

# Federica Manfredi



Cultural and Medical Anthropologist, PhD.  
Behavioral analyst, expertise in qualitative participative methods and scientific dissemination.

Principal Investigator of the project *Vulvodinia as A Silent Pain* - University of Bergamo.

Project Manager of [V-Days](#) public engagement project - University of Torino.

Curator of the traveling exhibition [Vulvar Pain. Art. Science. Resistance.](#)

Member of the editorial board for the academic journal *Antropologia* (ISSN: 2281-4043 E-ISSN: 2420-8469. Class A for the area 11 A5 in ANVUR classification), and *AM-Antropologia Medica* (ISSN: 1593-2737. Class A for the area 11 A5 in ANVUR classification).

From April 2024, Member of the Women's Health Observatory, Torino municipality.

From January 2025, Member of the International Advisory Network of the Institute of Arts and Cultural Studies of the Latvian Academy of Culture.

## **Personal web page**

<https://sites.google.com/view/federicamanfredi/home?authuser=0>

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=-Ag-EwYAAAAJ&hl=it>

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<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6981-8367>

## **EDUCATION**

2016-2022 **PhD in Anthropology** at the *Instituto de Ciências Sociais*, Lisbon University.

Specialist subject: Medical Anthropology. PhD fellowship by FCT: SFRH/BD/131914/2017.

Dissertation title: "Learning to Fly. A trans-spatial Ethnography on Body Suspensions in Europe".

Note: degree with Distinction and Honours. Supervised by Chiara Pussetti and Cristiana Bastos.

December 2009-January 2011 **Post Master's degree in Migration, Culture and Psychopathology**, Catholic University of Sacro Cuore, Rome (Italy). Awarded highest distinction.

Final thesis title: Funeral rites in a migrant perspective in contemporary Italy.

Methodology: qualitative search with semi-structural interviews and data analysis .

November 2007-November 2009: **Master of Arts in Cultural Anthropology and Ethnography**, Turin University. Awarded highest distinction (note: 110 cum laude).

Final thesis title: Body suspensions rites in contemporary Italy. A rising sub-culture. Supervised by

prof. Francesco Remotti and prof. Mario Piantelli.

September 2004-November 2007: **Bachelor of Arts in Intercultural Communication**, Turin University (note 109/110).

Dissertation: Italian for children. An anthropological study of a Lyon migrant ghetto. Supervised by prof. Stella Peyronel.

### **COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION**

2024 International **Spring School on Sex Research**, Groznjan, Croazia. 31 March - 2 June 2024. A joined program by the University of Zagreb, University of Ljubljana, Hungarian Academy of Science, Università del Piemonte Orientale and University of Torino.

2023 **International Summer School** in Creative and Digital Methods in Health Research, organized by the Italian Society of Sociology. 12-15 June 2023, Ancona (Italy). Fully funded expenses.

February-May 2019 Junior **visiting** at the University of Turin. PhD Program in Psychological, Anthropological and Educational Science.

August 2013 **Summer School** “The construction of the maternity. History, Science and Feminist Reflection”, (Research training focussing on Gender History and Anthropology of the body), organized by SIS - Società Italiana delle Storiche, Fiesole (fully funded expenses by SIS).

August 2009: **Summer School** “According/against culture. Bodies in balance between public sphere and gender relations”, (Research training on Gender History and Body Anthropology), SIS, Società Italiana delle Storiche, Fiesole (fully funded expenses by University of Turin).

September 2008-June 2009: **Unicef University school** in "Education and human rights".

Final thesis: *Genital mutilations: from mothers to daughters*.

### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Medical anthropology: pain, body, health, death, body modification, tattoos, trance, hormonal technology, cognitive enhancement.

Gender Studies: women’s right, normalization of violence, genital alteration, gynecological violence, menstruation, education bias, sexuality.

Methods: Experimental ethnography, action-research, practice-based and arts-based workshop, participative approach, multi-sensory restitution and engaging dissemination.

## **AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Young Researchers Grant by Fondazione Cariplo:** A two-phase program with an international peer-review selection process supporting postdoctoral researchers in the early stages of their careers. The selection awarded the 3-year project *VulvASP – Vulvodynia as a Silenced Pain: A Participatory Research Project to Understand Patients' Care Experiences*, led by Federica Manfredi as Principal Investigator in 2025-2028 at the University of Bergamo (Host Institution), with prof. Micol Pizzolati as Mentor. VulvASP's Partners are Fondazione IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo Pavia with prof. Barbara Gardella as scientific referent, and the University of Torino with prof. Ferrero Camoletto. **Funding:** €198,895.

2024 **ARTIVISM** prize for the use of artistic practices in the health research, organized by the **European Society of Health and Medical Sociology** and awarded during the 20th international conference “Intersectionality and Inclusion in Health”, Antwerp (Belgium), 5.7.2024. Proposal selected by the scientific committee and voted by congress participants. Prize: 500€.

2023 Award for the scientific dissemination of the workshop series *The Hacked Barbie*, by the University of Lisbon (Institute of Social Sciences). **Prémios Extensão em Ciências Sociais** ICS-ULisboa - Menções honrosas, categoria dos estudantes.

2023 Scholarship by the Italian Sociological Association - Sociology of Health and Medicine (AIS) - for the first International summer school in Creative and Digital Methods in Health Research. 12-15 June 2023, Ancona (Italy). Amount: 135€ enrollment fees.

2017- 2022 PhD Fellowship by “Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia”, the Portuguese national founding agency for science, research and technology. October 2017 - April 2022. Reference: SFRH/BD/131914/2017. Full Phd Scholarship Amount: 59.750€

2021. Selection of the set of pictures “Walking on the Mediterranean Sea”, for the photographic project “Shared Sacred Landscape”, organized by the University of Cambridge. <https://www.sharedsacred.com>.

2016 Bolsa de Apoio ao Doutoramento (PhD enrollment fees scholarship), by the University of Lisbon, Portugal. Amount: 1400€

2010-2011 Educational Grant: *Master dei Talenti Neolaureati* program, by the Cassa di Risparmio di Torino, to promote the professional practice of graduated students with outstanding academic results. The objective of the program is to provide a paid internship in an abroad company to develop professional skills. In 2010, I have been selected by the Swiss company Agridea for a 12-month internship entailed to collaborate in the research project AgriGenre, in partnership with the

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) in Geneva. Indicative amount: 14.000€

### **RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES**

From 1.10.2025 **Principal Investigator** of the project **Vulvodynia as A Silent Pain (VulvASP)**, at the University of Bergamo as post-doctoral researcher. Project funded by Cariplo Foundation and the Pontifical Gregorian University of Rome. Partnership: Istituto Policlinico San Matteo di Pavia and the University of Turin. 228.800€ - 36 months.

From 1.4.2024 **Project Manager** of the project **Vulvar Dialogues About Youth and Sexuality (V-DAYS)**, University of Torino. PI: Valentina Proserpio, department of Biology. The work consists in the coordination of the proponent team of scholars (12 professors and researchers from sociology, anthropology, biology, linguistic, geography, and psychology) and 19 BA and MA students to create a workshop protocol to propose at local high school students (target: 1400 students) and during 8 meetings with the adult population. V-DAYS is founded by the University of Torino as Public Engagement project 2024. PI: Valentina Proserpio, [valentina.proserpio@unito.it](mailto:valentina.proserpio@unito.it)

1.9.2024 - 30.6.2025 **Researcher** of the project **Dialogues on Vulvar Pain with Sanitary Assistants (DIVE)**, funded by the public engagement 2024 program of the department of Cultures, Society and Politic, University of Torino. PI: Raffaella Ferrero Camoletto.

1.7.2024 - 30.6.2025 **Post doctoral research fellow** at the Università degli Studi di Torino for the project “Dare voce al dolore. Esplorare pratiche di cura accessibili e inclusive per le persone che soffrono di dolore pelvico e vulvare” [Giving voice to the pain. Exploring care practices among vulvar pain sufferers]. The fieldwork involves the collection of qualitative data with biomedical health specialists through co-participative workshops in hospitals and clinics. The fellowship is co-founded by the Foundation *Cassa di Risparmio di Torino*. Scientific supervisor: Raffaella Ferrero Camoletto, [raffaella.ferrerocamoletto@unito.it](mailto:raffaella.ferrerocamoletto@unito.it).

1.3.2023-28.2.2024 **Post-doctoral research fellow** at the Università degli Studi di Torino, with a research project about the medicalization of the sexuality and the experiences of vulvar pain. Tailored creative methodology with the workshop series: “La stoffa del dolore” [**The Cloth of Pain**]. The research work included 5 month of online ethnography, participant observation and qualitative interviews with 17 patients suffering of vulvar pain. Scientific supervisor: Raffaella Ferrero Camoletto, [raffaella.ferrerocamoletto@unito.it](mailto:raffaella.ferrerocamoletto@unito.it)

July 2022 - January 2023 **Behavioral analyst** for the company **Bhave.srl** (Italy). Medical anthropologist cooperating in qualitative research projects on selected diseases.

May 30- 31. Member of the organizing committee of the scientific conference CombArt 2022, University of Porto (Portugal).

<https://combart.eventqualia.net/en/2022/home/organization/organizing-committee/>

February - December 2021. **Qualitative investigator** and junior researcher in medical anthropology for **Clinigma** Company. Consultant position. I have been assigned to a medical trial investigating life-stories of patients affected by selected deceases to collect qualitative data about the impact of the disability in the education, professional and recreative domain. Beside oral interviews, my duties involved the quality control of the linguistic translations of data and their coding.

**Reference:** Janni Lisander Larsen, Senior Research Associate [jl@clinigma.com](mailto:jl@clinigma.com)

October 2018 - September 2022. **Researcher** of the project **EXCEL: The Pursuit of Excellence**. Biotechnologies, enhancement and body capital in Portugal. Principal Investigator: Chiara Pussetti. Responsible of the workshop The Hacked Barbie and co-curator of the artistic exhibition Be Fuc\*ing Perfect (Lisbon 2022). <https://www.excelproject.eu>

February 2017 - April 2017. Attendance at **28th course of "Riserva Selezionata"** for the Italian Army in quality of Cultural Anthropologist. Achievement of the status of military officer, rank of Second Lieutenant.

December 2014 - April 2015. Educator and organizer of three-day workshop in Anthropology of Death for caregivers and volunteers of the A.D.A.M.O. association in Civitavecchia and Tarquinia (Rome district). During the workshop I employed a participative and inclusive methodology in order to foster constructive discussion about the taboo of death in the contemporary Italian culture and I proposed tools aiming to help participants in their daily activity of terminal patients care.

**Reference:** Massimiliano Riccio, president of ADAMO Onlus: [www.adamonlus.org](http://www.adamonlus.org)

March 2015 - May 2015. Organizer of the public event in Civitavecchia “Anche le rose hanno le spine” [Even roses have thorns] in order to raise awareness about female domestic violence. (Civitavecchia, 8 March 2015), funded by the local association Donne In Movimento. Participant as scientific expert.

**Reference:** Marianna Galletti, president of DIM ([mariannagalletti@libero.it](mailto:mariannagalletti@libero.it))

October 2014 - April 2015. Transcriber and **data analyst at CNR** (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche) Institute of Trento, Science and Technology Department. I participate in a national qualitative program research programme for airport security.

**Reference:** Dr. Chiara Bassetti, Istituto Scienze e Tecnologie della Cognizione - Unità di Trento, Via alla Cascata 56/C Povo, 38123 Trento (TN) ([chiara.bassetti@unitn.it](mailto:chiara.bassetti@unitn.it)).

December 2014. Lecturer at the event “Violence in life contemporary human being – I react when I see”, promoted by the President of the Polish Republic in Pruszków, 23th December 2014.

Title of the lecture: *Violence against women. An anthropologist perspective on gender definition and female genital mutilation in contemporary Italy.*

**Reference:** Dr. Joanna Popielska-Grzybowska, Head Department of Ancient Cultures Department – Pultusk Academy, Poland. Tel: +48 23 692 98 93/600 705 344

February 2013 - June 2013. **Data analyst at CNR** (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche) Institute of Padua at Psychology Department. I worked as a free-lancer on qualitative interviews, in order to point out the most relevant information for the resident team. I participated in ALIZ-E, an European research on the adaptive strategies for sustainable long-term social interaction.

**Reference:** Giulio Paci. Istituto Scienze e Tecnologie della Cognizione, Via Martiri della Libertà 2, Padova.

November 2010 - April 2012. **Member of the research team Agri-genre.** Anthropology fieldwork in Lausanne (Swiss) in the governmental **project PRN60**. The project focused on gender equality in rural areas. As member of the research team, I learned about key practical aspects of the work of anthropologists. I was responsible for the Italian region and I had the opportunity to participate in several international conferences, enabling the participants to present and share the results of our research. Ever since the beginning of my stay in Lausanne, I was involved in the team work: this is one of the most relevant aspects of this constructive experience, which enabled me to learn how to plan and develop my research properly and what information I should focus on at every stage of the research process. Most importantly; I learned how to use Nvivo system, an informatic software intend for the analysis of qualitative data in a quantitative perspective.

**Reference:** Valérie Miéville-Ott e Pierre Praz. Agridea, Av. des Jordils 1, Lausanne, Suisse.

June 2010 - August 2010. **Internship at the Ariodante Fabretti Foundation** in Turin.

I had the opportunity to cooperate with permanent staff in fundraising team and I worked on my own research project on migration, culture and psychopathology, in order to complete my post master course at the Università del Sacro Cuore (Rome).

**Reference:** Dr. Cristina Ana Vargas. Fondazione Ariodante Fabretti, C.so Turati 11C, Torino (cristinavargas@fondazionefabretti.it)

October 2009 - February 2010. Cultural **anthropologist at IBAF (Istituto di Biologia agro-ambientale e forestale), CNR Institute (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche)**. I realized an anthropology research (including questionnaire and qualitative interviews) to analyze tourism trend in the Aniene valley (central Italy). I also developed a project aiming to promote environment sensibility in the local culture. As part of the project, I had the chance to develop my professional and communication skills within a multidisciplinary context and to learn how to address and solve

pressing problems.

**Reference:** Marco Lauteri, IBAF, Villa Paolina, Viale Marconi 2, 05010 Porano (TR).

December 2007 - March 2008. Anthropology **fieldwork in Ranchi (Jharkhand, India)**. Three-month stay in order to study Adivasi's culture and develop a project on visual anthropology. I was focused on the migration of Adivasi from the jungle to Ranchi city and their identity changes. The ultimate outcome of this experience was an ethnographic documentary about Adivasi's condition, *The invisibles of Ranchi*.

September 2006 - February 2008. **Italian teacher in a French primary school**. I taught Italian culture and language to three-to-teen-year-old children in Lyon's ghetto. In the same period, I developed a urban anthropology research in the city's suburbs.

**Reference:** Marie Pierre Canard, Principal of *Le Moines* School, mpcanard@club-internet.fr

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Single-authored book/monograph:**

Manfredi, Federica. 2024. *Beyond pain. The Anthropology of Body Suspension*. Brooklyn/Oxford: Berghahn Books. ISBN 978-1-80539-524-9. 318 pages. <https://www.berghahnbooks.com/title/ManfrediBeyond>

Manfredi, Federica. 2014. *I volti celati di Civitavecchia. Un'antropologa sulle tracce del Venerdì Santo*. Civitavecchia, Etruria Arti Grafiche. 189 pages. Promoted by 'Cassa di Risparmio di Civitavecchia' Foundation.

### **Peer-reviewed articles and book chapters:**

Bonfanti Nicole, Braida Nicole, Ferrero Camoletto Raffaella, Gattino Silvia, Manfredi Federica, Proserpio Valentina, Riboni Giorgia, Zorzi Virginia, Zottola Angela. 2025. Vulvas at Play. Co-constructing knowledge and awareness about pelvic-vulvar pain. Quaderni MUSIC - UNITO 1: 6-30.

Manfredi, Federica. 2024. "Il dolore che ti entra nella carne. Una lettura antropo-poietica tra decostruzione e creazione di umanità". In Diez J.G., Gusman A. *Gli Altri E Noi*. Saggi in onore di Francesco Remotti. Torino, Accademy University Press. Pp: 229-247.

Manfredi Federica, Pussetti Chiara. 2024. "The Hacked Barbie. A workshop series to (de)construct contemporary bodies and social pressure". In A. Gago, JP Amorim, N Moura (eds), *[e]motion*, pp. 83-90. <https://openbooks.ucp.pt/ucp/catalog/book/215> DOI:<https://doi.org/10.34632/9789725410677>

Manfredi, Federica. 2024. "Vulva". *CremaZine*. Collaborazioni Creative 1:26. ISBN: 978-88-97253-10-5 DOI: 10.13122/978-88-97253-10-5 <https://aisberg.unibg.it/handle/10446/291689>

Manfredi, Federica. 2024. "L'algo-poiesi. Darsi forma attraverso il dolore tra sguardi patologizzanti". *AM Antropologia Medica* 58: 213-242 <https://www.amantropologiamedica.unipg.it/index.php/am/article/view/731/644> [A Class] OPEN ACCESS  
Manfredi, Federica. 2024. "The neglected reflection on vulvar pain. An anthropological research-action through Art and Science". *Visual Ethnography* 10 (1): 101-125 <http://www.vejjournal.org/index.php/vejjournal/article/view/350> [A Class] OPEN ACCESS

Manfredi, Federica. 2024. "Biohacking". In Chiara Pussetti, *Be Fu\*\*cking Perfect. Á Procura de Perfeição*. Lisbon: Etnográfica Press, pp. 68-73. <https://books.openedition.org/etnograficapress/9248> DOI: 10.4000/books.etnograficapress.9198 OPEN ACCESS

Manfredi, Federica, Pussetti Chiara. 2024. "The Hacked Barbie. A workshop series to (de)construct contemporary bodies and social pressure". In Ana Gago, João Pedro Amorim, Nádía Moura (eds.), *[e]motion*, pp. 83-90. <https://openbooks.ucp.pt/ucp/catalog/book/215> OPEN ACCESS, DOI:[https://doi.org/10.34632/9789725410677\\_7](https://doi.org/10.34632/9789725410677_7)

Pussetti Chiara, Manfredi Federica. 2024. "Does gravity always wins? Ageing experiences and models of perfections from an art-based ethnography on body's excellence". In Catherine Earl and Philip Taylor (eds.), *Handbook of Inequalities in Later Life*. Cheltenham: Elgar. Pp. 15- 28. ISBN: 978 1 78990 723 0. <https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/research-handbook-on-inequalities-in-later-life-9781789907230.html>

Manfredi, Federica. 2023. "Plastic Barbies and bodies made of plastic". In Paula Guerra and Ana Oliveira (eds.), *Keep It Simple, Make It Fast! An approach to Underground Music Scene*, Porto: Porto University Press, pp. 134-144. OPEN ACCESS. ISBN: [978-989-9082-298](https://doi.org/10.21747/9789899082298); DOI <https://doi.org/10.21747/9789899082298>

Manfredi, Federica. 2023. "Thinking the Self Through Hooks, Needles, and Scalpels. Body Suspensions, Tattoos, and other Body Modifications" *Medicine Anthropology Theory* 10(3): 1-25. OPEN ACCESS. ISSN 2405-691X. <https://doi.org/10.17157/mat.10.3.6532>

Manfredi, Federica. 2023. "Mistrust and barriers in the relationship between vulvar pain patients and physicians. Preliminary results of an anthropological study about pain experiences of vulvodinia in Italy". In Varrassi, G. (ed.), [Abstract of Rome Pain Days 2023](#), *Signa Vitae* 19(4): 254. OPEN ACCESS. DOI:10.22514/sv.2023.040

Manfredi, Federica. 2022. “Oggetti buoni per pensarsi, oggetti buoni per mostrarsi. Riflessioni da un laboratorio etnografico di manufatti co-creati per comprendere e narrare le sospensioni corporee”. *Antropologia* 9 (3): 23-44. [A Class] OPEN ACCESS <https://www.ledijournals.com/ojs/index.php/antropologia/article/view/2084>.

Manfredi Federica, Nardini Dario. 2022. “[Vivere il Dolore. Introduzione](#)”, *Etnografia e Ricerca Qualitativa* 3: 333-347. [A Class] DOI: 10.3240/105858.

Manfredi, Federica. 2022 “Cicatrici per darsi forma. Una riflessione antropologica su scarificazioni, dolore e trasformazioni”, [Etnografia e Ricerca Qualitativa](#) 3: 401-427. [A Class]. DOI: 10.3240/105862 <https://www.rivisteweb.it/issn/1973-3194/issue/8610>

Manfredi, Federica. 2022. “A medical anthropological research on algo-politics and anthropo-poietical uses of pain in contemporary Europe”, in Giustino Varrassi (ed.), *Abstracts of Roma Pain Days 2022*, *Signa Vitae* 18(5): 158-159. OPEN ACCESS. DOI:10.22514/sv.2022.063 <https://www.signavitae.com/articles/10.22514/sv.2022.063>

Manfredi Federica, Chiara Pussetti and Evija Laiviņa. 2022, “*Beauty Warriors*. Histórias de resistência entre antropologia e arte”. In Campos Ricardo Didier Sarrouy Alix and Simões Alberto José (eds.), *A arte de construir cidadania: juventude, práticas criativas e ativismo*. Lisbon: Tinta da China Publisher, pp. 59-90. ISBN: 978-989-671-697-4. Available at: <https://tintadachina.pt/produto/arte-de-construir-cidadania>

Manfredi, Federica. 2022. “Para além das entrevistas logocêntricas: quando o etnógrafo reforça a sua caixa de ferramentas com arte, símbolos e artefactos”. In Teresa Fradique and Rodrigo Lacerda (eds), *Modos de fazer, modos de ser*. Lisbon: Etnográfica Press, pp. 177-198. DOI : 10.4000/8044 <https://books.openedition.org/etnograficapress/8113>

Manfredi, Federica. 2022. “In between birth and death, past and future, the self and the others. An anthropological insight on commemorative and celebrative tattoos in Central Italy”. OPEN ACCESS. [Religions](#), 13(46): 1-13. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel13010046>;

Manfredi, Federica. 2021. “ ‘Being hanged by hooks is an unspeakable experience’. Fieldwork notes on sensory challenges and experimental forms of self-narrative”. In Véronique Dassié, Aude Fanlo, Marie-Luce Gélard, Cyril Isnart, Florent Molle (eds.), *Collectes Sensorielles. Recherche-Musée-Art*. Paris: Petra, pp. 103-131. ISBN: 978-2-84743-286-2. <https://www.editionspetra.fr/livres/collectes-sensorielles-recherche-musee-art>

Manfredi, Federica. 2021. "Vincoli d'amore tra le Alpi. Note di campo sull'ineguaglianza di genere e di generazione in ambito rurale". In Valentino Nizzo (ed.), *Antropologia e Archeologia a confronto. Antropologia e Archeologia dell'Amore. Atti del IV Incontro Internazionale di Studi*. Rome: Fondazione Dià Cultura, pp. 199-213. ISBN 978-88-946182-1-1. <https://www.ibs.it/antropologia-archeologia-dell-amore-4o-libro-vari/e/9788894618211>

Barata Caterina, Coutinho Luisa, Manfredi Federica and M. Schamarella. 2020. "[Doctoral research work and work of care: reflections in times of pandemic](#)". *Fennia* 198 (1-2): 247-251. OPEN ACCESS. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.11143/fennia.99192>

Manfredi, Federica. 2020. "Passports powers: movement restrictions, regulations and troubles after death. Anthropological considerations on crossing borders based on fieldwork-notes from an ethnography on Italian bureaucracy for returning-remains". In Luana Alagna and Alessandro Arienzo (eds.), *Sud-Nord. Identità, sviluppo, confini*. Palermo: Palermo University Press, pp. 201-219. ISBN: 978-88-5509-126-8. <https://unipapress.com/book/sud-nord/>

Manfredi, Federica. 2019. "Learning to fly: a story tale for my three years old son. An unconventional ethnographic restitution on a creative ethnography on body suspensions". *Irish Journal of Anthropology*, 22(1): 194-204. OPEN ACCESS. [https://repositorio.ul.pt/bitstream/10451/51778/1/ICS\\_FManfredi\\_Learning.pdf](https://repositorio.ul.pt/bitstream/10451/51778/1/ICS_FManfredi_Learning.pdf)

Manfredi, Federica. 2018. "Note di campo sull'elaborazione del lutto nell'Italia contemporanea: riflessione sui tatuaggi commemorativi e ipotesi di auto-poiesi". In Valentino Nizzo (ed.) *Antropologia e archeologia a confronto: archeologia e antropologia della morte. 2. Corpi, relazioni e azioni: il paesaggio del rito*. Rome: Editorial Service System, pp. 525-534. ISBN 978-88-8444-181-2 <https://iris.unive.it/retrieve/handle/10278/3703268/137430/antarc%20libro2%20Stevanato.pdf>

Manfredi, Federica. 2017. "Saper accompagnare. Una proposta formativa per ripensare la morte in prospettiva antropologica", *NEU - Periodico dell'Associazione Nazionale Infermieri Neuroscienze*, 3:66-73. OPEN ACCESS. <https://www.anin.it/Riviste.aspx>

Manfredi, Federica. 2017. "Body symbols: the use of body in an anthropological perspective", *Thinking Symbols - Interdisciplinary Studies*, ACTA ARCHAEOLOGICA PULTUSKIENSIA Vol.6, Pultusk: Academy of Humanities Press, pp. 187-192.

Manfredi Federica, Popielska-Grzybowska Joanna. 2017. "Body as symbol? The making of the body of the Pharaon from an anthropo-poietical perspective", *Thinking Symbols - Interdisciplinary Studies*, ACTA ARCHAEOLOGICA PULTUSKIENSIA Vol.6, Pultusk Academy of Humanities

Press, pp. 241-250.

Manfredi, Federica. 2017. "Jusqu'aux limites de soi. Trances et procession du Vendredi Saint dans une petite ville italienne", In *Démesure*, Actes du 2e Congrès de l'AFEFA (Association française d'ethnologie et d'anthropologie), 29 June - 2 July 2015, Université Toulouse-Jean Jaurès, Toulouse, pp. 116-126. [https://afea.hypotheses.org/files/2022/01/Actes\\_Congres2015\\_2022.pdf](https://afea.hypotheses.org/files/2022/01/Actes_Congres2015_2022.pdf)

Manfredi, Federica. 2017. "An Adult Workshop On Re-thinking Death. An anthropological experience of lifelong education through the taboo of the end of life". In Gogolewska-Tońska, M., Szymanska, M. (eds.), *Człowiek-edukacja-społeczeństwo. Wybrane zagadnienia I problemy*, Inter-ibook, Kampinos, pp. 173-182. ISBN 978-83-7549-310-8

Manfredi, Federica. 2017. "Il lutto e la memoria incisi sulla pelle. Riflessioni su una nuova ritualità funebre", *Studi Tanatologici* 8: 50-69. [A Class] OPEN ACCESS. ISBN 978-88-94-00-6841. [http://www.fondazionefabretti.it/wp-content/uploads/Studi-Tanatologici-8\\_Web.pdf](http://www.fondazionefabretti.it/wp-content/uploads/Studi-Tanatologici-8_Web.pdf)

Manfredi, Federica. 2016. "[\*Imparare a volare: note di campo sulle sospensioni corporee\*](#)", *Etnografia e ricerca qualitativa* 3: 497-512. [A Class] ISBN 978-88-15-26199-1

Manfredi, Federica. 2016. "The participatory video. An identity definition workshop", *Educare Online review* "Humanistyczne Kształcenie, w teorii i w praktyce. Wybrane Zagadnienia", Pultusk (Poland), pp. 294-309, ISBN: 978-83-944619-0-4.

Manfredi, Federica. 2016. "Mobbing in Switzerland family domain: the invisible work of woman in the agricultural context", *Anthropologies - Anthropology Journal of Mensa's Anthropology SIG*, v.2, 2, pp. ISSN 2059-0946.

Manfredi, Federica. 2014. "Genre, générations et égalité en agriculture : transformations des configurations familiales et des représentations de la masculinité et de la féminité en Suisse". Résumé des résultats - [\*Gleichstellung der Geschlechter Nationales Forschungsprogramm NFP 60\*](#). Fonds National Suisse de la Recherche Scientifique. Co-author: Yvan Droz, Fenneke Reyssoo, Valérie Miéville-Ott, Nadine Boucherin, Ruth Rossier, Sandra Contzen, Jérémie Forney.

Manfredi, Federica. 2014. "Addomesticare la morte: un'interpretazione antropologica del tatuaggio", in *International conference Seeing beyond in facing death* (Vedere Oltre. La spiritualità dinnanzi al morire: dal corpo malato alla salvezza), 25-28th September, Padua (Italy), p. 70, ISBN 978-88-6938-002-0

Manfredi, Federica. 2014. "Una lettura antropologica del rimpatrio delle salme: quando spegnersi in

Italia è sinonimo di ‘cattiva’ morte”, in *Decimo Rapporto dell’Osservatorio Romano sulle Migrazioni*, Rome (Italy), pp. 151-159. ISBN 978-88-6480-054-7

Manfredi, Federica. 2013. “No names, no memorials. The migrants’ invisible deaths”, in *Studies on Disasters, Catastrophes and the Ends of the World in Sources*, ACTA ARCHAEOLOGICA PULTUSKIENSIA Vol. IV, Pultusk Academy of Humanities Press (Poland), pp 201-203, ISBN 978-83-7549-210-1

Manfredi, Federica. 2012. “Death and body modification: new body rituals in contemporary Italy”, in *Dying and Death in 18th-21th Century Europe, International Conference 5th Edition*, Annales Universitatis Apulensis, Serie Historica, Alba Iulia (Romania).

Manfredi, Federica. 2011. “Mourir en tant que migrant: thanato-politiques et thanato-pratiques de l’Italie contemporaine”, in *Dying and Death in 18th-21th Century Europe, International Conference 4th Edition*, Annales Universitatis Apulensis, Serie Historica, Alba Iulia (Romania), pp 389-413, ISSN 1453-9306

Manfredi, Federica. 2011. ”Il crollo del cliché: la nuova generazione di contadini svizzeri”, *Contadino Ticinese*, 47: 6-8.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCES**

2025/2026 Member of the teaching board of the CIRSDE - Interdisciplinary Center for the Research and Woman and Gender Studies at the University of Torino. 26.2.2026 lecture “Gender and neglected disease” (3h).

March-May 2025 Course in medical anthropology (15 h) at the Pontifical Gregorian University, MA in Anthropology. Scientific reference: Hans Zollner, Director of the Institute of Anthropology.

12.6.2025 University of Padova, department of Clinical scientific surgery, Diagnosis and Pediatrics. Post BA master “ Midwife in family and community” (8 hours). Title of the educational training (theory + workshop) : “Vulvar health through an socio-anthropological gaze”.

3-4.4.2025 University Hospital San Luigi Gonzaga, Orbassano (TO), with ECM recognition. Full day training for health specialists on socio-anthropological data about vulvar pain diseases to improve health accesses and therapeutic alliance. Education number: 50650. Title of the education “Dare Voce al Dolore. Esplorare pratiche di cura accessibili e inclusive per le persone che soffrono di dolore pelvico e vulvare”.

Academic year 2024/2025 Master in Medical Anthropology (MAM), University of Padova. Lecturer in Anthropology of Pain (6h) and Anthropology of the Body (5h). Scientific director: prof. Ferdinando Fava.

13.3.2024 Teaching class "Creative method and ethnographic research" at the course of Medical Anthropology, University of Torino, invited by prof. Lucia Portis for the MA students of the graduation course Professional Education.

12.3.2025. Seminar "Beyond Pain" organized by Social Changes and Cultural Innovation academic group (MuSIC), University of Torino. Discussant: Prof. Stefania Palmisano and Prof. Paola Sacchi.

2024/2025 Member of the teaching board of the CIRSDE - Interdisciplinary Center for the Research and Woman and Gender Studies at the University of Torino. 28.2.2025 Lecture "Sexuality as Gender Performance" (3h).

17.2.2025 - 27.2.2025 Professor of the Network for the Advancement in Social and Political Studies - doctoral program in Sociology and Methodology of Social Research (academic year 2024/2025), University of Torino. Module 5: Doing Focus Group (9 hours). Scientific activity shared with Raffaella Ferrero Camoletto and Nicole Braidà.

7.12.2024 Profesional Educator at the Hospital Regina Montis Regalis (ASL CN1) with ECM recognition. Full day training for health specialists about socio-anthropological insights of vulvar pain diseases to improve health accesses and therapeutic alliance. Education number: 131-49323. Title "Dare Voce al Dolore. Esplorare pratiche di cura accessibili e inclusive per le persone che soffrono di dolore pelvico e vulvare".

2024/2025 Teaching Assistant in Anthropology course at the University of Torino - Asti (Faculty of Medicine, Nursing MA), prof. Lucia Portis.

2024/2025 Teaching Assistant in Cultural Anthropology course at the University of Torino (Faculty of Medicine, Obstetrics and Pediatric Nursing BA), prof. Annamaria Fantauzzi.

### **STUDENTS' TUTUITION**

15.9.2025 Co-supervisor of the BA project in Intercultural Communication at the University of Torino. Candidate: Giorgia Ferrero, title: "Mestruazioni. L'impatto della percezione sociale sull'esperienza individuale". Co-supervisor: Raffaella Ferrero Camoletto, University of Torino.

26.3.2025 Supervisor of the MA project in Cultural Anthropology at the University of Bologna. Candidate: Virginia Inghilterra, title: "Apriti pelle". Co-supervisor: prof. Francesca Sbardella, University of Bologna.

16.9.2024 Scientific discussant of the MA project to graduate in Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology. Candidate: Edoardo Badeschi, title “Esplorazione di una comunità BDSM online: Twitter(X) Findom”, Supervisor Raffaella Ferrero Camoletto, University of Torino.

4.4.2024 Scientific discussant of the BA project to graduate in Professional Education. Candidate: Tiziana Spoto, title “Mani che contano: riflessioni sul corpo e l’invecchiamento”, supervisor Lucia Portis, University of Torino.

4.4.2024 Scientific discussant of the BA project to graduate in Professional Education. Candidate: Victoria Miletto, title: “La violenza sessuale nella sua forma più velata: quando la sessualità nella coppia diventa un obbligo”, supervisor Lucia Portis, University of Torino.

18.3.2024 Scientific discussant of the BA project to graduate in Intercultural Communication. Candidate: Ottavia Ardito, title: Costruzione della sessualità femminile: un’analisi qualitativa di elaborati creativi”, supervisor Raffaella Ferrero Camoletto, University of Torino.

### **INVITED LECTURES**

Seminar speech “Vulvar Pain as an invisible condition”, for MA students at the University of Roma *La Sapienza*, Department of Dynamic Psychology, Clinic and Health. Invited by prof. Guido Giovanardi. 9.5.2025

Key speaker at the KISMIF international summer school, 9.7.2024, University of Porto. Lecture: “Vulvar Pain. Art. Science. Resistance”. An art-based method to investigate vulvar pain and an ethnography-based exhibition to rise awareness on sexual health” <https://www.kismifconference.com/pt/call-summer-school/>

Lecture “Pain in Health Research: experimenting with cloth, ceramic and metal to go beyond a logo-centric approach” presented at the seminar “Methodological Frontiers: Innovative research techniques for the social sciences”, University of Torino. 18.4.2024

Lecture “Invisible pain, useless bodies, broken women. A medical anthropology research action to unfold vulvar pain meanings” at the University of Torino, invited by prof. Lucia Portis. 16.4.2024

Seminar “Antropologia e dolore vulvare. Le sfide epistemiche e metodologiche tra design di ricerca e disseminazione” at the University of Torino. Lunch seminar hosted by the department of Cultures, Politics and Society, 17.4.2024.

“Il dolore senza senso: patologizzazione del dolore volontario e strategie di invisibilità” seminar

lecture at the University of Torino for the congress day “Corpi (ri)produttivi, malati, medicalizzati” (Italy), 16.11.2023.

Lecture “Il dolore vulvare. Design della ricerca, metodo, analisi e restituzione”, University of Torino (Italy) for MA and BA students. 8-16.11.2023. Invited by prof. Raffaella Ferrero Camoletto.

Invited speaker at the 2nd congress of the Vulvodinia Italian Association (AIV), 29.9.2023

<https://www.vulvodinia.org/29-settembre-2023-ii-congresso-nazionale-associazione-italiana-vulvodinia/>

“Bisturi, ganci e aghi sulla pelle. L’antropologia delle manipolazione corporee” seminar for the BA in *Psychology and social processes*, course in Cultural Anthropology, Università la Sapienza di Roma (Italy). Invited by prof. Osvaldo Costantini, 26.4.2023.

“La (de)costruzione sociale del dolore. Un’indagine di antropologia medica tra stigma, patologizzazione e alibi” masterclass in Medical Anthropology for the students of the BA *Educazione Professionale*, University of Turin (Italy). Invited by prof. Lucia Portis, 4.4.2023.

“L’ antropologia e il dolore” masterclass for the post-graduation course “Pain Therapy”, Università degli Studi della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Scuola di Medicina e Chirurgia. Invited by prof. Caterina Pace, 24.2.2023.

“Antropologia del dolore” masterclass for the post-graduation course “Palliative Cares”, Università degli Studi della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Scuola di Medicina e Chirurgia. Invited by prof. Caterina Pace, 17.2.2023.

Podcast meeting “Hooks and Pain. Ethical concerns in the practice-based research on body suspensions”, in the series *Practice as Research*, invited by Dr Nicole Brown, UCL (London) 1.2.2023. <https://practiceasresearch.nicole-brown.co.uk/category/seminars/>

“Anthropology at the service of Home Staging”, seminar for the European Association of Home Staging Professionals. Online format, 23.11.2022 <https://eahsp.eu/anthropology-at-the-service-of-home-staging-for-italian-eahsp-members-only/>

“Be F\*\*KING PERFECT. Corpi di plastica e cultura visuale”, lecture for MA students of the University politecnico di Milano - MA in Communication Design. Course: Anthropology of communication. Invited by Giuseppe Mazzarino, 22.11.2022.

“Barbie e invecchiamento. Un percorso di antropologia medica”, lecture for MA student at the

University of Milano Bicocca. Invited by Gloria Frisone, 21.11.2022

“Melaninocrazie. Il contributo dell'antropologia medica”, lecture with Chiara Pussetti for the medical congress of the Italian Association of Dermatologist (ADOI), Riccione 26-29 October 2022. [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/federica-manfredi-5605828b\\_federica-mnfredi-antropologa-59-congresso-activity-6995703638140571648-ZpZM?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/federica-manfredi-5605828b_federica-mnfredi-antropologa-59-congresso-activity-6995703638140571648-ZpZM?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)

“Limitless bodies. Hooks and needles in the skin to regenerate the self”, dissemination talk at the art-gallery Óriq during the exhibition Be F\*\*King Perfect . The Pursuit of Excellence. 17.9.2022

“Challenging fieldworks and ethical concerns in the ethnographical practice”, class for the students of the *Laboratorio di Metodologia etnografica* at the University of Milan Bicocca. Invited by Dario Nardini. 6.5.2022.

“La (de)costruzione sociale del dolore. Un’indagine di antropologia medica tra stigma, patologizzazione e alibi” class for the course of Medical Anthropology lead by prof. Lucia Portis for the students of the BA *Educazione Professionale*, University of Turin (Italy). 20.4.2022

“Contra o pelo. Practice-based ethnographical traces on body-hairs’ conflicts and hegemonic beauty”, at the “Body Hair Day. Roda de Conversa”, 7.12.2021. Organized by Chiara Pussetti, Federica Manfredi and Isabel Pires at Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon. <https://www.excelproject.eu/blog/2022/3/23/body-hair-day-roda-de-conversa>

“Pain and body suspensions. Not so extreme after all”, presented at “The Extreme Seminar. Bodies & Practices”, co-organized with Chiara Pussetti at the Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon. 13 November 2021. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1EIglNNN-5J7gRg-MTVq-g>

“La Barbie Hackerata”, workshop proposed during the DANT seminar for doctoral students at the Institute of Social Sciences - University of Lisbon. 4 June 2021.

“La Barbie Hackerata”, workshop for Anthropology post-graduation students at the University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy), for the Laboratory of Ethnographical Methodology lead by Dario Nardini. 9 April 2021.

“Sangue, ganci e dolore in ricerca etnografica. Un’esperienza di studio sulle sospensioni corporee tra pregiudizi, tabù e occasioni di crescita sul campo”, lecture presented at the Seminar of Medical Anthropology lead by Lucia Portis for the students of the BA *Educazione Professionale*, University

of Turin (Italy). 31 April 2021.

“Research experiences between MA and PhD”, lecture for the students of the MA in Anthropology, University Milano Bicocca. 5 March 2021.

“Le sospensioni corporee, un’esperienza di campo in-progress”, lecture presented at the Seminar of Medical Anthropology for the students of the BA *Educazione Professionale*, University of Turin (Italy). 31 March 2020.

“La parola agli oggetti (perchè noi non ne abbiamo *a basta!*): presentazione di una ricerca antropologica sperimentale attraverso opere realizzate sul campo”, lecture presented during the workshop “Restituire alla città. Esperienze a confronto”, organized by Lucia Portis and Angela Biscaldi. VII° SIAA congress (Italian Society of Applied Anthropology), Ferrara 12-14 December 2019.

“Methodology of qualitative interviews in the ethnographical practice. A role-play exercise”, lecture presented to MA students of the Area and Global Studies for International Cooperation course. 14 May 2019, University of Turin (Italy).

“La memoria ritrovata, viaggio alla scoperta della storia di Civitavecchia - Piazza Leandra -”, Cultural public event “Percorsi 2017”, 22 September 2017, Civitavecchia (Italy).

“Processes of self-construction through flesh and blood manipulation”, International Scientific Conference “Identity in Culture”, 19-20 October 2017, Limanowa (Poland). Invited by Dr. Joanna Popielska.

“Per delle sospensioni a regola d’arte...”, lecture delivered at the 13th Suscon Festival, 17-19 September 2017, Tirrenia (Italy), organized by The Italian Association of Professional Piercers and Tattooers (APTPI).

“Ethnography based art project: per delle sospensioni a regola d’arte...”, lecture delivered at the 12th Suscon Festival, 18-21 September 2016, Tirrenia (Italy), organized by The Italian Association of Professional Piercers and Tattooers (APTPI). Fully funded expensed.

“Which kind of gender violence? An anthropologist gender lecture of female genital mutilation in contemporary Italy”, International Conference *Violence in life contemporary human being - I react when I see*, Pruszków (Poland), 23th December 2014. Fully funded expensed.

“Body Symbols. The use of body in an anthropological perspective”, lecture delivered at the 10th

Suscon Festival, 11-15 September 2014, Tirrenia (Italy), organized by The Italian Association of Professional Piercers and Tattooers (APTPI). Fully founded expenses.

“Trance, vita e morte. La processione del Venerdì Santo di Civitavecchia”, lecture delivered at the members of the Lion Club Civitavecchia-Santa Marinella Host, Civitavecchia (Italy). 11 April 2014.

“Il genere, la violenza e le donne”, 8 March 2014, event: “Io dico no alla violenza sulle donne”, organized by Giovane Italia Association, Civitavecchia (Italy). Fully founded expenses.

“Trance experience. The Good Friday Procession as a case of study”, lecture delivered at the Pultusk Academy of Humanities (Poland), 9 November 2013. Fully founded expenses.

“A testimony from a winner of CRT Master dei Talenti Neolaureati Program”, Collisioni Festival, Novello (Italy), 27-28-29 March 2011. Fully founded expenses.

### **ORGANIZATION OF EVENTS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

27.9.2025 UNight 2025 (Notte dei ricercatori e delle ricercatrici) with the team-project V-Days for the dissemination event “Giochi senza tabù: salute e consapevolezza vulvare”. University of Torino (Italy).

21.2.2025 World Anthropology Day 2025, University of Torino. Workshop “Merenda Sinoira V-Days” organized at the art gallery Gliacrobati with Paola Sacchi and Valentina Proserpio. <https://anthrodaymilano.formazione.unimib.it/home-page/programma-edizione-2025/programma-torino-2025/>

28.9.2024 UNight 2024 (Notte dei ricercatori e delle ricercatrici) with the team-project V-Days for the dissemination event “Vulva Games”. University of Torino.

29.6.2024 Invited guest at the festival “A Piacer Mio”, organized by the Yggdra Association in Alessandria (Italy) to sensitize on sexual health and education.

23.2.2024 Organizer and scientific coordinator of opening congress for the inauguration of the art exhibition “Il Dolore Vulvare. Arte. Scienza. Resistenza” at the University of Torino, founded by the PE grant 2024 by department of Cultures, Politics and Societies and patronized by the Piedmont Region, Committee for Equal Opportunity. <https://www.eventbrite.it/e/biglietti-il-dolore-vulvare-arte-scienza-resistenza-786584895597>

7.6.2023 Invited guest at the “Festival delle Periferie” (IPER), Mattatoio, Rome. Opening of the artistic exhibition “Anatomia dell’immagine. I corpi davanti alla realtà”, by Enrico Bentivoglio. Dialogue with the philosopher Roberto Finelli.

6.3.2023. Lecture “L’antropologia tra ricerca e motori di cambiamento. Un’esperienza di studio tra bellezza, perfezione e pressioni sociali”. Liceo V. Garbaro, Brescia. Outreach activity for the project “Fare Ricerca per le Scuole” [Doing research for the schools].

From January 2023: Reviewer of the academic journal DIY- Do It Yourself. Sage publication.

1.2.2023 Podcast “Hooks and Pain”, hosted by Nicole Brown in the seminar series *Practice as Research*. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORTJWbRESUI&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORTJWbRESUI&t=2s)

Member of the scientific and organizing committee for the exhibition “BE F\*\*KING PERFECT - The Pursuit of Excellence”, at the Óriq gallery in Lisbon, from 15th September to 16th October 2022. The exhibition is the final dissemination activity of the research project Excel - The Pursuit of Excellence, lead by Chiara Pussetti at the Institute of Social Sciences at the University of Lisbon. Resident artists: artists Evija Laivinia and Jessica Ledwich.

<https://www.ics.ulisboa.pt/en/evento/exposicao-be-fking-perfect-pursuit-excellence>

[https://www.publico.pt/2022/09/14/p3/fotogaleria/esta-exposicao-mostra-o-lado-feio-ou-nao-de-tentar-ser-f\\*\\*king-perfect-408821](https://www.publico.pt/2022/09/14/p3/fotogaleria/esta-exposicao-mostra-o-lado-feio-ou-nao-de-tentar-ser-f**king-perfect-408821)

<https://saudebemestar.com.pt/be-fking-perfect/>

“The Skin Day”, 27.5.2022. International conference organized by Federica Manfredi and Isabel Pires, at the Institute of Social Sciences - University of Lisbon - Keynote by David Le Breton. <https://www.excelproject.eu/new-events-1/2022/5/27/skin-day>.

Roundtable and artistic exposition “The Hacked Barbie. A workshop to deconstruct ourselves”, World Anthropology Day 2022 - Organized at the University Milano-Bicocca. 17-19 February 2022, <https://anthrodaymilano.formazione.unimib.it/it/home-page/edizione-2022/>

Seminar Day: “The Extreme Seminar. Bodies & Practices” at the Institute of Social Sciences - Lisbon University - online format. Co-organizer: Chiara Pussetti. 13.12.2021 Available at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1EIgINNN-5J7gRg-MTVq-g>

Seminar Day: “Body Hair Day. Roda de Conversa”. Co-organized with Chiara Pussetti and Isabel Pires at the Institute of Social Sciences - University of Lisbon - online format. 7.12.2021. <https://www.excelproject.eu/blog/2022/3/23/body-hair-day-roda-de-conversa>

Workshop Series “The Hacked Barbie”, with 8 editions and 73 participants. A dissemination activity of Excel-The Pursuit of Excellence. The workshop series invites participants to reproduce themselves on a Barbie, a symbol of gendered perfection, (or an another doll perceived as comfortable for the gender identification), in order to unfold meanings connected to body practices, choices, and cosmetic routines generally invisible. The goal is to start a path of self-reflection to develop a more conscious and critical gaze on the social performance through the body.

Article for the Excel Blog “Interview with Lukas Zpira. Transformation and Bødy Hactivism through body suspensions”. Available at: <https://www.excelproject.eu/blog/2021/2/11/transformation-and-bdy-hactivism-through-body-suspensions-interview-with-lukas-zpira>

Article for the Excel Blog “Learning to Fly. A trans-spatial ethnography on body suspensions in Europe”. Available at: <https://www.excelproject.eu/blog/2020/8/20/learning-to-fly-a-trans-spatial-ethnography-on-body-suspensions-in-europe-by-federica-manfredi>

Article for the Practice as Research website “The Pursuit of Excellence: The Hacked Barbie”, cured by Dr Nicole Brown, UCL (London). <https://practiceasresearch.nicole-brown.co.uk>

### **SELECTED PRESENTATION-CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PANELS**

Attendance at the conference “The woman and the pain: between biology, narrative medicine, experience and society” organized by the USL Toscana Nord Ovest and Dr. Sergio Ardis. 29.4.2025

Organizer of the panel “Examining the controversial social space of female genitals”, 10th Ethnography and Qualitative Research international conference, University of Trento, 10-12 Luglio 2025. Co-panelist: Raffaella Ferrero Camoletto.

Author of the paper “The action-research *The Cloth of Pain*: co-constructing a respectful culture on vulvar pain”, International Safeguarding Conference, 17-20 June 2025 Rome, Institute of Anthropology (IADC) of the Pontifical Gregorian University.

Author of the paper “Quando l’antropologia si fa arte, scienza e resistenza. Un percorso espositivo itinerante per decostruire i tabù del dolore vulvare e promuovere l’accesso alla salute”, 5th congress of the Italian Society of Medical Anthropology, 16-18 January 2025, University of Bologna.

Author of the paper “L’educazione sessuale e la prevenzione del dolore vulvare cronico come co-costruzione di conoscenza e azione sociale. Il caso etnografico del progetto V-DAYS Vulvar Dialogues About Youth and Sexuality”, XII congress of the Italian Society of Applied Anthropology, 19-21 December 2024, University of Messina.

Author of the paper “Vulv-nerability. aesthetics and politics of vulvar pain”. Life Conference, Research Vulnerabilities from a life course perspective. 13-14 November 2024, Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon.

Author of the paper “Vulvodynia as a Battleground. Exploring violence in health contexts”, Right to Health, substandard and disrespectful care and gynecological and obstetric violence: a multidisciplinary practice. 8 October 2024, University of Torino. Co-author: Raffaella Ferrero Camoletto.

Author of the paper “Uno sguardo socio-antropologico sui copioni di sofferenza vulvare e pelvica”, Studi Culturali in Italia (congress for the 20th anniversary of the academic journal Studi Culturali) 12-13 September 2024, University of Bologna (Italy). Co-author: Raffaella Ferrero Camoletto, Nicole Braida. <https://site.unibo.it/damslab/it/damslab/cfpssc>

Author of the paper “Vulvar Pain. Art. Science Resistance”, 20th International KISMIF Congress, University of Porto (Portugal), 10-13 July 2024. <https://www.kismifconference.com/pt/>

Organizer of the Workshop “NON Parliamo di sesso! Ripensare tabù, aspettative e pressioni di eccellenza”, presented with Raffaella Ferrero Camoletto and Alessia Toldo at the World Anthropology Day 2024, 17.2.2024 <https://anthrodaymilano.formazione.unimib.it>

Author of the paper: “Algo-poiesi: costruirsi attraverso il dolore”, at the congress for the scientific career of prof. Francesco Remotti “Gli Altri e Noi. Culture e Discipline in dialogo”, 9-11 September 2023, University of Torino (Italy).

Organizer of the panel: “Discorsi e contro-discorsi. (Re)immaginare e (ri)produrre il sociale tra asimmetrie di potere”, at the 4th national congress of the Italian Association of Cultural Anthropology (SIAC), 21-23 September 2023, University La Sapienza, Roma (Italy). Co-panelist: Eleonora Rossero. <https://www.siacantropologia.it/panel-12/>

Organizer of the panel: “Shame, mortality and vulnerable self. Visibility and authenticity”, at the 9th International Ethnography and Qualitative Research Conference, 7-10 June 2023 University of Trento (Italy). Co-panelist: Alvaro Jarrin. <https://erq-conference.soc.unitn.it/2022/09/28/6-shame-morality-and-the-vulnerable-self-visibility-and-authenticity/>

Author of the paper: “Studying ageing through the Hacked Barbie workshop”, presented at the Seminar Day *Ageing and Sexuality network*, University of Brasov 22-25 March 2023.

Author of the paper: “Melaninocrazie. Il contributo dell’antropologia medica”. Co-author Chiara Pussetti. 49th congress of ADOI (Associazione Dermatologi Venereologi Ospedalieri Italiani e della Sanità Pubblica ), 26-29 October 2022, Pala-Riccione (Italy).

Author of the Poster: “A medical anthropological research on algo-politics and anthropo-poietical uses of pain in contemporary Europe”, at the Rome Pain Days 2022, 2-3 September. Scientific international medical congress organized by the Paolo Procaci Foundation. <https://romapaindays.eu/index.php?action=preview>

Organizer of the panel: “Rethinking the body as ‘under construction’ in and beyond post-pandemic emergency”, at the 8th congress of the Portuguese Association of Anthropology (APA) “The New 20s. Challenges, Uncertainties and Resistances”. Évora, 6-9 September 2022. Co-panelist: Isabel Pires. <https://apa2022.apantropologia.org/en/paineis-aprovados/>

Author of the paper: "Do I work for the smartphone or the smartphone works for me? An anthropological reflection on ethnographer’s availability during digital and presencial fieldwork”, presented at the panel P049-Ethnographies at the touch of the screen, at the 8th congress of the Portuguese Association of Anthropology (APA) “The New 20s. Challenges, Uncertainties and Resistances”. Évora, 6-9 September 2022. <https://apa2022.apantropologia.org/en/paineis-aprovados/>

Author of the paper: “Plastic Barbies and bodies made of plastic”, Kismif Conference “DIY Cultures, Sustainability and Artistic Ecosystems”, 13-16 July 2022. Porto. <https://www.kismifconference.com>

Author of the paper: “Praising immortality, defeating death and (re)producing perfection through bodies”, at the Nordic Ethnology and Folklore Conference, 13-16 June 2022, Reykjavík, Iceland. Co-author: Sara Lee and Clara Saraiva.

Dissemination activity/workshop: “The Hacked Barbie go outside: from Lisbon 2021 to Porto 2022. An experimental dissemination hit for a militant anthropology”, co-authored with Isabel Pires at the *COMbART 2022, International Conference on Art, Activism and Citizenship*, organized by Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto, Porto (Portugal) on 30-31 May 2022. <https://combart.eventqualia.net/pt/2022/inicio>

Author of the paper: “Call for artists. Body as canvas. Guerrilla fighting against unrealistic beauty standards”, co-authored with Isabel Pires at *COMbART 2022, International Conference on Art, Activism and Citizenship*, organized by Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto, Porto

(Portugal) on 30-31 May 2022. [https://eu-central-1.linodeobjects.com/evt4-media/documents/Programa\\_Programme\\_combART\\_2022\\_27.05.pdf](https://eu-central-1.linodeobjects.com/evt4-media/documents/Programa_Programme_combART_2022_27.05.pdf)

Author of the paper: “The social side of isolated bodies during the Covid pandemic”, at the RAI conference “Mobilizing Methods in Medical Anthropology”. 18-21 January 2022. Panel 28 “Covid. Conducting anthropology during pandemic”. <https://www.therai.org.uk/conferences/mobilising-methods-in-medical-anthropology-2022/programme#11170>

Organizer of the Workshop “La Barbie Hackerata. Workshop di auto-co(no)scienza sulla corporeità e gli interventi di manipolazione”, IX congress of the Italian Society for Applied Anthropology (SIAA) “Next generation: Prospettive Antropologiche”. Co-author: Lucia Portis and Chiara Pussetti. 15-18 December 2021, University La Sapienza, Rome. <https://www.siaa-next-gen.it>

Round-table and artistic exposition “The Hacked Barbie. A workshop to deconstruct ourselves”, [e]motion congress - Graduate conference on Science and Technology of Art. Co-author: Chiara Pussetti. 9-11 December 2021, Catholic Portuguese University of Porto. <https://artes.porto.ucp.pt/graduateconference?msite=4>

Author of the paper “The anti-relic: body enhancement and deconstruction of perfection”, RelicS 2021 - First International Conference on Relic Studies. Co-author: Clara Saraiva. 24-26 November 2021, at the Catholic Portuguese University of Porto. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ks1RmYwxqRhuR9xIcUbyd6NUrWUFRayR/view>

Author of the paper “The Hacked Barbie. First results from a participatory workshop about social pressure of body performances”, 2021 annual meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S). Co-author: Chiara Pussetti. 6-9 October 2021, Toronto and Worldwide. <https://www.4sonline.org/meeting/past-meetings/4s-2021-toronto/>

Organizer of the panel “Do-It-Myselfy. Body-performances and screen-based interactions in pandemic times and in the future”, 3rd National Congress of the Italian Society of Cultural Anthropology (SIAC), University La Sapienza, Rome. Co-panelist: Chiara Pussetti. 22-25 September 2021. <https://www.siacantropologia.it/appuntamenti/futuro/>

Author of the paper “Being a doctoral student during the Covid-19 emergency. A reflexive gaze on pros and cons of last year professional challenges (and not only)”, 12th Annual Meeting of the EASA Medical Anthropology Young Scholar (MAYS) Network. 19 August 2021. [https://docs.google.com/document/d/15oX2VcMYf8U\\_ZdqNI5i4ZaAGSQK\\_XU3M/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/15oX2VcMYf8U_ZdqNI5i4ZaAGSQK_XU3M/edit)

Organizer of the Workshop: “A Barbie Hackerada - workshop sobre designer bodies, subjetividades cosméticas e manipulação corporal” coordinated with Isabel Pires at the International Congress COMBART, *International Conference on Art, Activism and Citizenship*. 28-29 June 2021. <https://eu-central-1.linodeobjects.com/evt4-media/documents/Resumos2021.pdf>

Organizer of the panel +Workshop: “Breaking beauties. For participative understandings of body enhancing practices”, 15th Congress of the International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF) “Breaking the rules? Power, participation, transgression”. Co-panelist: Chiara Pussetti. Chair: Michela Fusaschi. Discussant: Emerson Pessoa. Helsinki, 19-24 June 2021 (Finland). <https://nomadit.co.uk/conference/81/p/9565>

Organizer of the panel: “The engaging side of pain”. Co-panelist: Dario Nardini, PhD. 8th International Ethnography and Qualitative Research Conference, University of Bergamo, 9-12 June 2021. <http://www.etnografiaricercaqualitativa.it>

Author of the paper: “*Looking beautiful is hard work*. An anthropological reflection on pain, risks and other side effects of cosmetic practices”. Co-author: Isabel Pires. Seminar: “The Life of Beauty”, at the Department of Anthropology, University of Zurich, 21-22 May 2021. <https://www.isek.uzh.ch/de/ethnologie/Veranstaltungen/Mai-2021-Workshop-Life-of-Beauty.html>

Organizer of the panel: “The crisis of communication”, RAI Film Festival (Royal Anthropological Institute). Co-panelist: Lucia Portis. Bristol, 21 March 2021 (United Kingdom). <https://raifilm.org.uk/admin-films/the-crisis-of-communication>

Author of the paper: “*Because words are not enough*. Alternative investigation practices in the study of contemporary body suspensions in Europe”, RAI Film Festival. Bristol, 21 March 2021 (United Kingdom). <https://nomadit.co.uk/conference/raiff2021/paper/59254>

Workshop organized with Lucia Portis and Elena Pugliese: “Milano suona. Una piccola partitura per una grande sinfonia”, during the World Anthropology Day 2021, organized by University of Milano Bicocca (Italy), 20 March 2021. <https://anthrodaymilano.formazione.unimib.it/home-page/edizione-2021/>

Workshop “La Barbie Hackerata” organized with Chiara Pussetti at the World Anthropology Day 2021, organized by University of Milano Bicocca (Italy). 19 March 2021. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D2OkAcfqeV7tH4JfjRcXBGweca9VujOx/view>

Author of the paper “Creating a hook family. Ethnographical data from an ongoing fieldwork on contemporary body suspension in Europe”, IUAES congress (International Union of

Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences). Sibenik, 14 March 2021 (Croatia). <https://iuaes2020.conventuscredo.hr/program/>

Author of the paper: “Everyday challenges of a digital ethnography (and not only). A discussion on fieldwork’s experience, strategies and difficulties, in dealing with the suspension online/offline community”. Vienna Anthropology Day, 28 September - 1 October 2020. <https://vanda.univie.ac.at/home/>

Author of the paper: “Enhancing humanity. Interlacing online and offline behaviors to construct a body suspension community”. International conference *Dialogue in building social environment*, organized by the Educare association, 7 November 2020, Vistula (Poland).

Author of the paper: “Hunting for regeneration: an anthropological insight on body suspension practice and its meanings”. 16th EASA Biennial Conference, 20-24 July 2020, Lisbon (online event). Panel 091 “Body/mind as space(s) of struggle and experiment: explorations, expansions and experience(s) of human limits”. <https://nomadit.co.uk/conference/easa2020/paper/51970>

Organizer of the panel: “La natura nella città: forme di evasione, gioco, resistenza e risignificazione degli spazi verdi urbani attraverso le pratiche fisiche”. Co-panelist: Dario Nardini, PhD. VII° SIAA congress (Italian Society of Applied Anthropology), Ferrara 12-14 December 2019. <http://www.antropologiaapplicata.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/LIBRO-SIAA-LIGHT-compresso.pdf>

Author of the paper: “Body modification between therapy and luxury. Following ethnographical traces of body-technologies for self-making interventions”. Medical Anthropology Young Scholars (EASA network) - “Being there. Medical Anthropology in action”, at the University of Turin (Italy), on July 4th and 5th, 2019. <https://mayseasa.files.wordpress.com/2019/07/mays-program-4-5-july-2019-.pdf>

Author of the paper: “Human beings *à la carte*. Considerations on ethnographical data about body-interventions in contemporary Europe”. 7th APA Congress (Portuguese Anthropological Association), panel 052. Lisbon 5-7 June 2019 (Portugal). <https://apa2019.apantropologia.org/en/panels-and-papers-with-abstracts/>

Author of the paper: “New practices and ancient roots. The raise of European body suspension in a comparative perspective”. City Rituals - Ritual Year Working Group of SIEF. 7-9 November 2018, Bucharest (Romania). <https://www.siefhome.org/downloads/wg/ry/RY2018%20abstracts.pdf>

Attendance: “I limiti dell’identità. Incontro con Francesco Remotti”, conference organized by Centro Studi Argo, Turin 30 November 2018 (Italy). <https://www.centrostudiargo.it/eventi-argo/aperitivi-antropologici-i-limiti-dellidentita-incontro-con-francesco-remotti/>

Attendance: “Ugo Fabietti. Il lavoro dell’antropologo”, Università degli Studi di Milano (ITALY), 24-26 November 2018 (Italy). [https://www.unimib.it/sites/default/files/allegati/a2\\_fabietti\\_def\\_sedi.pdf](https://www.unimib.it/sites/default/files/allegati/a2_fabietti_def_sedi.pdf)

Author of the paper: “When the ethnographer arrives in a “suspended” family. Considerations from a fieldwork in progress between Italy, Norway and Portugal”. 15th EASA Biennial Conference, 14-17 August 2018, Stockholm University (Sweden). <https://nomadit.co.uk/conference/easa2018/paper/43180>

Author of the Poster: “The Self under the skin: strategies of memory through the body”. 7th Ethnography and qualitative research conference, 6-9 June 2018, Bergamo (Italy). [http://www.etnografiaricercaqualitativa.it/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ERQ2020+21-Final-Conference-Programme\\_June9th.pdf](http://www.etnografiaricercaqualitativa.it/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ERQ2020+21-Final-Conference-Programme_June9th.pdf)

Author of the paper: “When words are not enough. Preliminary results from an anthropological laboratory on alternative forms of self-representation”, Fourth Interdisciplinary and International Conference “Verbal, Visual and Scientific Narratives”, Pułtusk Academy of Humanities, 4-6 September 2017, Pułtusk (Poland).

Author of the paper: “Body’s application: cyborgs, trans-human technologies and body modifications in contemporary Europe”, EASA Medical Anthropology Network Meeting “Bodies in transition - power, knowledge and medical anthropology”, 5-7 July 2017, Lisbon (Portugal).

Author of the paper: “Composing our words. An experimental workshop exploring alternative forms of self-expressions.”, open format intervention, 1st International Colleex Workshop, Ethnographic experimentation, an EASA network. 13th–15th July 2017, Jardim Botânico Tropical, Lisbon (Portugal).

Author of the paper: “Vincoli d’amore tra le Alpi. Note di campo sull’ineguaglianza di genere e di generazione in ambito rurale”, IV Congress of Archeology and Anthropology “Amor”, RomArché 26-28 May 2017, Rome (Italy).

Author of the paper: “Pain and blood, poems and drawing. Ethnography of a creative chain reaction”, International Conference “Futuros disputados”, VI Congress of APA (Anthropological Portuguese Association), 2-4 June 2016, Coimbra University (Portugal).

Author of the paper: “Mobbing in Switzerland family domain: the invisible work of woman in the agricultural context and violations of children rights in peasant dynasty”, Conference “Process and results of social-cultural transformation within family domain”, The County of Pruszków and the Polish Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, 28-29 October 2015, Pruszków (Poland).

Poster: “Jusqu’à la limite de soi. Notes de terrain sur la transe près d’une petite ville italienne”, 2nd International Conference “Démésure”, AFEA (Association française d’ethnologie et d’anthropologie), Toulouse University, 29 June-2 July 2015 (France).

Author of the paper: “Il tatuaggio commemorativo. Note di campo sull’elaborazione del lutto nell’Italia contemporanea e ipotesi di auto-poiesi”, International Conference “Archeologia e antropologia della morte” RomArchè 2015, 20-22 may 2015, Stadio Domiziano of Rome (Italy).

Author of the paper: “Body symbols. Making the body”, Third Interdisciplinary and International conference “Thinking Symbols”, 30 June-2 July 2015, Pultusk Academy of Humanities, Pultusk (Poland). Accommodation and inscription expensed.

Author of the paper: “Humanizing death. An anthropological interpretation of tattoos as self-poiesi of contemporary Italy”, International Conference “Seeing beyond in facing death”, 25-28 September 2014, University of Padua (Italy).

Author of the paper: “Performing death. The Good Friday Procession ritual in Civitavecchia”, Dying and Death Conference, Alba Iulia University, 26-28 September 2013, Alba Iulia (Romania).

Author of the paper: “Body marks and death. Extreme body modification rituals”, Dying and Death Conference, Alba Iulia University, 6-8 September 2012, Alba Iulia (Romania). Scholarship for travel expenses.

Author of the paper: “No name, no memorial. The tragedy of migrants around the Mediterranean Sea”, Second Interdisciplinary International Conference “Disasters, Catastrophes and the Ends of the World in Sources”, 25-27 June 2012, Pultusk Academy of Humanities, Pultusk (Poland).

Attendance: 3rd ANUAC Congress “Famiglie, genere, generazioni”, 7-9 November 2013, Turin University.

Author of the paper: “Mourir en tant que migrant: thanatopolitiques et thanatopratiques de l’Italie contemporaine”, Dying and Death Conference, Alba Iulia University, 29 September-1 October 2011, Alba Iulia (Romania)

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Honorary member of the Scientific Pedagogical Society Committee EDUCARE, Pultusk (Poland).

From January 2025 Member and Co-founder of the Pain International Network (PIN) dedicated to scholars interested on pain studies. Co-founder: prof. Kate Clancy, University of Illinois.

From 2025 SIAA (Italian Society for Applied Anthropology)

2020-2024 Society for Social Studies (4S) - USA

2019-2022 EASA (European Association of Social Anthropologist)

2017-2025 APA (Anthropological Portuguese Association)

## **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

Italian (native speaker)

French (excellent)

English (excellent)

Spanish (good)

Portuguese (beginner)

## **PERSONAL SKILLS**

2012: Qualify in moderation competences for adult group. Schools in *La moderation, un art qui s'apprend*, Lausanne. This personal developing experience gave me more sensibility and competences as social interviewer and to managed new focused-group techniques.

2012: Qualification in video/film maker. As part of this experience, I was able to gain new skills for carrying out group-focus works and qualitative analysis of visual materials.

2010 Member of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

IT skills: Office (Word, Excel, Power Point, Photoshop, Internet Explorer, Movie Maker), Windows, Linux and Macintosh (Safari, Pages, Keynote, Numbers).

Knowledge of NVIVO, Dragon Fly, Transcriber and Tortoise (for data organization), Edius Pro Video and Corel Video Studio (for film editing)