

Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum

Simona Maria Pagano

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Simona Maria Pagano is a PhD candidate in *Arts, History, Society* (supervisor: Prof. Francesco Spampinato) at the Department of the Arts, University of Bologna. Her research focuses on eco-futurisms: ecological imaginaries between utopia and dystopia that, drawing on non-Western perspectives and alternative cosmologies, speculate on possible futures against the backdrop of the Capitalocene, exploring how new media allow the prototyping of new temporal and spatial dimensions. She recently completed a research period as visiting researcher at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, where she organized with Julia Ramírez Blanco the international seminar *Making Futures Flash // Hacer Refulgir el Futuro* on digital counter-narratives between speculative and decolonial perspectives. She collaborates with UNAVeX and AVEC. She holds a Master's Degree in Arts, Museology and Curatorship with a thesis on Sámi artistic responses to climate justice (University of Helsinki).

Education

November 2024 – ongoing: PhD candidate in *Arts, History, Society*, Department of the Arts, Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna

October 2021 – March 2023: Master's Degree in Visual Arts, Curriculum in *Arts, Museology and Curatorship*, Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna (110/110 cum laude)

Thesis: "Art, Sovereignty and Climate Justice: The Indigenous Responses by Sámi Artists" — Supervisors: Prof. Francesco Spampinato, Prof. Pirjo Kristiina Virtanen

October 2017 – February 2021: Bachelor's Degree in *Archaeology, Art History and Cultural Heritage*, University of Naples Federico II (110/110 cum laude)

Thesis: "L'arte nel sociale in Campania: gli anni Settanta" — Supervisor: Prof. Sandro Morachioli

Conferences

September 2026: Speaker at Congreso Internacional Atlas/AV "On Your Screen: Art History and the Museum in the Face of the Audiovisual Challenge", Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid

Paper: "Temporal Glitching: Decolonial Chronopolitics in the Moving Image" (Panel I — Audiovisual e historiografía), 18-19 September 2026

May 2026: Speaker at CIPAMUR – Congreso Internacional Patrimonio, Cuidados y Personas en un mundo resiliente, Universidad Complutense de Madrid

Paper: "Counter-Mythologies and Living Archives: Reactivating Indigenous Cultural Heritage for Speculative Futures", 27-29 May 2026

May 2026: Speaker at the Graduate Student Workshop AVEC "Who's Out There? Terraformation, Planetarity, and Speculative Dimensions of Outer Space", University of Bologna, Complesso Monumentale di Santa Cristina

Lecture: "Send Them to Outer Space: Genealogie visive dell'esplorazione spaziale", 12 May 2026

May 2026: Speaker at the JUST! Symposium on Spatial Justice, Iuav University of Venice

Paper: "Calore come da/mage. Il regime termico delle immagini", with Beatrice Sartori, 4-6 May 2026

April 2026: Speaker at the Association for Art History (AAH) Annual Conference, University of Cambridge

Paper: "Fire and Ashes. Artistic Pyrogeographies of Campania's Landscape", 8-10 April 2026

Research and academic activities

January – July 2026: Visiting Researcher at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM), SU+MA research group, under the supervision of Prof. Julia Ramírez Blanco, 15 January – 15 July 2026

June 2026: Organizer of the International Seminar “Making Futures Flash // Hacer Refulgir el Futuro. Artes, medios y tecnologías de las digitopías a las contranarrativas” with Julia Ramírez Blanco, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Facultad de Geografía e Historia, 17 June 2026

June 2026: Faculty member at the Summer School “Climate Change: Indigenous Perspectives and Artistic Utopias”, directed by Prof. Francesco Spampinato, University of Bologna, 8-12 June 2026

Lecture: “Indigenous Eco-Futurisms: Worlds Already Under Construction” (9 June)

March 2026: Moderator of UNAVEX – Una Europa Virtual Exchanges for Sustainability

February 2026: Tutor at “The New Many Classroom. Nucleo di ricerca sul multiplo d'artista”, Multipli section of Arte Fiera, Bologna, 6-8 February 2026

November 2025: Moderator of UNAVEX – Una Europa Virtual Exchanges for Sustainability

June 2025: Tutor and faculty member at the Summer School “Climate Change: Artistic Interventions and Alternative Futures”, directed by Prof. Francesco Spampinato, DAMSLab, Bologna, 9-13 June 2025

Lecture: “It's Giving Future: Solarpunk Across Screens and Soil” (10 June)

February – April 2025: Moderator of UNAVEX – Una Europa Virtual Exchanges for Sustainability

June 2024: Faculty member at the Summer School “Climate Change: Cultural Practices and Socio-Economic Outcomes”, directed by Prof. Francesco Spampinato, DAMSLab, Bologna, 3-7 June 2024

Lecture: “Artistic Tactics for Climate Justice in Southern Italy” (6 June)

September – October 2023: Research fellowship for thesis writing at the Faculty of Arts – Indigenous Studies, University of Helsinki

Archival research on Sámi contemporary art; interviews with artists Joar Nango and Matti Aikio; course *Indigenous Population, Epistemic and Linguistic Diversity*; Indigenous Arts Reading Circle

2022 – ongoing: Member of AVEC (Art, Visuality and Electronic Culture), Department of the Arts, University of Bologna, directed by Prof. Francesco Spampinato

Co-organizer of the editions of the AVEC Graduate Student Workshop:

AVEC #9 – “Who's Out There?”, Bologna, 12 May 2026 (co-organizer and speaker)

AVEC #8 – “Whose Technology? Whose Future? Cosmotronics Beyond Techno-Orientalism”, DAMSLab Theatre, Bologna, 16 December 2025 (co-organizer)

AVEC #7 – “Who Spilled Water on My PC?! Short-circuiting Time and Hacking Reality”, Aula Magna di Santa Cristina, Bologna, 28 May 2025 (co-organizer)

AVEC #6 – “Is the Future Made of Data or Dirt? Imagining Symbiotic Futures Between Media and Non-human Entities”, DAMSLab, Bologna, 13 December 2024 (co-organizer)

AVEC #5 – “Why Starting from Scratch? Appropriation Aesthetics in the Internet Era”, Complesso di Santa Cristina, Bologna, 20 May 2024 (co-organizer)

AVEC #4 – “Is That MagicAI? Algorithmic Spells and Machine Hallucinations”, Complesso di Santa Cristina, Bologna, 15 December 2023 (co-organizer)

AVEC #3 – “And Where is the Body? Browsing through the Integrated Circuit”, Complesso di Santa Cristina, Bologna, 9 May 2023 (co-organizer)

AVEC #2 – “How to Survive in the Critical Zone? Navigating Crisis from Activism to Art”, Complesso di Santa Cristina, Bologna, 16 December 2022 (co-organizer and speaker)

Work and curatorial experience

June 2025: Curator of “Iperorto”, a multidisciplinary and sociocultural art project by Collettivo CABBA at the Bolognina community gardens (Zona Ortiva Erbosa), within Open Tour, Bologna

April 2025: Curatorial collaboration (with Francesco Spampinato) for “Facciamo Presente. Istruzioni d'artista per cambiare il futuro”, exhibition of illustrations by Irene Rinaldi, DAMSLab, Bologna, within Boom! Crescere nei libri, 2-18 April 2025

November – December 2024: Production Assistant at Fondazione Donnaregina per le Arti Contemporanee – Museo Madre, Naples

Curatorial research and assistance for “Gli anni. Episodi di storia dell'arte a Napoli dagli anni Sessanta a oggi”; condition reports; loan agreements; exhibition panels; artwork handling and transport; communication support

June 2024: Curator at Sof:Art – OpenTour 2024, Bologna, with Accademia di Belle Arti

Curator of the exhibition *Interferenze*; artist liaison; installation; curatorial texts

May – July 2023: Internship at Fondazione Donnaregina per le Arti Contemporanee – Museo Madre, Naples

Assistance for the exhibitions “Jimmie Durham: L'umanità non è un progetto completato” and “Kazuko Miyamoto”; condition reports; loan agreements; exhibition panels

January – March 2020: Internship at Casa Morra – Archivio d'Arte Contemporanea, Naples

Digital scanning and research on the *The Living Theatre* archive

Publications

Published

Pagano, Simona Maria. “Estetica ecologica: dall'attivismo all'ecofuturismo.” In *AVEC Seamless: Arte, visualità e cultura elettronica in epoca post-pandemica*, ed. Francesco Spampinato. NERO Editions, 2025.

Pagano, Simona Maria. “Decolonizing Environmentalism in Contemporary Art: Sámi Perspectives at the Venice Biennale.” *L'Uomo Nero: Materiali per una storia delle arti della modernità*, n. 22 (2026), ed. Cristina Baldacci and Silvia Bignami. Cactus – Centro Arte Contemporanea / Milano University Press.

Forthcoming

Pagano, Simona Maria. “To Speculate is to Survive: Contemporary Art during the Polycrisis.” In *Atti del FantaElx – Congreso Internacional de Literatura, Arte y Cultura Fantástica de Elche*. Peter Lang, forthcoming (November 2026).

Pagano, Simona Maria. “Territories of the Future: Indigenous Eco-Futurisms Between Rural and Digital.” *REGAC: Revista de Estudios Globales y Arte Contemporáneo*, Universitat de Barcelona, forthcoming (December 2026 / January 2027).

Pagano, Simona Maria. “Rethinking Sustainability Through Collaborative Cultural Practices: Relational Ecology and Thinking in Artistic and Cultural Spaces.” In *Una Europa Cultural Heritage Series* (Una Europa workshop proceedings). Alma Diamond Books, forthcoming.

Pagano, Simona Maria. “Counter-Mythologies and Living Archives: Reactivating Indigenous Cultural Heritage for Speculative Futures.” In *Proceedings of the Congreso Internacional Patrimonio, Cuidados y Personas en un mundo resiliente (CIPAMUR)*. Universidad Complutense de Madrid, forthcoming.

Pagano, Simona Maria, and Beatrice Sartori. “Calore come da/mage: Il regime termico delle immagini.” In *Proceedings of the JUST! Symposium on Spatial Justice*. Iuav University of Venice, forthcoming.

Reviews and magazine contributions

Pagano, Simona Maria. “Il cavallo gravido di Patricia Domínguez.” *Antinomie*, 15 December 2025. Review of the exhibition *Il cavallo bianco, gravido*, Fondazione Made in Cloister, Naples.

Masterclasses and training

April – July 2024: MetaPan: Arte, Musei, Digitale – Masterclass Series, Palazzo delle Arti Napoli – MEET | Centro di Cultura Digitale, curated by Maria Grazia Mattei and Valentino Catricalà, within Napoli Contemporanea, curated by Vincenzo Trione