

# Emanuela Piccolo

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow  
Senior Policy, Programme &  
Project Specialist

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## EDUCATION

2013–2020

### PhD in World Politics

University of Helsinki, Finland ·  
Awarded with distinction.

2013

### Diploma in Rule of Law

University of Helsinki, Finland ·  
Awarded with distinction.

2008–2010

### Master’s degree in International Relations

University of Milan, Italy · 110/110  
with honours.

2004–2007

### Bachelor’s degree in International and European Studies

University of Milan, Italy · 110/110  
with honours.

## LANGUAGES

|         |        |
|---------|--------|
| Italian | native |
| English | C2     |
| Finnish | B1     |
| French  | B1     |

## PROFILE

Emanuela Piccolo is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow and Project Manager at the Centre for Intercultural Studies, University of Verona. Her research approaches interculturality as a site of democratic contestation, examining how the vocabularies of inclusion and competence can displace political contestation into the management of difference. This work extends a longer-standing inquiry, rooted in critical political and international theory, into norm contestation and the depoliticising logics of liberal governance.

She holds a PhD in World Politics with distinction from the University of Helsinki (2020). Her dissertation received the Raimo Väyrynen Fund Prize for Best Doctoral Dissertation and became her Springer monograph (2022). At Verona, she manages the Horizon Europe projects INTRACOMP and METEOR.

Alongside her academic work, she advises international NGOs, public institutions and local authorities on programme and project design, implementation and evaluation, across Horizon Europe, ERDF-supported urban programmes (UIA, EUI and URBACT) and civil-society initiatives, including extensive work in Palestine and the wider Middle East.

## RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGICAL EXPERTISE

- Critical political and international theory
- Norm contestation and critiques of liberal orders and rights
- Critical intercultural pedagogy and democratic contestation
- Postcolonial studies
- Post-qualitative approaches to social research

## Academic experience

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow and Project Manager 2024–present  
*Centre for Intercultural Studies, Department of Human Sciences, University of Verona, Italy*

- Research on intercultural education, inclusion and competence as sites of norm contestation, depoliticisation and democratic transformation.
- Project Manager at the University of Verona for the Horizon Europe projects INTRACOMP and METEOR, supporting international, multi-partner research collaborations.

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## CURRICULUM VITAE

### RESEARCH AWARDS AND FUNDING

#### 2022

Raimo Väyrynen Fund Prize for Best Doctoral Dissertation on international politics written at a Finnish university.

#### 2018–2020

Finnish Cultural Foundation research award.

#### 2016–2018

Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (Sylff) research award.

#### 2014–2016

Finnish Government Scholarship Pool research award.

### TEACHING

#### 2014–2022

Critical International Theory; Post-positivist Methodological Approaches to Social Research.

*Department of Political and Economic Studies, University of Helsinki, Finland*

### PEER REVIEW

Peer reviewer for *Educazione Interculturale* (University of Bologna) and *Global Constitutionalism* (Cambridge University Press).

### Doctoral Researcher

2013–2020

*Department of Political and Economic Studies, University of Helsinki, Finland*

Research on critical international theory, norm contestation and international institutions, with a focus on the critique of international liberal orders and their depoliticising logics.

Departmental affiliation continued in 2020–2022 to finalise the peer-reviewed monograph, published by Springer in 2022.

### PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH WRITING

#### *Forthcoming and developing publications*

Piccolo, E., & Milani, M. (forthcoming, November 2026). “Performing Difference, Practising Democracy.” *Educazione Interculturale*.

Piccolo, E., & Milani, M. “Politicising Bildung and the Common Good.” In F. Dervin et al. (Eds.), *The Routledge Guidebook to Global Bildung and the Common Good for Teacher Education*. Routledge. Chapter in preparation.

#### *Monograph*

Piccolo Koskimies, E. (2022). *Norm Contestation, Sovereignty and (Ir)responsibility at the International Criminal Court: Debunking Liberal Anti-Politics*. Springer.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-85934-3>

#### *Book chapter*

Piccolo Koskimies, E. (2017). Sovereignty as Responsibility at the International Criminal Court: The Frontiers of International Judicial Intervention. In E. Yahyaoui Krivenko (Ed.), *Human Rights and Power in Times of Globalisation* (pp. 67–108). Brill.  
[https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004346406\\_005](https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004346406_005)

#### *Doctoral dissertation*

Koskimies, E. (2020). *Sovereignty as Responsibility at the International Criminal Court: The “Frontiers” of International Judicial Intervention*. Doctoral dissertation, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki. Unigrafia. [Repository](#)

*Publications also appear under Emanuela Koskimies and Emanuela Piccolo Koskimies.*

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND RESEARCH PARTICIPATION

#### 15–16 June 2026

**ERUA Critical Edges.** Paris, France.

*Paper:* At the Edge of Democracy: Disruption & Democratic Resistance.

#### 12–15 September 2018

**EISA 12th Pan-European Conference.** Prague, Czech Republic.

#### 5–6 July 2018

**Challenges to Global Constitutionalism — Global Constitutionalism Scholars Workshop.** WZB Berlin, Germany.

*Paper:* From Sovereignty as Responsibility to Irresponsible Sovereignty: Any Ways out?

#### 12–15 June 2018

**BISA Annual Conference.** Bath, UK.

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## CURRICULUM VITAE

### VISITING RESEARCH AND INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS

#### April 2018

Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy, Boston College, USA.

#### September–December 2017

School of Law and Politics, Cardiff University, UK.

#### February–April 2017

Global Governance Unit, WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Germany.

#### September 2016–January 2017

Centre for the Politics of Transnational Law, VU Amsterdam, Netherlands.

#### February–June 2015

School of Law and Social Justice, University of Liverpool, UK.

#### 12–13 April 2018

**The Legitimacy of Transnational Orders.** Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy, Boston College, USA.  
*Paper:* The International Criminal Court and the Supranational Transfer of Sovereignty: Bringing Power Back to Focus.

#### 4–7 April 2018

**ISA Annual Convention.** San Francisco, USA.  
*Paper:* The Development of Social Norms: Another Round Beyond the Agency–Structure Divide. The Case of the International Criminal Court.

#### 26 March 2018

**Second Postgraduate Conference in International Law and Human Rights.** University of Liverpool, UK.

#### 18–19 September 2017

**Conflict Research Society Annual Conference.** University of Oxford, UK.

#### 23–24 October 2016

**Global Justice and Political Reality.** Durham University, UK.

#### 16–19 August 2016

**Possibilities of “Data” in Social Research — Methodological Summer Seminar.** University of Tampere, Finland.

#### 26–27 May 2016

**Graduate Conference in International Political Theory.** University of St Andrews, UK.

#### 15–16 March 2016

**Annual Conference on Explorations in Peace & Conflict Research.** Center for Global Nonkilling, Åbo Akademi University, Vaasa, Finland.

#### 30 November–1 December 2015

**Taming Power in Times of Globalization: What Role for Human Rights?** Irish Centre for Human Rights, National University of Ireland Galway, Ireland.  
*Paper:* Conditional Sovereignty in the Practice of the International Criminal Court.

#### 10–11 September 2015

**Unlearning International Relations in Global Perspectives — PhD Workshop.** Newcastle University, UK.

#### 24–25 June 2015

**Joint Conference of the Netherlands Journal of Legal Philosophy and the Association for Social and Political Philosophy.** University of Amsterdam, Netherlands.

#### 13–14 March 2014

**After Human Rights.** University of Helsinki, Finland.  
*Paper:* Limits and Prospects of Legal Cosmopolitanism: The International Criminal Court (ICC) as a Test-Case.

#### 13–14 February 2014

**Counterfactual Histories and Possible Futures.** University of Helsinki, Finland.  
*Paper:* Cosmopolitanism and hierarchy. An attempt to a counterfactual analysis.

#### 19–30 August 2013

**Rule of Law: A Contested Concept? A New Ideology of the Rule of Law in Development — Summer University.** Erik Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights, University of Helsinki, Finland.

### PROGRAMME AND FUNDING EXPERTISE

Horizon Europe

European Regional Development Fund

Urban Innovative Actions

European Urban Initiative

URBACT

Erasmus+

Europe for Citizens

Youth in Action

European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights

European Youth Foundation

Euro-Med Youth

UNESCO Participation Programme

North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

Anna Lindh Foundation

Tavola Valdese

### DIGITAL TOOLS

Research and analysis

ATLAS.ti

Project delivery and collaboration

Asana, Microsoft Office, Google Drive

Facilitation and learning

Mentimeter, Mural, Moodle

Communications

social media and digital content

## Professional experience in policy and programme leadership

### Senior Project and Strategic Planning Specialist

2020–2024

*Municipality of Milan, Welfare and Health Directorate, Italy*

Specialist appointment coordinating WISH MI — Wellbeing Integrated System of Milan, a project valued at over €6 million and co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund through Urban Innovative Actions (UIA). The project aimed to develop an integrated system of strategies, policies, programmes and services for the wellbeing of children and young people aged 0–18 living in Milan, grounded in consultation and bottom-up co-design.

- Coordinated work across the Welfare and Health Directorate, the Mayor's Office and municipal teams covering education, employment, youth, sport, international relations, programme management and monitoring, culture, and civic and district services. Managed institutional relationships and participated in multidisciplinary working groups.
- Managed relationships with the funding body and project partners: the Research Centre on Intercultural Relations at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; the Department of Design at Politecnico di Milano; Fondazione Politecnico di Milano; ActionAid Italy; and ABCittà.
- Managed and monitored the co-design of an integrated strategic plan shared by municipal directorates and external stakeholders, through city-wide engagement and consultation.
- Oversaw the design, co-design and testing of a shared visual identity for policies and services for children and young people aged 0–18, alongside digital and “phygital” platforms and tools combining physical and digital interaction to improve access to opportunities and support civic participation through educational play.
- Coordinated the development of community hubs and a city-wide scheme of small-scale local projects, enabling activities co-designed with children, young people and their families.
- Supervised project research and neighbourhood-level analysis. Coordinated impact evaluation, supporting the development and implementation of the overall framework, qualitative and quantitative tools, and a multidimensional index for assessing policies for children and young people across municipal directorates.
- Coordinated and supervised project closure, including administrative completion and knowledge transfer.

### International Programme, Strategy and Research Consultant

2013–2024

*Service Civil International, international network*

Advised the International Secretariat, International Executive Committee, branches and partner organisations on strategy, programme development, research, advocacy and organisational learning across a network of more than 130 branches and partner organisations.

- Supported multi-country, multi-partner programmes on rights and inclusion, peace and international solidarity, civil-society participation and global citizenship education.

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## CURRICULUM VITAE

### PROFESSIONAL STRENGTHS

critical analysis, communication, facilitation, active listening, mediation, collaborative working and self-management.

### REFEREES

#### Marta Milani

Associate Professor of General and Social Pedagogy, Department of Human Sciences, University of Verona

[marta.milani@univr.it](mailto:marta.milani@univr.it)

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#### Heikki Patomäki

Professor of World Politics, University of Helsinki

[heikki.patomaki@helsinki.fi](mailto:heikki.patomaki@helsinki.fi)

+358 (0)50 448 4400

#### Cosimo Palazzo

Former Director, Rights, Inclusion and Projects Unit, Municipality of Milan

[cosimo.palazzo74@gmail.com](mailto:cosimo.palazzo74@gmail.com)

[cosimo@walawelfare.com](mailto:cosimo@walawelfare.com)

+39 348 936 8065

- Facilitated strategic planning and learning; identified funding opportunities and developed proposals, performance frameworks and monitoring and evaluation systems using Theory of Change, participatory approaches and mixed methods.
- Produced research, policy analysis, technical notes, position statements and communications materials to support evidence-based advocacy, campaigning and mobilisation.
- Developed institutional and civil-society partnerships; supported international representation and coordination across the network.
- Designed capacity development and knowledge-sharing processes, including learning needs analysis, training resources, staff and activist mentoring, and evaluation of organisational learning.

#### Programme Manager

2011–2013

*Service Civil International Italy, National Secretariat, Rome*

Managed programmes on youth social inclusion, civil society and active citizenship, and international volunteering across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the USA.

- Directed strategic and operational planning, coordinated multi-country and multi-partner projects, and managed funding, budgets, personnel, partnerships and stakeholder relationships.
- Supported and developed local activist groups, their engagement pathways and their collaboration with national and international structures.

#### Project Manager for Volunteering and Global Education

January–August 2011

*KVT Finland, National Secretariat, Helsinki*

Supported coordination of Maailmantalkoot — World Volunteering, a multi-year project delivered with the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The project promoted the social inclusion of young migrants, asylum seekers and refugees through volunteering and global citizenship education with local communities and schools.

#### Project and Volunteer Manager

2007–2010

*Associazione Za'atar, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Italy*

Coordinated international solidarity and volunteering projects supporting Palestinian communities in refugee camps, with a particular focus on children and young people, capacity development and social reconstruction in conflict and post-conflict settings across Palestine (the West Bank and Gaza Strip), Lebanon and Syria.

- Managed funding research and applications, donor and partner relationships, volunteer and staff recruitment and training, project delivery, monitoring and evaluation, and narrative and financial reporting.

#### Analysis and Reporting Officer

2008–2009

*Consulate General of Italy and Development Cooperation Office, Jerusalem*

MAE–CRUI placement undertaking socio-political and legal research, analysis, monitoring and reporting.