operations. Academic POC: Dr Ulrich Kühn.

### Doctoral Researcher

OCT2018 - DEC2022

University of Birmingham (GBR)

- Conducted research on Russia's peculiar approach to warfare, through the theoretical lens of Strategic Culture. By analysing Russian military texts, drills, and defence reforms between 2008-2018, I aimed at (A) reconstructing the ultimate principles underpinning Russia's way of war and (B) tracing their origin back to Russia's socio-political mindset and the elite's organisational dynamics. The wars in Georgia, Ukraine, and Syria were used as case studies to test findings. The thesis was published as a book in 2024.

### Eisenhower Pre-doctoral Fellow

FEB-APR2022

NATO Defense College (NDC) (ITA)

- Conducted research on Russia's military doctrine and defence policy, NATO-Russia relations; advised governmental bodies and private entities re 2022's Russian war on Ukraine; contributed to the public debate on that topic; expanded my professional network; published a *Policy Brief* on Russia's way of war, finalised my PhD thesis, and laid the foundations of two more publications on the aforementioned topics.

### Visiting Doctoral Researcher

OCT2021 - JAN2022

Friedrich-Schiller Universität Jena (DEU)

## *Dr Nicolò Fasola*

- Conducted research on 2008's Russia-Georgia war; delivered lectures; expanded my professional network. Academic POC: Prof Rafael Biermann.

### Visiting Doctoral Researcher

SEP-DEC 2019

Saint Petersburg State University (RUS)

- Conducted research on Russia's foreign and security policy; delivered lectures; expanded my professional network; underwent language training. Academic POC: Prof Natalia Zaslavskaya.

### Researcher

OCT2018 - NOV2019

Association of Universities of the Adriatic-Ionian Area (UniAdrion)

- Conducted an investigation into the state of regional integration in the Adriatic-Ionian area. This research aimed at providing guidance to the EU for the adaptation and implementation of its Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR). This research was funded by the EU within the framework of the Adriatic-Ionian Network of Universities, Regions, Chambers of Commerce and Cities (AI-NURECC) initiative.

### Associate Researcher

NOV-DEC 2017

Institute of International Relations (IIR) (CZE)

- Conducted research on NATO-Russia relations, co-authoring a book chapter that is part of an edited volume and was presented at an international conference.

### Independent Researcher

MAY-AUG 2017

Institute of International Relations (IIR) (CZE)

- Conducted research on Russia's foreign and security policy, publishing an essay on Russian military thought and a policy paper on Russia's military exercise *Zapad* 2017.

### Junior Analyst

JUL 2015- JUL 2017

Osservatorio di Politica Internazionale (OPI) (ITA)

- Conducted research on Russia and Eastern Europe, publishing 5 analyses and more than 20 monthly reports. I also organised a number of academic conferences in participation with student associations and Universities.

## **Teaching experience**

### Adjunct Professor

MAY2023 - *present*

Friedrich-Schiller Universität Jena (DEU)

- Delivering a postgraduate executive module aimed at providing students with basic academic knowledge and practical insights on NATO, leveraging my own scholarly and practical experience within the Alliance, and with the involvement of current and former NATO staff. The module includes traditional lectures, interactive seminars, and live simulations. Workload: 24 teaching hours, grading, office hours.

### Adjunct Professor

SEP2022 - *present*

University of Bologna (ITA)

- [Russia, the EU, and the Common Neighbourhood](#) (since 2024): delivering a postgraduate module aimed at unpacking Russia's foreign policy towards the EU and selected countries of the Common Neighbourhood (Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Belarus). More broadly, the module aims at providing students with a specialist understanding of how the Kremlin perceives Russia's role in Europe and opposes the EU's initiatives in the region. Workload: 20 teaching hours, grading, office hours.

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- [China-Russia Relations](#) (since 2023): delivering a postgraduate module aimed at unpacking China-Russia relations. Students learn about the political, security, and economic spheres of the China-Russia 'partnership,' and how it unfolds within specific geographical spaces or international domains. Emphasis is put on the impact that the two powers are having on regional orders, global governance, and the state of democracy. Workload: 20 teaching hours, grading, office hours.
- [Relazioni Internazionali](#) (2022-2025): delivered the seminars of an undergraduate module in IR theory. Seminars built on previous coursework to expand the students' knowledge of: the changing concept and practices of security, the use of force in IR, variants of Realism, the transformation of international regimes, strategic cultures, and the challenges to the liberal international order. Workload: 28 teaching hours, grading, office hours. Module leaders: Prof Sonia Lucarelli, Prof Michela Ceccorulli.

### Invited/Guest Lecturer [selected]

NOV2019 - *present*

Various Universities across Europe

- '[Russia-EU Relations Through the Lens of Emotions](#)' – within the guest lectures series of the international joint *BA in European Studies*, Jagiellonian University, Krakow (POL), 09 October 2025.
- '[La politica estera russa](#)' – within the *Master in Funzioni Diplomatiche e Internazionali*, University of Bologna (ITA), 28 November 2024.
- '[Russia's Strategic Culture and Security in East-Central Europe](#)' – within the postgraduate module *Politics of Central Eastern Europe*, University of Florence (ITA), 18 November 2024.
- '[Russian Strategic Culture](#)' – within the postgraduate module *Security Studies: Concepts and Cases*, University of Trento (ITA), 31 October 2024.
- '[Russian Strategic Culture and the War in Ukraine](#)' – within the *research colloquia* of the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH), Hamburg (DEU), 06 December 2023.
- '[Russia and Strategic Confrontation: Non-Military Measures](#)' – within the seminar series of the *PhD programme in Data Science, Accounting, Management*, University of Salerno (ITA), 10 July 2023.
- '[Russia and the Conflict in Syria: strategic goals and the use of military force](#)' – public lecture at Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena (DEU), 02 February 2022.
- '[NATO in US-Europe Relations](#)' – within the seminar series *World politics and the EU as a global actor*, DAAD Study Trip, FSU Jena-NaUKMA Kyiv (DEU/UKR), 29 October 2021.
- '[EU's Common Security and Defence Policy](#)' – within the postgraduate module *European Policy*, Saint Petersburg State University (RUS), 5 December 2019.
- '[Exploring UK-EU relations: theoretical approaches](#)' – within the *Research Seminars* series for postgraduate students, Saint Petersburg State University (RUS), 26 November 2019.
- Regular contributor to the Department's seminar cycles on *Research Methods* for postgraduate students, University of Bologna, with seminars on [writing papers/theses in International Relations](#) – since 2023.
- Regular contributor to the postgraduate Jean Monnet module *Rebound: Rethinking Borders in and by the European Union*, University of Bologna (ITA), with lectures and seminars on [NATO's adaptation](#) – since 2022.
- Regular contributor to the postgraduate module *Pan-European Security*, University of Bologna (ITA), with lectures and seminars on [Russian foreign and security policy](#), [NATO-Russia relations](#), and [NATO partnerships](#) – since 2020.

### Teaching Assistant

SEP2021 - SEP 2023

University of Bologna (ITA)

- [Relazioni Internazionali](#): supported the delivery of an undergraduate module aimed at providing solid grasp of major IR theories. Workload: 2 teaching hours/week, grading, office hours; managed ca. 120 students. Module leads: Prof Sonia Lucarelli, Prof Michela Ceccorulli.
- [International History in the Contemporary Era](#): supported the delivery of an undergraduate module aimed at familiarising students with the main events and interpretations of contemporary international

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history, between 19th-21st centuries. Workload: grading, office hours; managed ca. 120 students. Module leader: Dr Nicola Sbeti (2021/22); Prof Angela Romano (2022/23).

### Adjunct Lecturer JAN-AUG 2020

University of Salford (GBR)

- Russian Foreign Policy since 1991: taught an undergraduate module aimed at examining key issues in Russian foreign policy-making and contemporary international relations. Particular attention was devoted to: theoretical tools of foreign policy analysis, Russian domestic dynamics, the Soviet legacy, and the country's evolving relations with other major states and regions of the world; diplomatic, military, economic, and other types of relations were discussed. Workload: 6 teaching hours/week, 2 office hours/week, grading; managed ca. 40 students.

### Teaching Assistant JAN-JUN 2020

University of Birmingham (GBR)

- Problems of World History: taught the seminar-based part of an undergraduate module aimed at familiarising students with key developments in 20th century's global history. Workload: 4 seminar hours/week, 1 office hour/week, grading; managed ca. 60 students. Module leader: Prof William Lucas.

## **Academic service**

### Co-Chair SEP2026 - *present*

Italian Standing Group on Russia and Post-Soviet Space (SGRPSS) (ITA)

- Responsible for the scientific activities and strategic development of the SGRPSS, bringing together Italian political scientists working on the Eurasian space. Activities include: organisation of on-site/online events, fostering ties with national and international counterparts, promoting members' scientific activities. SGRPSS is an entity within the Italian Political Science Association (SISP). Co-chair: Prof Marco Siddi.

### Team Member MAR2023 - *present*

University of Bologna (ITA)

- Topic Group International Relations, Alumni Association (since NOV2023): part of a team of 11, managing the planning and outreach activities of the Association's chapter devoted to International Relations. We provide current and former students with networking opportunities, professional development seminars, and career mentoring. POC: Prof Michela Ceccorulli.
- Memorandum of Understanding with NATO Allied Command Transformation (ACT) (since MAR2023): part of a team of three, implementing the MoU between ACT-UNIBO. This entails keeping consistent contacts with ACT counterparts to plan joint scientific and outreach activities, which include yearly publications and workshops, as well as a biennial high-level international conference. POCs: Prof Sonia Lucarelli; Prof Francesco N. Moro.

### Member of the Steering Committee OCT2024 – SEP2026

Italian Standing Group on International Relations (SGRI) (ITA)

- Part of a team of six, planning and executing SGRI's activities – which include monthly job and research newsletters, the organisation of methodological and thematic seminars, as well as two annual events: an International Studies PhD Workshop and the annual SGRI Conference. SGRI is the biggest standing group of the Italian Political Science Association (SISP).

### Programme Tutor SEP 2022-2026

University of Bologna (ITA)

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- [MA East European and Eurasian Studies \(MIREES\)](#): executive assistant to the programme's Director; contributing to strategic planning, outreach activities, and administrative tasks; providing students with orientation upon their arrival at the Forlì Campus, induction training, and study-related advice. POC: Prof Sonia Lucarelli.

**Reviewer** for scientific journals, including *Journal of Strategic Studies*, *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, *Parameters* (US Army War College), *Journal of Advanced Military Studies* (US Marine Corps University), *Interdisciplinary Political Studies*, *Strategic Leadership Journal* (CASD), *Scandinavian Journal of Military Studies*, *Security & Defence Quarterly*, *Global Policy*, *Caucasus Survey*. In DEC2023, I reviewed, upon request of the UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) agency, a research funding proposal focussed on Russia-China relations, worth £4 million.

### Other work experience

**Staff Officer** \_\_\_\_\_ SEP2020 - JUL2021

NATO Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) (BEL)

Partnerships Directorate, Country Engagement Team

- Was responsible for the planning, implementation, and assessment of NATO's military cooperation with a number of Partner countries — namely Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan. I contributed to the transformation of these countries' defence institutions, doctrines, and forces in accordance with NATO standards and practices. I acted as focal NATO POC at General Staff level for said Partner countries. I liaised with and briefed senior civilian/military staff, organised and participated in bi-/multi-lateral talks, wrote and edited reports/analyses.

**Assistant to the Staff Officer** (trainee) \_\_\_\_\_ JAN-JUL 2018

NATO Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) (BEL)

Military Partnerships Directorate, Office for the Special Relationship with Ukraine

- Provided analyses of military reforms and developments in and around Ukraine, liaised with senior military staff, organised and participated in bi-/multi-lateral talks, conducted day-to-day administrative tasks.

**Foreign Correspondent** \_\_\_\_\_ SEP2017 - MAR2020

Radio Panda 96.3 fm (ITA)

- Provided comments on salient news about international politics, mainly focussing on Europe and Russia. Aired during Friday evenings' newscast, reaching a potential audience of ca. 500.000 people.

**Assistant to the Ambassador** (trainee) \_\_\_\_\_ FEB-MAY 2017

Italian Embassy in Estonia (EST)

- Provided the Ministry with analyses on Estonia's politics, economics, and security, wrote speeches and communication for the Ambassador, participated in bi-/multi-lateral talks, updated the Embassy's website.

**Contributor** \_\_\_\_\_ OCT2016 - DEC2018

East Journal (ITA)

- Wrote op-eds and analyses on security and political issues in Russia and the post-Soviet space.

**Secretary General** \_\_\_\_\_ OCT 2014 - OCT 2015

United Nations Youth Association Italy (MSOI) - Milan branch (ITA)

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- Coordinated the executive board, liaised with other MSOI branches and partner organisations, organised educational activities for members and academic conferences, conducted day-to-day administrative tasks.

### Research projects and grants

#### KonKoop: Conflict and Cooperation in Eastern Europe (I / II)

Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena

External co-lead

2022 - *ongoing*

#### Russia Strategic Initiative (RSI)

US Department of War / EUCOM

With Derek Averre

2025-26

#### Roberto Ruffilli research grant

€55,260

Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna

2024-2026

#### DimEAST: Diversity and Impacts of Migration at the EU's Eastern Borders

University of Trieste, University of Bologna, Ca' Foscari University

Research contributor

2023-25

#### Eisenhower fellowship

€8,000

NATO Defense College

2022

#### Research grant

€6,000

European Commission, via UniAdrion

2018/19

### Conferences, workshops, and other events [selected]

#### Conferences and workshops

- Co-chair, with Marco Siddi, of the panels on "Europe, Eurasia and Beyond? Russia's Foreign Policy Amidst its War in Ukraine and Sino-American Competition" and "Post-Soviet and Beyond: Regionalism in the ex-Soviet space" – during the annual conference of the Società Italiana di Scienza Politica (SISP), University of Trento, 3-5 September 2026.
- "Russia's Approach to Strategic Stability and Nuclear Multipolarity in Asia-Pacific" – presented at the annual conference of the Standing Group on International Relations (SGRI), Società Italiana di Scienza Politica (SISP), University of Palermo, 18-19 June 2026.
- (with Camilla Valle) "Beyond Hardware: The 'Human Factor' in Russian Military-Strategic Thought" – presented at the *Russia Seminar* of the Finnish National Defence University, Helsinki, 11-12 February 2026.
- "Russia in Syria: Strategy and Resilience After the Fall of Assad" – within a workshop on the Syria for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, online, 27 November 2025 (invited speaker).

- Co-chair, with Clara della Valle, of the panel 'Patron-Client Relations in World Politics: A Concept in Flux?' – during the annual conference of the Società Italiana di Scienza Politica (SISP), University of Naples 'L'Orientale' (ITA), 04-06 September 2025.
- 'Current Russian Views on Strategic Stability and Deterrence' – presented at the annual conference of the *Standing Group on International Relations* (SGRI), Società Italiana di Scienza Politica (SISP), Catholic University of Milan (ITA), 12-13 June 2025.
- Co-convenor, with Rafael Biermann, of the working group on 'Patron Client Relations in World Politics,' EISA Exploratory Symposia, Rapallo, 27-30 October 2024.
- 'Partner, client, or ally? Evolution and context of NATO's Ukraine narrative, 2014-2024' – presented at the annual conference of the Società Italiana di Scienza Politica (SISP), University of Trento (ITA), 12-14 September 2024.
- 'The Evolution of NATO's Bordering Practices: Expansion, Fencing, and Diffusion' – presented at the European Workshops on International Studies (EWIS), Kadir Has University (TUR), 3-5 July 2024.
- Discussant of the panel 'Western and Russian perspectives on the Ukrainian conflict' – during the annual conference of the *Standing Group on International Relations* (SGRI), Società Italiana di Scienza Politica (SISP), University of Parma (ITA), 19-21 June 2024.
- 'Contemporary Italian Narratives on Russia and China: Analysing Continuity and Change' (with Sara Berloto) – presented at the annual conference of the British International Studies Association (BISA), University of Birmingham (UK), 05-07 June 2024.
- 'Russia-Syria Relations through a Patron-Client Framework' – presented at the workshop *Conflict management and resolution in the wider Mediterranean*, University of Florence (ITA), 23 February 2024.
- 'The integration of outer space in Russia's strategic culture: war-fighting, arms control, and strategic stability' – presented within the framework of the post-doc seminar series of the Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna (ITA), 09 February 2024.
- 'The interplay of Russian and Chinese (self-)perceptions in Kyrgyzstan' (with Sara Berloto) – paper presented at the annual conference of the Associazione per lo Studio in Italia dell'Asia Centrale (ASIAC), Rome, 14-16 December 2023.
- 'La politica estera del governo Meloni' – within the workshop *Politica in Italia: il centrodestra post-berlusconiano alla prova del governo*, Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe, Bologna, 13 December 2023.
- 'Beyond the 'Frenemy' Paradigm: Exploring the Role of Worldviews and Self-perceptions in Russia-China Relations' (with Sara Berloto) – presented at the annual conference of the *Standing Group on International Relations* (SGRI), Società Italiana di Scienza Politica (SISP), 15-16 June 2023.
- 'Not so different after all? Comparing Russia's Campaigns in Ukraine and Syria' – presented at the 7th *Tartu Conference on East European and Eurasian Studies*, University of Tartu (EST), 11-13 June 2023.
- 'No Mere Autocratic Axis: Unpacking Russia's Support for Assad's Regime Through the Frame of Patron-Client Relations' – presented at the *Joint Sessions of Workshops* of the European Council on Political Research (ECPR), Science Po Toulouse (FRA), 25-28 April 2023.
- 'The cultural foundations of Russia's strategy and war-fighting' – presented at the roundtable *Identity, Memory, and Conflict in the Eurasian Space*, University of Bologna (ITA), 14 September 2022.
- 'Russia's way of war: comparing Russian strategies and operations in Ukraine and Syria' – presented at the annual conference of the *European Initiative for Security Studies* (EISS), Hertie School (DEU), 30 June - 01 July 2022.
- 'Russia's War-fighting in Syria' – presented at the *Defence and Security Doctoral Symposium*, Cranfield University (GBR), 09 November 2021.
- 'Russia's Military Preferences and Nuclear Use: Is There an 'Escalate to De-escalate Doctrine'?' – presented at the 2nd *Early Career Nuclear Strategists Workshop*, NATO Defence College, 30 June - 02 July 2020.
- 'Analysis of the state of play of multi-level and multi-factor governance in the Adriatic-Ionian area' – presented at the seminar *The Role Played by Multi-level and Multi-factor Governance in the EU Policies*, organised by the Conference for Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPRM) and the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion, University of Molise (ITA), 04-05 November 2019.

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- 'Sovereignty and (non-)intervention: nature and implications of the normative clash between NATO and Russia' – presented at the annual conference of the *Transatlantic Studies Associations* (TSA), University of Lancaster (GBR), 08-10 July 2019.
- 'NATO-Russia relations through the prism of strategic culture' – presented at the annual conference of the *European International Studies Association* (EISA), Prague University of Economics (CZE), 12-15 September 2018.
- 'NATO-Russia relations through the prism of strategic culture' – presented at the international conference *Russia and China in the Global World*, University of Bologna (ITA), 14-15 December 2017.

### Roundtables and forums

- *Disentangling the Challenges of the War in Ukraine: Identity, Norms, and Security* – organised by Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe and the Department of Political and Social Sciences of the University of Bologna, 11 November 2024 (invited speaker).
- *Security Challenges in Europe* – organised by the American University in Bulgaria, Blagoevgrad, 07 November 2024 (invited speaker).
- 'L'etnocentrismo strategico e la sfida russa' – within the forum *Hard Times: le nuove guerre e la difesa europea*, hosted by the Italian Senate, Rome, 09 July 2024 (invited speaker).
- *The future of strategic competition in Central Asia* – organised by the NATO Defence College, Rome, 29-30 January 2024 (invited participant).
- *Guerra in Ucraina: un dibattito aperto* – organised by the Municipality of Azzate (ITA), 12 March 2023 (invited speaker).
- 'Natura e obiettivi della sfida della Federazione Russa allo status quo europeo' – presented at the roundtable *Changing Why, What, and How? Understanding Revisionism in International Politics*, Sapienza University of Rome (ITA), 22 April 2022.
- 'Le dimensioni convenzionale e nucleare della minaccia russa' – presented at the roundtable *Verso un nuovo Concetto Strategico della NATO: prospettive e interessi dell'Italia*, Unitelma Sapienza (ITA), 21 March 2022.
- 'Capire la guerra in Ucraina: una lezione a più voci' – roundtable held at the University of Bologna (ITA), 10 March 2022.
- *NATO's Future Leaders Conference* – organised by the NATO Defence College, Rome, 17-18 March 2022 (invited participant).
- *Collegial View on the Strategic Concept* – organised by the NATO Defence College and NATO's Policy Planning Unit, Rome, 6-7 December 2021 (invited participant).
- 'What kind of contestant? Ideational drivers and constraints of Russia's international action' – presented at the roundtable *The Contestants of the US-led International Order*, during the annual conference of the Standing Group on International Relations (SGRI), Società Italiana di Scienza Politica (SISP), online, 08 June 2021.
- *Framing Russia's Strategic Nuclear Culture* – organised by the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), online venue, 27 May 2020 (invited participant).
- *Historical Memory Laboratory: What Happened Before Us? The Problems of Mutual Understanding Between the Younger Generations of Russia and the EU* – organised by the Gorchakov Fund and the Council on Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), Moscow, 20-22 November 2019 (invited participant).

### Events organised

- Since 2024: co-organiser of SGRI's flagship events – the International Studies PhD Workshop and Annual Conference – in Parma, Milan, and Palermo (ITA).
- Since 2023: contributing to the organisation of the Workshops series of the MA East European and Eurasian Studies, University of Bologna (ITA) – around 30 events per year.

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- 28-30 September 2026 – “[Strategic Cultures and International Security: Russia, China, and NATO](#)” – international conference jointly organised by the University of Bologna, NATO Allied Command Transformation (ACT), and Istituto Affari Internazionali, Bertinoro (ITA).
- 25-29 August 2025: co-convenor, with Rafael Biermann, of the section on “[Patron Client Relations in World Politics](#)” (four panels) – during the annual conference of the European International Studies Association (EISA), University of Bologna (ITA).
- April-May 2025: co-organiser, with Prof Sonia Lucarelli, of a series of public talks called ‘[Europa sul Sofà / Conversations on the Sofa](#)’, Forlì Campus, University of Bologna (ITA).
- 14-16 June 2024 – ‘[Patron-Client Relations in World Politics](#)’, Dornburg (DEU) – author workshop, to discuss draft contributions to an edited volume on the topic.
- 09 April 2024 – ‘[Global Russia: statecraft and foreign policy beyond the West](#)’, University of Bologna (ITA) – roundtable co-sponsored by the Standing Groups on International Relations and Russia & Post-Soviet Space of the Società Italiana di Scienza Politica (SISP).
- 08-10 November 2023 – “[Space: Exploring NATO’s Final Frontier](#)” – international conference jointly organised by the University of Bologna, NATO Allied Command Transformation (ACT), and Istituto Affari Internazionali, Bertinoro (ITA).

## Publications

### Books

- (2024) [Reinterpreting Russia’s Strategic Culture: The Russian Way of War](#). Contemporary Security Studies Series. Abingdon: Routledge.

### Edited books

- (*under review* with Bristol University Press) (with Rafael Biermann & Ivica Petrikova) *Patron-Client Relations in World Politics*.
- (with S. Lucarelli, A. Marrone, M.V. Massarin, F.N. Moro) (2024). [Space: Exploring NATO’s Final Frontier](#). Norfolk, VA: NATO ACT.

### Book chapters

- (*work in progress*) ‘[Russia-Syria Relations: A Patron-Client Lens on Motives, Resources, and Durability](#)’ in: Biermann, R., Fasola, N., Petrikova, I. (ed.s). *Patron Client Relations in World Politics*.
- (*work in progress*) (with Rafael Biermann) ‘[International Organisations as Patrons: The Case of NATO and Ukraine](#)’ in: Biermann, R., Fasola, N., Petrikova, I. (ed.s). *Patron Client Relations in World Politics*.
- (*forthcoming*) (with Camilla Valle) “[Russia’s Strategic Exploitation of Migration Along NATO’s North-Eastern Flank](#),” in: *NATO, Stability Policing, and Hybrid Threats*, NATO Stability Policing Centre of Excellence.
- (*forthcoming*) (with Camilla Valle) “[Beyond Hardware: The ‘Human Factor’ in Russian Strategic Thinking](#),” in: *Russia’s War Against Ukraine and Future Military Development*, Finnish National Defence Academy.
- (2026) (with Sonia Lucarelli) ‘[The NATO-EU Partnership Between Inertia and Disruption](#),’ in Marrone, A. & Chiriatti, A. (ed.s). *The War in Ukraine, NATO, and European Defence: Italian Perspectives*. London & New York: Routledge.
- (2025) ‘[La Russia in Siria: narrative e strategia alla luce della caduta di Assad](#),’ in: Corradi, E. & Cama, G. (ed.s). *La guerra civile siriana: dall’insurrezione alla rivoluzione (2011-2024)*. Rome: Carocci, pp. 105-116.

- (2024) [‘Guerra e lotta nel pensiero strategico russo: implicazioni per la sicurezza europea,’](#) in: Pagani, A. (ed.) *Hard Times. Le nuove guerre e la difesa europea*. Roma: Donzelli.
- (with Sonia Lucarelli) (2024) [‘La politica estera “pragmatica” del governo Meloni: tra euronazionalismo, atlantismo e attivismo mediterraneo.’](#) In: Pritoni, A. & Moury, C. (ed.s). *Politica in Italia: i fatti dell’anno e le interpretazioni*. Edizione 2024. Bologna: Il Mulino, pp. 154-171.
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## Journal articles

- (work in progress) (with Derek Averre) [“Russia’s Approach to Strategic Stability and Nuclear Multipolarity in Asia-Pacific: China and North Korea.”](#)
- (under review) [“What Adaptation? NATO after the Russian invasion of Ukraine.”](#) *The International Spectator* (special core).
- (2026) (with Sara Berloto) [“From Monopoly to Dual Patronage: The Evolution of Russian and Chinese Influence in Central Asia,”](#) *Asia Maior*, vol. 36, pp. 559-584.
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- (2026) (with Derek Averre) [‘Current Russian perspectives on strategic stability and deterrence through the prism of strategic culture.’](#) *Journal of Strategic Studies*, vol. 49, no. 2, pp. 550-586.
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- (2025) (with Francesco N. Moro & Sonia Lucarelli) [‘Cyber Diplomacy and the Russia-Ukraine War: The EU’s Response.’](#) *The Hague Journal of Diplomacy*, vol. 20, no. 4, pp. 749-764.
- (2025) (with Sara Berloto) [‘Kyrgyzstan: domestic, economic, and foreign policies between Russia and China.’](#) *Asia Maior*, vol. 35, pp. 377-398.
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- (2024) [‘Reforming and Enhancing Partnerships to Strengthen NATO’s Strategic Posture.’](#) *Parameters* (US Army War College), vol. 54, no. 4, pp. 71-86.

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- (with Alyssa J. Wood) (2021) ['Reforming Ukraine's Security Sector'](#). *Survival*, vol. 63, no. 2, pp. 41-54.
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## **Analyses**

- (2026) ['New START e stabilità strategica: eclissi totale del controllo degli armamenti?'](#) *ISPI Commentary* (Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale – ISPI).
- (2025) ['Difesa Ucraina: metamorfosi industriale'](#) *ISPI Global Watch* (Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale – ISPI).
- (2024) ['Understanding Russia's Military Strategy: The Pitfalls of Western Ethnocentrism.'](#) *Australian Outlook* (Australian Institute of International Affairs).
- (2024) ['Retooling partnerships? NATO and Cooperative Security before and after 2022.'](#) *inRESPONSE project blog* (IBEI Barcelona).
- (with Mark Webber) (2022) ['Ukraine war: what are the risks that Russia will turn to its nuclear arsenal?'](#) *The Conversation*.
- (2020) ['Oltre Kavkaz-2020: quale è lo stato delle forze armate della Russia?'](#) *ISPI Analysis* (Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale – ISPI).
- (2019) ['Analysis of the State of Play of Multi-Level and Multi-Factor Governance in the Adriatic-Ionian Region'](#). AI-NURECC project, Ancona: Association of Universities of the Adriatic-Ionian Area (UniAdriion) [funded by the European Commission, DG Regio]
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## **Policy papers**

- (forthcoming) (with Eleonora Tafuro Ambrosetti) ['The Future of EU-Russia Relations: Four Scenarios to 2035.'](#) Policy Paper, Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale (ISPI).
- (with Derek Averre) (2024) ['Russia, the Global South and Global Governance: Russia's Geostrategic Reorientation and its Implications for the G7.'](#) *Think-7 Policy Briefs*. Task Force 1: Peace, Security, and Global Governance.
- (2022) ['How Russia fights'](#). *Policy Brief*, no. 12/2022, Rome: NATO Defense College (NDC).
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## **Conference reports**

- (2024) ['The Global Space Context – The Development of NATO's Posture in Space.'](#) In: Fasola, N., Lucarelli, S., Marrone, A., Moro, F.N. (ed.s). *Space: Exploring NATO's Final Frontier*. Norfolk, VA: NATO ACT, pp. 42-45.
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## **Op-eds, interviews, and media mentions (selected)**

- (2026) '[Nuova corsa nucleare: Russia e USA dopo il New START](#),' *Dispacci dalla Russia*, Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale (ISPI).
- (2025) '["La Russie n'entretient qu'une idée, celle de la capitulation de l'Ukraine" : Moscou poursuit son offensive, alors que les Occidentaux espèrent des négociations de paix](#),' *Franceinfo*.
- (2025) '[Ukraine : pourquoi les Russes tentent de percer en dehors du Donbass](#),' *France 24*.
- (2025) '[La pace sospesa: cosa cambia dopo l'Operazione Ragnatela?](#),' *Dispacci dalla Russia*, Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale (ISPI).
- (2024) '[Zelensky's Kursk incursion could be playing into Putin's hands](#),' *Newsweek*.
- (2024) 'Las lecciones de un escenario de guerra remecido por la incursión ucraniana en Kursk,' *El Mercurio* (Chile) (paper version, 27 August).
- (2024) '[Ukraine: les soldats russes patient cher la stratégie de la "chair à canon" du Kremlin](#),' *France 24*.
- (2024). '[Ukraine Is Closer to Crossing Putin's Biggest Red Line Yet](#),' *Newsweek*.
- (2024) '[Raids en Russie: bis repetita pour les combattants russes anti-Poutine?](#)' *France 24*.
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- (2023) Interviewed as a participant to NATO's Future Leaders Conference, *Vox Collegii* (NATO Defence College), no. 24, pp. 24-25.
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- (2023) '[Avec un plan en 12 points, l'Ukraine réaffirme son ambition de reprendre la Crimée](#),' *France 24*.
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- (with Andrea Gilli) (2022) 'Sei mesi di guerra senza vincitore.' *Il Sole 24 Ore* [year 158, no. 233, p. 11] (also online [here](#)).
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- (2022) '[NATO's shifting approach to strategic stability, defense, and deterrence](#),' *Sea Control podcast*, no. 379, Center for International Maritime Security (CIMSEC).
- (2022) 'Kiev è in difficoltà, lo dicono (anche) i siluramenti di Zelensky.' *Corriere del Ticino* [year 131, no. xx, p. 13] (also online [here](#)).
- (2022) '[Guerre en Ukraine : Russie cherche soldats désespérément](#),' *France 24*.
- (with Andrea Gilli) (2022) 'Avanzata bloccata e contrattacco di Kiev: ora guerra di logoramento in arrivo.' *Il Sole 24 Ore* [year 158, no. 155, p. 12] (also online [here](#)).
- (with Andrea Gilli) (2022) 'Il nodo della reazione di Mosca se l'operazione ucraina fallisce.' *Il Sole 24 Ore* [year 158, no. 130, p. 5] (also online [here](#)).
- (2002) '[La destruction d'un pont flottant, symbole des difficultés russes dans le Donbass](#),' *France 24*.
- (with Andrea Gilli) (2022) 'Il Cremlino riduce l'offensiva per aumentare le chance di vittoria.' *Il Sole 24 Ore* [year 158, no. 115, p. 7] (also online [here](#)).
- (2022) 'L'esercito russo fatica più del previsto: "Potenza di fuoco, ma diverse carenze".' *Corriere del Ticino* [year 131, no. 91, p. 5] (also online [here](#)).
- (2022) 'Oltre "la nebbia della guerra".' *La Prealpina* [year 134, no. 103, p. 2].
- (with Andrea Gilli) (2022) 'Il nucleare russo: pistola puntata contro l'Occidente.' *Il Sole 24 Ore* [year 158, no. 102, p. 9] (also online [here](#)).
- (2022) '[How strong is the Ukrainian military?](#)' *British Forces Broadcasting Service* (BFBS).
- (2022) '[Moldova, then Georgia, now Ukraine: How Russia built 'bridgeheads into post-Soviet space](#),' *France 24*.
- (2022) '[Ucrânia. Vem aí uma guerra ou é só "histeria"?](#)' *Observador*.
- (2022) '[How Putin's obsession with NATO has led to the brink of war in Ukraine](#),' *Yahoo.news*.

## *Dr Nicolò Fasola*

- (2022) '[L'armée ukrainienne, un poids plume face au rouleau compresseur russe?](#)' *France 24*.
- (2021) '[Il regime di controllo degli armamenti e le relazioni tra la Russia e la NATO.](#)' Centro Studi Geopolitica.info.

### **Academic Awards**

#### **'TOP TEN Most Promising Researchers' in the Moral Sciences**

Academy of Sciences, Bologna  
MAR2025

#### **PhD thesis awarded with no corrections**

University of Birmingham  
DEC2022

#### **MA thesis recommended for publication** by the International Graduation Board

University of Bologna, Saint Petersburg State University, Vytautas Magnus University at Kaunas, Corvinus University in Budapest  
SEP2017

### **Relevant training**

#### **Research methodology**

- 2018-2019, University of Birmingham (GBR): (1) Philosophy of Social Science Research, (2) Research Design, Problems, and Ethics, (3) Foundations in Qualitative Research, (4) Fundamentals in Quantitative Research Methods.
- 2015-2016, University of Bologna (ITA): Research Methods and Skills.

#### **Russian language**

- 2020-2021, NATO SHAPE Language Center (BEL) - level B1/B2 (conversation)
- 2019, Saint Petersburg State University (RUS) - level B1
- 2019, University of Birmingham (GBR) - level A2/B1 (Russian for social scientists)
- 2016, Vytautas Magnus University at Kaunas (LTU) - level A2
- 2015-2016, University of Bologna (ITA) - level A1/A2

#### **Professional certificate - National and International Ceremonial**

Spring 2015

Società Umanitaria and United Nations Association Italy (SIOI) (ITA)

#### **Winter School - Disarmament and Armament Proliferation Control**

Fall 2014

University of Milan (ITA)

### **Other information**

#### **Languages**

- *Italian*: mother tongue.
- *English*: fluent.
- *Russian*: intermediate.
- *French, German*: elementary.