

Sara Salmi

Work Experience

Research Fellow

University of Verona (Verona)

April 2025 - Ongoing



- Support the development and validation of ITC frameworks tailored to learners, educators, and cultural organizations, while also empowering the scientific community—researchers and experts—through evidence-based practices and public engagement across sectors.
- Conduct research and develop policies to advance innovative intercultural and transcultural competence (ITC) strategies in arts education and cultural engagement, with a strong focus on supporting educators, policymakers, and cultural leaders.

Emergency Project Manager

SOS Children Villages Italy (Milano)

January 2023 - Ongoing

- Lead and manage the implementation of SOS CV's Ukraine crisis response in Italy
- Oversee and supervise program development and planning, implementing and monitoring, along with resource mobilisation, coordinating, documenting, and advocating
- Spearheading efforts to address the global mental health gap, ensuring that People in Need can access vital mental health treatment and support services by implementing evidence-based, reliable, and safe interventions

Educational Project Manager

Alchemilla Cooperativa Sociale (Milano)

November 2020 - December 2023

- Manage REC, Erasmus+ KA2, UIA projects on Gender Equality, Youth Action, Arts and cultures and digital education EU funded projects.
- Prepare interim and final reports, narrative, and accounting of the project towards the donor and relevant authorities
- Design and facilitate participatory training, creating and facilitating interactive online workshops and blended learning solutions.
- Work across all learning design and delivery phases with the latest tools and virtual environments for online training delivery and collaboration.

Project Outreach Coordinator

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milano)

February 2021 - August 2023

- Design and coordinate EU-funded Urban Innovative Actions project activities to enhance CYP's wellness in participatory processes.
- Plan and deliver formal and non-formal learning activities to contribute to the development of effective empowerment programs for CYP
- Provide support for professional training events with teaching staff, nonprofit and municipality to contribute to empowering CYP's awareness and participation, while developing strong relationships with local school systems, students, their parents, and other relevant stakeholders.

Let's connect on

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About me

Research Fellow at the University of Verona and passionate anthropologist, currently in charge of EU and Emergency Response project management (EU4Health; REC; Erasmus+ KA2, UIA projects on Gender Equality, Youth Action, Arts and cultures and digital education).

I specialize in the crossing of education and youth while adopting human-centred, in-depth and observation-based qualitative research methods in order to generate valuable questions, gain deep insight and most importantly, translate the results into actionable strategies for impactful change.

A fundamental passion for life and people is the thread that drives me forward to explore the world and gain valuable experience in governance and international development.

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Work Experience

Project and Research Assistant

The People for change Foundation (Malta)

Settembre 2020 - Febbrario 2021

- Conduct on-the-ground legal and policy research in the fields of migration, asylum and racism in the European Union within a Malta-based human right think tank
- Provide evidence-based, independent, practical and creative ideas on the protection, respect and promotion of human rights in Malta and across the European Union.

Project and Research Assistant

Street Child (Nepal)

October 2018 - December 2018

- Perform context analysis, on the ground ethnographic research and data collection with regards to the situation of young Dalit Women in Nepal (exploring issues of Gender, GBV, Education)
- Develop DfID Risk Register (or Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nigeria, Nepal, Sri Lanka), 'Do No Harm' guidelines for safeguarding policies and proposal for funding with Comic Relief and Girls First Fund (2018)
- Design and implement field research activities including drafting questionnaires and conducting 120 field interviews, followed by qualitative and quantitative data analysis.

Educator

Baan Unrak Children Home (Sangkalaburi, Thailand)

January 2011 – June 2011

- Supported context analysis, research and data collection with regards to the situation of Mon and Karen minorities forced to live in the Thai-Burma border.
- Participation to territorial civil society networks and platforms to coordinate and deliver Health and Hygiene workshop to street children and families.
- Manage the relationship with donors, including analysis of database, profiling and communications/engagement letter.

Education

Master International Relations

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milano)

January 2020 - December 2020

- Thesis: (due Dec 2020) "New Security Challenges: climate change and failed states. The experience of IDP and refugees".
- Including: Global and Humanitarian Affairs; Global Environmental Policies; Climate, Energy and Human security; Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers; EU Law.

BA Anthropology

Università di Bologna (Bologna)

September 2016 - July 2019

- Thesis: (Oct-Dec 2018) "Musahar Women: an anthropological perspective over Empowerment and Alphabetization in Nepal".
- Including: Humanitarian Affairs and Assistance; Gender; Migration; non-formal Education; Microfinance and Livelihood.

BA Anthropology (Affiliate student)

University College London UCL (London)

September 2017 - July 2018

Skills

Language: Italian: mother tongue; English: C1; French: B2.

Project Management & Partnerships:

Resource management, budgeting, reporting, and financial accountability in compliance with donor procedures. Programme support (evaluation, needs assessment) and development of MEAL tools for monitoring and impact assessment. Donor liaison, governance and institutional strengthening, international cooperation and partnerships, representation. Coordination and monitoring of European and national projects, audit management, and stakeholder engagement.

Institutional communication and creative dissemination (podcasts, storytelling, digital campaigns).

Research & Social Innovation

Qualitative and quantitative research · Ethnographic and arts-based methods · Conduct interviews, focus group discussions, and surveys · Design of participatory research aimed at fostering agency and authorship among vulnerable groups.

Focus Areas

Global Citizenship Education · Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) · Gender Equality · Social Inclusion · Youth Empowerment · Migration and Diaspora Engagement · Intercultural Competences