DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN AND NORTH AFRICAN STUDIES
The Department of Asian and North African Studies (DSAAM: Dipartimento di Studi sull’Asia e sull’Africa Mediterranea) was established on 1st January 2011 following the merger of the Departments of East Asian Studies (DSAO: Dipartimento di Studi sull’Asia Orientale) and Eurasian Studies (DSE: Dipartimento di Studi Eurasiatici) of the Ca’ Foscari University Venice.
Academic activities are carried out in two separate locations: Palazzo Vendramin (East Asian Studies and Anthropology) and Ca’ Cappello (Near and Middle East, the Caucasus and the Indian Subcontinent).
Head of Department: Tiziana Lippiello.

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BACKGROUND: EVOLUTION OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Asian and North African Studies (DSAAM) is based on a long standing tradition of consolidated academic programmes on Asia which, prior to 2011, were held in the Departments of East Asian (DSAO) and Eurasian Studies (DSE). Venice’s deep-rooted and long-standing ties with the Orient were further confirmed in 1869 with the founding of the School for Advanced Studies on Trade (Scuola Superiore di Commercio) which was the precursor to Venice’s Ca’ Foscari University. Among the languages taught in 1869 were Arabic and Turkish. Japanese was added in 1873 – an all time first in Italy. Interest in oriental languages and cultures was further enhanced in the 1960s with the setting up of more permanent teaching centres which carried out both academic programmes and research at Ca’ Foscari. These included advanced studies in Japanese and Chinese since the years 1965-1966. Subsequently, Hebrew, Iranian, Hindi and Arabic were added between 1966 and 1971. The reorganisation of the higher education system in the 1980s eventually led to the setting up of two separate departments.

Professors in the current Department of Asian and North African Studies cover different geographical areas: East Asia, China, Japan, and more recently, Korea (former DSAO). Those from the former DSE cover the wider, more complex geographical, historical and cultural area which stretches from Northern and Mediterranean Africa, the Balkans, Asia Minor, the Near and Middle East and extends as far as Central Asia (mainly the former USSR) and the Indian Subcontinent. Collaboration with the Faculty of Letter’s anthropological studies enhanced the DSAAM from the early stages.
RESEARCH
The Department’s expertise and interests cover a vast geographical area that extends from Africa to Japan. These are particularly evident in both the specific and transversal research projects that concern four core areas:
1. Languages, philology and literature;
2. Religion and philosophy, cultural anthropology;
3. Archaeology and conservation of cultural heritage, the figurative and performing arts;
4. History, institutions, economics, society, politics and international relations.
Detailed information concerning individual research projects and publications can be found on the Professors’ individual homepages in the Ca’ Foscari web site. A brief summary of DSAAM research activities is illustrated in the following pages.
1. LANGUAGES, PHILOLOGY AND LITERATURE

The study of Asian languages in Venice dates back to the Renaissance with the setting up of the School for interpreters and mediators (known as Dragomanni, from the Arabic tarjuman, i.e. translator). The Serenissima employed their skills in contexts of commercial diplomacy and foreign trade in areas which included the Ottoman Empire, Persia’s Safavid Empire, Mughal India and, of course, China. Although currently somewhat broader, these same areas are the focal point of DSAAM’s research, which the linguistic knowledge and expertise of the various professors and lecturers have made possible. The languages range from Arabic to Chinese, Persian to Hindi, Turkish to Tibetan, Hebrew to Japanese, Armenian to Korean, Cantonese to Marathi, Urdu to Yiddish and Sanskrit to Georgian. Each cultural backdrop, from ancient times to the current day, is considered from an extensive chronological viewpoint. Literary, philological and historical-linguistic studies are supported by and integrated with contexts which include a multimedia approach to communication.

The Department carries out research on the history of languages, text analysis and ancient writings. It is also involved in philological research and the editing of manuscripts. The positive outcomes of these activities have led to the publication of important, widely read academic essays and text books for the study and acquisition of classical languages. Scholars of classical and Medieval studies have also produced highly specialised literature, aimed at a more experienced, erudite audience, regarding the literary traditions of Asia and North Africa. These publications include translations with detailed notes as well as critical and analytical texts.
The Department is also well-known for its courses in modern languages, which include the study of grammar, lexis, semantics, pragmatics and dialectology, together with translation related studies. A comparative approach to these subjects has stimulated and enhanced the critical analysis of the role that translation plays in the context of intercultural communication. This aspect is exploited and applied when designing the language programmes and has subsequently led to the publication of various text books and dictionaries. Literary studies apply multidisciplinary methodologies and a cross-regional, cross-border approach. Research concentrates on evolving and re-writing (from an innovation viewpoint) the history of the various text traditions and understanding the interaction between the literary heritage of diverse geographical areas. Literary research has been further enhanced by the meticulous comparison and evaluation of concepts and interpretations put forward by experts from the cultural areas being studied, and with whom individual researchers work in an environment of close collaboration and exchange.
2. RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY, CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

2.1 RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY

Religions and philosophies give us a broader vision of the world and provide us with tools for the advancement of civilization. The geographical macro-area covered by the Department has always been a centre-stage for the development and interaction of the various religions and philosophies. These may be universal, such as Buddhism, Christianity or Islam, linked to a specific cultural area, such as Daoism, Judaism, Jainism, Hinduism, Shinto and Zoroastrianism, or simply ethnic or tribal. As well as lying at the heart of all historical studies, analysing the complex interreligious dynamics is also indispensable when approaching modern and post-modern studies in their entirety.

The Department has also carried out research on philology-critical texts and translations of philosophical and religious texts, including foundational texts such as the Qur’an, produced in various classical and modern languages of Asia and North Africa (Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew, Japanese, Pali, Persian, Sanskrit, Tibetan, Urdu, Turkish). Research also extends into the historical interaction and play between philosophy and religion. Religious studies are approached from a multidisciplinary viewpoint, aimed at embracing the mythical, textual, aesthetical, socio-anthropological and political multi-facetted dimensions of religion itself.
2.2 CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
In the current historical context, where intercultural relations are increasingly more frequent and noticeably more complex, cultural anthropology provides us with the indispensable tools needed for a better understanding of the conflicts and the creativity of multi-ethnic societies in territories undergoing conspicuous change and re-definition (i.e. urbanisation, migration, impoverishment). These are nations where defence, revindication and liberation movements are forged alongside the local economies and the re-interpretation of traditional skills and knowledge. In this framework, the Department’s anthropological research is directed mainly towards analysing the phenomena of delocalisation and disorientation in the community, the territory and the environment as a whole. It also addresses the new cultures which have emerged and are emerging in the various post- and neo-colonial contexts.

Departmental anthropologists are specialists in geographical and cultural areas which comprise Australia, Africa, Italy and the Mediterranean, Lapland and the Arctic. They primarily include: Australian indigenous studies; the anthropology of art and the performing arts; the anthropology of tourism and the landscape; processes of risk perception; Saami ethnography; African languages and cultures; ethno-linguistics; alpine anthropology; folklore; spoken and written language.
3. ARCHAEOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE, THE FIGURATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

3.1 ARCHAEOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE, HISTORY OF ART

The Department is active in specific areas of the Balkans, the Near, Middle and Far East with projects concerning the history of art, archaeology and the conservation and enhancement of archaeological sites. This has been made possible through collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, local Ministries for Culture and international organisations such as UNESCO and ICCROM. These projects are theme-based study programmes regarding, for example, the analysis of human settlements and production in specific areas and periods of time. These multidisciplinary projects apply state-of-the-art, sector specific methodology and benefit from collaboration with other research organisations including NGOs, Foundations and Universities, even at an international level. On location, these projects may include archaeological digs and the conservation and enhancement of the sites being worked on. Such projects are currently underway in Albania, the Western Balkan States, Greece, the Ukraine, Syria, Pakistan and India.

The Department is also at the fore in promoting science and communication. It has been actively involved in several international, theme based, area-specific exhibitions, particularly regarding East Asia (China and Japan) and Egypt.

3.2 THEATRE AND THE PERFORMING ARTS

Given the importance of theatre and the other performing arts in Japanese culture, the Department has focused its research on the forms of traditional Japanese theatre (nō, kyōgen, bunraku, kabuki) including modern and contemporary studies.
3.3. FILM AND VISUAL CULTURE
In the context of modern and contemporary studies, film and visual culture play an important part in advanced research. Screenings, meetings with film directors and conferences which host experts and professionals from the film industry, and especially the Asian film industry, are at the heart of activities which best highlight the close-knit ties between the expansion and the advancement of in-depth, specialist knowledge in this sector. The film industry – particularly in the current phase of expansion – is also a fertile territory for research into economic, cultural, textual and linguistic studies which concern the whole of Asia.

3.4 PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES
This section of the Department of Asian and North African Studies is responsible for recording images of the related areas, allowing for comparison of the individual nations with each other and with other realities such as the USA and Europe. Core areas of research concentrate on landscape (plants, roads, mountains, water, etc.) and architecture (walls, roofs, doors, windows, etc.) in the belief that these two contexts represent diverse yet complementary, and often integrated, key features, which express the culture of places and peoples. The visual archives comprise collections and provide material for comparison which can trigger new ideas, perspectives, thoughts and interpretations which make it easier to comprehend the various “universes” in question.
4. HISTORY, INSTITUTIONS, ECONOMICS, SOCIETY, POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The historical, political, economic, social and cultural studies of the Middle East, North Africa, and East Asia within the Department of Asian and North African Studies are based on and deeply rooted in the knowledge of the languages spoken in these areas. Research is characterised by a strong interdisciplinary approach. The core methodology applied is based on the integration of linguistic, cultural, disciplinary and technical knowledge, while research is separated into cultural areas and diverse chronological domains.

Historical research is geared towards the Near and Middle East and concentrates on the relationship between Islam and Europe. This is also seen as a starting point towards better understanding of the current-day dynamics of nations in, and external to, the Mediterranean area. Research is currently being conducted into death rites and the influences these had on Islam, ancient Turkey and Christianity. It also looks into the proliferation of ideas and expressions concerning the religiosity, cults, festivities and calendars of the Iranian, Hebraic, Islamic and Christian worlds. There are also studies on Syria’s social history during the Ottoman Empire, the economic history of relations between Venice and the Ottoman Empire in the modern age and on the contemporary Israeli society.

With regard to East Asia, areas of interest concern the political, educational and social developments in the twentieth century. They include the evolution of Chinese political thought in relation to the traditions and acceptance of western political concepts and ideologies; the history of modern information media and their impact on Chinese politics and society; public funding in Japan between the two world wars.
The study of judicial systems and institutions is channelled into three main areas of research, the first of which comprises comparative law and legal history, which concentrate on the diachronic analysis of Asian territorial judicial systems and their modernisation. These systems are also studied from a personal and religious viewpoint, with particular reference to Islam. The second involves political and constitutional studies aimed at analysing contemporary institutions in Asia, and the politico-institutional evolution of the Near East and North Africa from the nineteenth century to the current day. The third investigates economic and trade institutions and international trade laws.

Socio-political issues cover labour and welfare reforms, and the conditions of women with particular reference to contemporary China. Economics looks at the evolution of business management in China and Japan as well as the evolution of financial systems, the media and advertising and political language and participation. International relations focus mainly on the rise of soft power in Asia and the way these countries adhere to international multilateral organisations. It also includes the cultural history of the Balkan and Anatolian peninsulas, the theory of the diasporas of the Middle East and North Africa and the historical reconstruction of bilateral relations between China and Italy in the 1900s.
DEGREE PROGRAMMES
Recent interest in Asian and African countries has grown exponentially, also thanks to the remarkable economic development in certain areas. In tune with current, rapid geopolitical and socio-cultural changes the Department of Asian and North African Studies (DSAAM) has updated its courses to bridge the gap between academic studies and the requirements of current and future markets.

The Department offers a range of complete programmes which allow students to acquire and perfect their knowledge of oriental languages and to integrate and enhance them with cultural, religious, social and historical studies. The skills and knowledge acquired in the three year undergraduate (BA) courses may be consolidated and perfected with a variety of two year post-graduated (MA) degree courses.

Whether attending a BA or an MA degree course, students are given the opportunity to spend part of their university careers abroad, in one of the countries whose language they are studying. This applies to Universities and Institutions of Higher Education with whom the Ca’ Foscari University Venice has a formal exchange agreement.

The wide range and depth of the programmes distinguish the Department at a national level. This is also confirmed by the number of students from all over Italy who chose to enrol in the courses of the Department.
Three year (BA) undergraduate degree in Languages, Cultures and Societies of Asia and North Africa (LiCSaaM)

This degree course aims to provide students with a solid grounding in the languages and cultures of Asian and North African countries. In addition to the main oriental language to be studied (from beginner to intermediate level) the course also incorporates disciplines from the humanities. These include the textual, philological approach to source material, historical evolution, philosophical and religious thought, literary and artistic expression, all of which have contributed to forging and shaping the civilizations being studied. Students must learn a second oriental language.

The student is presented with a complete picture which holds together the classical origins of their studies and the diachronic and synchronic awareness of phenomena linked to the modern and contemporary ages.

There are two curricula: East Asia; the Near/Middle East and the Indian Subcontinent. Each of these is influenced by the languages chosen in the degree programme which include: Chinese, Japanese and Korean; Arabic, Armenian, Hebrew, Georgian, Hindi, Persian and Turkish. The following are studied for one or two years only: Sanskrit, Tibetan, Urdu, Marathi, Yiddish, Cantonese and Modern Greek.

MA degree in the Languages and Civilizations of Asia and North Africa (LICAAM)

This MA degree course aims to perfect the student’s linguistic competence and cultural knowledge by using texts in the original languages, while guaranteeing a scientific approach to all aspects of study from philology to history, from editing to law. The course prevalently develops and strengthens humanistic studies whether classical (literature, philology, the figurative and performing arts, philosophy and religious traditions) or modern (literature, art, film, gender and identity issues, contemporary thought). Two curricula are available, one for East Asia, the other for the Near and Middle East and the Indian Subcontinent. The languages offered include Chinese, Japanese and Korean for the former, and Arabic, Armenian, Hebrew, Georgian, Hindi, Persian and Turkish for the latter.
**MA degree in the Languages and Economic and Legal Institutions of Asia and North Africa (LISAAM, in cooperation with the Department of Economics and the Department of Management)**

In this interdisciplinary course the subject areas are highly innovative and functional with regard to the local entrepreneurial context. It fully responds to the Department’s aim to supply professionals for positions of international strategic importance. The course aims to form experts on Asia and North Africa whose linguistic and socio-cultural skills (essential for the acquisition of the understanding of the issues at play and the tools needed to operate in the area) merge with the theoretical and specific applicative instruments of economics, law, political sciences and the social sector. The course covers the following geo-cultural and linguistic areas: Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Arabic, Persian and Turkish.

**MA degree in Interpreting and Translation for publishing and related areas (ITES)**

This MA degree course aims to produce highly skilled professionals with linguistic and metalinguistic abilities in the chosen language (Chinese) together with an in-depth knowledge of translation theories and techniques for publishing and its related areas. Students will also learn how to use multimedia tools for interpreting and computer assisted translation. The underlying objectives aim to encourage students to analyse language with a view to refining their communicative and interpretational skills and, at the same time, to allow for a deeper grasp of the academic and professional, intercultural and inter-linguistic contexts in which they will operate.
**MA degree in Cultural Anthropology, Ethnology and Anthropological Linguistics (ACEL)**

The aim of this course is to develop analytical tools, tailored to deal with current on-going, rapid cultural transformations and developments (migration, postcolonial and neo-colonial contexts and the resulting new cultural mix) through the acquisition of ethnographic and ethno-linguistic skills. It also calls for a profound, mature evaluation of the role of professional anthropologists, their interventions and the resulting consequences.

Students will be required to produce a research thesis. The geographic area they wish to concentrate on may be chosen from any part of the world. Students with a BA degree in Languages, Cultures and Societies of Asia and North Africa (LICSAAM) may perfect their linguistic skills with additional exams in the following languages: Arabic, Armenian, Chinese, Hebrew, Georgian, Japanese, Hindi, Persian and Turkish.

**MA degree in Religious Studies (interuniversity programme in collaboration with the University of Padua)**

This degree course arises from the need for specialists in the various religious traditions who also have in-depth knowledge of the related literature, languages, historical backgrounds and cultures in which these traditions emerged, and currently exist. After a standard first year, the course separates into two different areas of study: one concentrates on the religious traditions of the Mediterranean area and the Near East, while the other concerns the religions of India and East Asia. Particular attention is paid to the philological and linguistic skills necessary to read the original texts which, in turn, allow for the critical study of source literature and autonomy in understanding the religious contexts.
Professional Master’s degree (1st level) in Inter-Mediterranean Mediation: Investments and Integration (MIM)
This degree course is offered by the Ca’ Foscari University Venice (coordinator) in collaboration with the Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona (Spain), the Université Paul Valery de Montpellier (France) and the Université Moulay Ismail de Meknes (Morocco).
The curriculum aims to produce highly specialised professionals in four different areas: mediators with the necessary skills to support European economic and production sectors with regard to investments and trade in the Mediterranean area; mediators who will train others who operate in institutions dealing with the flux of migrants from the Near Asian regions and the Maghreb; mediators specialised in cooperation in the Mediterranean area; experts in planning and setting up intercultural projects in the Mediterranean area. This is a multi-campus, interdisciplinary, multilingual programme which requires European students and professors to relocate during the three different term periods towards host universities in Barcelona, Venice and Montpellier. The qualifications acquired are as follows: Master’s degree from the Universities of Venice and Barcelona; University diploma from the University of Montpellier, or a second level master’s degree if the candidate already has a specialist degree qualification.

Professional Master’s degree (1st level) in Mediation for Enterprises in India and/or the Gulf (IGAMI)
This Master’s degree aims to create professionals who are able to operate as mediators with private or public institutions whose operations (whether established or still to be planned) are based in India and the states of the Gulf. This applies mainly to high value added and/or hi-tech sectors of the Made in Italy brand such as the green economy, nanotechnologies and software development. Trained by experts active in the field, these professional figures will be able to operate in the specific and complex cultural contexts of the Indian and Arab world as mediators in economics and trade negotiations. Their responsibilities will also include managing entrepreneurial relations, identifying and proposing opportunities for start-up’s and joint-ventures.
**Ph.D. Programme in Asian and North African Languages and Civilizations**

This doctorate focuses on the languages of the Near East, North Africa, Southern Asia and the Far East which are taught at the Ca’ Foscari University Venice, namely: Arabic, Armenian, Chinese, Hebrew, Georgian, Japanese, Hindi, Persian, Sanskrit, Tibetan, Turkish, Urdu and Yiddish.

The geographical reference area of these languages comprises a vast number of countries from Morocco to India, from the Caucasus and the former Soviet States of Central Asia to Sri Lanka; from China to Japan and Korea. These are all nations with ancient civilizations which are currently having to deal with rapid political, social and economic changes and development.

For this reason, the research doctorate hinges on both classical and contemporary studies where knowledge of the language is paramount.

These studies guarantee a rigorously philological and literary approach, or a purely instrumental approach in situations where interaction with the arts, sciences and contemporary disciplines is concerned. The Ph.D. programme has a multidisciplinary approach and corresponds to and ties in with DSAAM’s numerous and diverse research projects. At a national level, it ranks Ca’ Foscari as a Centre for Excellence in Asian and North African studies and makes it a competitive player in the European context. This achievement has enhanced and intensified collaboration with the European network of research schools (such as EastAsiaNet) and with universities in Asian and North African territories. A European Doctorate in Asian Studies has been designed with this exact collaboration in mind. Scholars and Ph.D. students will be linked to a Network of European Universities including Paris, Lyon, Barcelona, Geneva, Vienna, Heidelberg, and Prague. Current Network scholars have been holding seminars and conferences at the various locations for quite some time, co-supporting doctorate students, thanks to Erasmus exchange agreements.
INFORMATION
For further information concerning undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, please visit the University website: http://www.unive.it or, more specifically, the Department homepage: www.unive.it/dsaam.
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Literature and course specific materials are housed in three main buildings: Palazzo Vendramin (East Asia), Ca’ Cappello (Near and Middle East, the Caucasus and the Indian Subcontinent) and Palazzo Marcorà-Malcanton (Anthropological Studies).

The library at Ca’ Cappello houses around 68,000 monographic volumes and 850 journals, 270 of which are current issues on Eurasian studies. Palazzo Vendramin has 37,000 volumes and 186 current publications on East Asia. Palazzo Marcorà-Malcanton is the site of the Humanities Library (BAUM) which currently houses volumes from the former departmental libraries. It has a collection of over 300,000 volumes and 1,200 current journals and also houses the volumes on anthropological studies.
TEACHING STAFF

Magda **ABBIATI**  
Chinese Language and Linguistics:  
Chinese grammar, lexicon, semantics and pragmatics; social change and linguistic change in contemporary China; communicative strategies in written and spoken Chinese; Chinese symbolic language; language, communication, and cultural background; teaching Chinese as a second language.

Attilio **ANDREINI**  
Chinese Language and Literature.

Stefano **BEGGIORA**  
History of India and Contemporary India:  
Anthropology and society of the Indian Subcontinent; castes and tribes; Adivasis traditions of the Northeastern Frontier of India and Orissa; India’s economic history (Constitution, welfare and development policy, geopolitics).

Giampiero **BELLINGERI**  
Turkish Language and Literature:  
(Ottoman Turkish, Azerbaijani, Turkmenian, Tchaghatay) Literary translation from late Ottoman, modern and contemporary Turkish; Venetian sources on the cultural traditions of the Ottoman, Persian empires, and Central Asia (15th-18th centuries).

Paolo **BIAGI**  
Prehistory and Protohistory:  
Neolithisation; Radiocarbon chronology; Indus Valley and Arabian Sea archaeology; shell middens; Balkan and Black Sea prehistory; lithic technology; hunter-gatherers; highland zone exploitation (Alps and Pindus Mountains). www.harappa.com/rohri, www.sindh.ws/ancient

Luisa **BIENATI**  
Modern and Contemporary Japanese Literature:  
Writers and critical debates of the Twenties in Japan. Trauma narratives: atomic bomb literature (genbaku bungaku); imaginings and human perspective-thinking about the Japanese disaster, post-Fukushima.
Alfredo CADONNA
History of Chinese Philosophy and Religions; Classical Chinese: Daoist studies, translation of Chinese daoist poetry, Dunhuang studies.

Paolo CALVETTI
Japanese Linguistics:
History of Japanese language; modernization of Japanese language; Japanese lexicography; language contact in Japan.

Piero CAPELLI
Hebrew Language and Literature:
History of texts and ideas in late ancient and medieval Judaism, especially in the Greek pseudepigrapha; Hebrew and Aramaic rabbinical literature; medieval Jewish-Christian polemics.

Renzo CAVALIERI
Law of East Asia:
Chinese civil and commercial law; international business law; Chinese legal history.

Marco Ceresa
Chinese Literature, Chinese Cultural Studies, Chinese Material Culture:
Tang dynasty poetry; cultural production in modern and contemporary China; Chinese food culture; Chinese tea culture.

Vera COSTANTINI
Turkish Language and Economic History:
Social and economic history of Turkey and of the Ottoman empire; history of the Republic of Venice; early-modern history of Ottoman Albania; Italian and Turkish diplomatic relations.

Simone CRISTOFORETTI
History of Irano-Islamic Civilization:

Thomas DAHNHARDT
Religious Studies; Modern Languages and Literatures of the Indian Subcontinent:
Sufism and Islam in the Indian Subcontinent; Hindu-Muslim inter-relationship; Hindi and Urdu literature of the early modern and pre-modern period; cross-cultural studies in Southern Asia.

Andrea DE BENEDITTIS
Korean History.
Laura DE GIORGI
History of East Asia and South East Asia:
Modern and contemporary Chinese urban history; history of media and communication in China; Italy-China relations in the 20th century.

Barbara DE POLI
Contemporary History of Islamic Countries:
Islam, governance and institutions in North Africa and Middle East (19th-21th centuries); secularism and laïcité in Islamic environment; contemporary Muslim societies (identities, minorities, education).

Vincenza D’URSO
Korean Language and Literature:
History of modern and contemporary Korean poetry; literary translation; Korean women’s poetry; history of Korean language; evolution of Korean writing systems; Korean language teaching.

Aldo FERRARI
Armenian Language and Literature; History of the Caucasus:
Sites of Armenian memory in Turkey, Iran and Azerbaijan; Russo-Caucasian cultural relations; Russian orientalism.

Riccardo FRACASSO
Early Chinese Civilization and Classical Chinese Literature:
Oracle bone studies; palaeography and philology; historical and literary studies; mythology and religion.

Franco GATTI
Language and Literature of China and Southeast Asia:
Communication strategies: traditional models for global communication. Terminography for science (nanotechnologies) and law (Chinese-Italian-English); Tang (618-907) Taoist literature.

Antonella GHERSETTI
Arabic Language and Literature:
adab/literature; Abbasid and Mamluk prose literature; themes and stereotypes in pre-modern Arabic literature; the Arabic linguistic tradition; short narratives and anecdotes in pre-modern Arabic literature; anthologies and anthologizing in classical Arabic literature.

Federico Alberto GRESELIN
Chinese Language and Literature.
Matthias KAPPLER
Turkish Linguistics and Literature:
Turkish texts in Greek letters (“Karamanlidika”); linguistic contacts (Turkish-Greek and generally Balkan languages); Ottoman literature of 18th and 19th centuries; Greek Islamic philology (“Greek Aljamiado”); history of Greek-Ottoman grammarianism; languages and literatures in Cyprus.

Fiorenzo LAFIRENZA
Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature:
Literary translation; translation of Chinese microlanguages; didactics of modern Chinese.

Gianluca LIGI
Social Anthropology, History of Anthropology:
Ethnography and history of Lappland (Northern Sweden); Saami culture (Lappland); Scandinavian studies. Risk perception, anthropology of space and landscape; environmental studies. Concepts of space and time. Anthropological theory, narrative and ethnography.

Tiziana LIPPIELLO
Classical Chinese; History of Religions and Philosophy of China:
Confucianism; philosophy and religions in ancient China; Chinese ethics; omnia and prophecies in pre-Tang China.

Paolo MAGAGNIN
Chinese-Italian Translation:
Chinese-Italian literary and technical translation; Chinese-Italian liaison interpreting.

Marcella MARIOTTI
Japanese Language Teaching and Learning:

Daniela MENEGHINI
Persian Language and Literature:
Carolina NEGRI
Japanese Language and Literature:
Pre-modern and modern Japanese literature; Japanese philology; teaching Japanese as a second language; literary translation.

Federica PASSI
Modern Chinese Language and Literature:
Modern and contemporary literature from China and Taiwan; narratology; Chinese-Italian translation; translation studies.

Maria Pia PEDANI
History of the Ottoman Empire, History of the Near East:
Ottoman Empire; Mamluk Egypt; Turkic peoples; East-West relations (peace agreements, symbols, food, knowledge of ‘the Other’).

Stefano PELLO
Persian Language and Literature:
Indo-Persian literary culture; cultural history of the Persianate world; Krishnaite literature in Persian; Indo-Persian philology; Buddhist, Manichean and Christian textual iconographies in pre-Mongol Persian poetry; Persian biographical writings; literary translation from Persian.

Nicoletta PESARO
Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature:

Elena POLLACCHI
Chinese Film History:
Contemporary Chinese cinema (including sound, digital cinema); production and exhibition.

Sabrina RASTELLI
Chinese Archaeology and Art History:
Chinese ceramic history and technology; ancient Chinese art; Han dynasty tomb murals; Chinese tomb architecture and furnishing.

Massimo RAVERI
Japanese Religions and Philosophy:
Ascetic practices in Shugendo tradition; representations of death and the afterlife; new religious tendencies in contemporary Japanese society.
Andrea **REVELANT**  
Modern and Contemporary History of Japan:  
Development of constitutional government and politics; political parties; bureaucracy; public finance.

Antonio **RIGOPoulos**  
Sanskrit and Religions and Philosophies of India:  
Ascetic and devotional traditions in brahmanical Sanskrit sources and in the Marathi cultural area; the guru institute; translation of Sanskrit texts on renunciation and bhakti.

Bonaventura **Ruperti**  
Japanese Language, Literature and Theatre:  
Japanese traditional theatre (nō, kyōgen, ningyōjoruri and kabuki); modern and contemporary theatre; Japanese pre-modern literature; dramaturgy in no theatre and puppet dramas.

Marco **SALATI**  
Islamic Studies; Islamic Law:  
History of Shiism; travel literature; legal practice in Ottoman Syria.

Guido **Samarani**  
History of Modern and Contemporary China:  
History of Republican China; history of the Chinese Communist Party; Republican China’s relations with Asian countries; China-Italy relations in the 20th century.

Glauco **Sanga**  
Anthropological Linguistics, Ethnology, Folklore:  
Jargon, slang, contact languages, marginal languages, origin of language, ethnoscience, anthropology of writing, marginals (vagrants, pedlars, crooks, rogues), alpine anthropology, marginal economies, Italian emigration, folksong, folktale, Italian folklore, Italian dialectology, ancient Italian vulgars.

Gaga **Shurgaia**  
Georgian Language and Literature:  
Kartvelian studies; Caucasology; social, political and cultural history of Caucasus; history of the Christian Church; oriental liturgy and theology; paleography.

Marcella **Simoni**  
Israel and Middle East Studies, History of Asia:  
British Mandate in Palestine; history of peace and protest movements in the Middle East and in Israel; Middle East Cinema; history of Italian Jews.

Giuliano **TAMANI**  
Hebrew Literature:  
Hebrew typography and Jewish culture in 16th-18th century Venice; Jewish intellectuals in 17th century Venice.
Franca TAMISARI
Cultural Anthropology and Australian Indigenous Studies:
Australian Indigenous cosmology and epistemology; ethnographic method; anthropology of art and performance (dance in ritual and crosscultural contexts); anthropology of tourism; bicultural education (integration of Indigenous knowledge into mainstream schooling, Australia).

Aldo TOLLINI
Japanese Classic Language:
Japanese language; Japanese Buddhism; Christianity in Japan; Japanese culture; Zen Buddhism; ancient Japanese writing system.

Cristina TONGHINI
Islamic Archaeology and Art History:
Islamic archaeology and architecture of the Near East; fortifications of the Islamic Near East (www.progetto-shayzar.it); ceramic production of the Islamic Near East and its circulation in the Mediterranean area.

Emanuela TREVISAN SEMI
Modern Hebrew and Jewish Studies:
Contemporary Jewry on the margins; Mizrahi literature in Israel; diaspora studies.

Silvia VESCO
Japanese Art History:
Prints and painting of Edo period, ukiyoe, Japonism; Japanese didactic painting manuals; Japanese art in Italian public and private collections.

Pierantonio ZANOTTI
History of Japanese Literature.

Ida ZILIO-GRANDI
Arabic Language and Literature:
Religious (Islamic) Literature in Arabic; Qur’anic Studies; the developing of Islamic theology during the Middle Ages; Biblical themes in Arabic-Islamic literature.

Riccardo ZIPOLI
Persian Language and Literature; Conceiving and Producing Photography:
Iranian studies: Indian style, obscene poetry, classical rhetoric, comparative translation, Persian landscape.
Photography: truth and fiction, film and photography, fleeting moment, structures and typologies, architecture, landscape (www.riccardozipoli.com).
Venetian churches are often like small museums with paintings, frescoes and statues by great artists. On this occasion, however, we only visited their exteriors in search of “anonymous” compositions: the forms and colours offered by marble, plasterwork and bricks. Such forms and colours create images highlighting the value and function of the materials and showing to what extent they have stood the test of time. In fact the external surfaces reflect complex and at times contradictory states of conservation. The surviving original features may alternate and, in some cases, are combined with encroaching decay or restoration work. We thus have ever-changing contexts, situations that can vary due to human or natural forces. When you photograph them you contribute to the historical description of the
monuments. Exploring these eloquent elements requires the patience of a careful, scrupulous visit but can be done by anyone and there are no distinctions between examples of greater or lesser prestige. The differences are created during the shoot, when the documentary aspect is filtered by the sensibility and taste of the photographer about to record what he or she sees. This can give rise to very different photographic collections. My collection involved visiting the exteriors of around seventy churches. In fifty-one cases I found satisfying images and photographed them, always trying to include some more or less large elements, more or less in relief, found on the exteriors.

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