

# VALENTINA CAPOCEFALO

## ABOUT ME

I am a human geographer with strong local grounding and an outward-looking perspective. My research experience spans both theoretical frameworks (such as Ecosystem Services and Nature's Contributions to People) and applied studies (including surveys of benefits and values within socio-ecological case studies). I employ both qualitative and quantitative methods in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research projects

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

### SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATIONS

#### **April 2025 - today | Department of Cultural and environmental heritage, University of Milan**

Postdoctoral research fellow in the field of urban agroecology practices and projects for ecosystem services production in the Milanese metropolitan area

#### **April 2025 - today | Spoke 5 National Biodiversity Future Centre in collaboration with the Department of Cultural and environmental heritage, University of Milan**

Team member of an interdisciplinary research project aimed at understanding socio-cultural aspects characterizing the relationship between society and urban and peri-urban green areas in Italy with particular attention to benefits and values dimensions

#### **April 2025 - today | Charles University**

Proponent team member of the project titled *Youth, governance, and social justice in environmental transition: an ecocritical framework in comparative and transdisciplinary contexts*. The project has been funded by Charles University 4eu+ mini-grant 2025 with a budget of almost 8740 euro

#### **November 2023 - october 2024 | Department of Agricultural and environmental sciences - Production, landscape, agroenergy, University of Milan**

Research fellow within the project *Fattoria Pianeta Terra* (Planet Earth Farm). Main research topics: urban agriculture, agroecology, community-based urban regeneration practices, minors and families support

#### **May 2022 - Dicember 2023 | National Research Centre**

Member of the group of young researchers involved in the project *BRIDGES - Building Reflexivity and response-ability Involving Different narratives of knowledGE and Science*

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

#### **January 2024 - October 2025 | Department of Agricultural and environmental sciences, University of Milan**

Adjunct professor of *Geographic and historical development of the mountain in the long run* (eng) within the master degree in *Valorization and sustainable development of mountain areas*



## PERSONAL INFORMATION

Born on 31st October 1992

Milan, Italy

+39 3483602173

valentina.capocéfalo@unimi.it

ORCID: 0009-0003-8608-761X

## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

#### **November 2020 - October 2023 (PhD thesis defence: January 2024)**

PhD in *Literature, arts and environmental heritage*, University of Milan. Title of the PhD thesis: *The transformative potential of urban agriculture experiences. A survey on the cultural ecosystem services generated within the Milanese territory*

#### **March 2016 - July 2018**

Master's degree in *Cultural valorization of the territory and the landscape*, University of Milan (110/110 cum laude)

## LATEST TRAINING ACTIVITIES

#### **8th-10th October 2024**

*2024 International Geneva study trip: environmental governance* organised by the Geneva Science-Policy Interface within the 4eu+ Alliance (University of Geneva, Switzerland)

#### **21st September 2022**

DLGS Summer School 2022 *Spaces & Transformation: Livable Futures* (Dresden Leibniz Graduate School, Germany)

## FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND DIGITAL SKILLS

	Comprehension		Speaking		Writing
	listening	reading	interaction	oral production	
English	B2	C1	B2	C1	C1
Spanish	B1	B1	A2	A2	A2
German	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1

Good knowledge of Microsoft Office 365 packages, QGIS and ArcGIS softwares and Canva on-line graphic tool

## RESEARCH COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

### **BRIDGES project | National Research Centre, Milan, Italy**

Moderator for the webinars *Caring for soil through research and action: meeting with the community of the Urban Forestry Centre (Milan)* (18th April 2023, on-line) and *Caring for soil through research and action: meeting with the Soulfood Forestfarms and Cascinet communities* (29th November 2022, on-line)

### **GeoNight events | Department of Cultural and environmental heritage, University of Milan**

Scientific and Organising Committee member of the events *Values, plural noun. Environmental values and the importance of human geography in their detection* (Vaiano Valle - Milan, 14th April 2023); *Regenerative practices. A journey along the margins* (Cascina Sant'Ambrogio, Milan, 1st April 2022); *Urban and peri-urban agriculture between landscape and environmental regeneration, community and local governance* (9th April 2021, on-line)

## LATEST CONGRESSES, CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

Organizational roles

- Co-chair of the session *Promoting (in)equality. Places, people and power within participative processes* at the X EUGEO Congress (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Wien, 9th-11th September 2025)
- Co-chair of the session *Margins, borders, fringes. Spaces and places of multispecies reinterpretation and regeneration between urban and rural areas* at the 34th Italian Geographical Congress (Torino, 3rd-5th September 2025)
- Co-chair of the session *Ecosystem services in the socio-ecological transition. Knowledge, powers, processes* at the 14th edition of the Geographical Study Society study titled *Oltre la globalizzazione: Transizioni/Transitions* (Università di Firenze, 6th December 2024).
- Organising Committee member of the 4th edition of the Geographical Study Society study day titled *Geography and political ecology* (University of Milan, 29th-30th June 2023)

Speaker

- 34th Italian Geographical Congress (Torino, 3rd-5th September 2025): *"The ecological transition as a relational and multi-value process. A pilot study in urban and peri-urban contexts"* (Capocefalo V., Dal Borgo A. G.); *"Not just limitations: social agroecology projects in Milan-Bollate Prison"* (Dal Borgo A. G., Capocefalo V.)
- Congreso Latinoamericano de ciencias sociales y ambientales *Hacia la justicia ambiental y espacial: el papel de la geografía y la planeación territorial* (University of Warsaw, 16th-19th June 2025): *"Surveying Nature's Contribution to People within agroecological projects. A South American-derived research in Northern Italy"* (Capocefalo V., Dal Borgo A. G.); *"The quantification of ecosystem value and the immateriality of poetry: ethics of care practice between Italian-speaking Switzerland and Brasil. A case study"* (Orzeł J. H., Capocefalo V.)
- 10th STS Italia Conference Technoscience for Good: designing, caring, and reconfiguring (Polytechnic of Milan – Campus Bovisa, 11th-13th June 2025): *"What is good for whom? Actors, expertise and (un)revealed purposes within environmental governance strategies"* (Capocefalo V.)

## SELECTED SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

### Scientific journals

- Bergaglio M., **Capocefalo V.**, Dal Borgo A. G. & G. Gambazza (2025). Ecovillages as living labs for social innovation: the case of Torri Superiore. *Sustainability*, 18, e188. doi: 10.3390/su18010188
- Dal Borgo A. G., Bocchi S., **Capocefalo V.**, De Marinis P., Gulino F., Sartori E., Schievano A., Vagge I., Zaniboni L. & G. Chiaffarelli (2025). Agroforestry for the city: farmscaping the urban fringe through transformative and participatory action research in Milan. *Agroforestry Systems*, 99-125. doi: 10.1007/s10457-025-01198-5
- **Capocefalo V.** & Leuti, F. (2024). The Ecosystem Services analytical framework in Italy. A human geography prospect. *Annali del Dipartimento di Metodi e Modelli per l'Economia, il Territorio e la Finanza dell'Università Sapienza di Roma*, 161-172. doi: 10.13133/2611-6634/1680
- Criscuolo L, Bordogna G., Barbara L., Benassia A., Bergami C., Calastri E., **Capocefalo V.**, Caretto, A., Cavallo, C., Chakraborty, A. et al. (2024). Developing a participatory process for soil fertility: a case study in an urban area of Italy. *Sustainability*, 16, e4882. doi: 10.3390/su16124882
- Dal Borgo A. G., Chiaffarelli G., **Capocefalo V.**, Schievano A., Bocchi S., & Vagge I. (2023). Agroforestry as a driver for the provisioning of peri-urban socio-ecological functions: a trans-disciplinary approach. *Sustainability*, 15, e11020. doi: 10.3390/su151411020

### Book chapters

- **Capocefalo V.** & Gambazza G. (2023). Shaping a city with(out) canvassing its citizens. The transformation of Parco Bassini in Milan: a case study. In Ruepert G. & Illic T. (eds.). *Young Geographers. Showcasing Research Contributions in Geography* (pp. 139-158). Cham, Springer

### Conferences and Congresses proceedings

- **Capocefalo V.** & F. Leuti (2025). Governare l'ecosistema territoriale. Una riflessione critica sui servizi ecosistemici nel contesto nazionale. In Benetti S., Cerutti S., Pettenati G. (eds.), *Geografia e Patrimonio* (817-822). *Memorie geografiche*, 27. Firenze: Società di Studi Geografici. ISBN: 978-88-94690170
- Bini V., **Capocefalo V.** & S. Rinauro (2024). Geografia e ecologia politica: teorie, pratiche, discorsi. In Bini V., Capocefalo V. & S. Rinauro (eds.), *Geografia e ecologia politica: teorie, pratiche, discorsi* (5-9). *Memorie geografiche*, 24. Firenze: Società di Studi Geografici. ISBN 978-88-94690149
- Dal Borgo A. G. & **V. Capocefalo** (2024). Funzioni, valori, progetti: il contributo delle pratiche agroecologiche nei processi di rigenerazione socio-territoriale. In Bini V., Capocefalo V. & S. Rinauro (eds.), *Geografia e ecologia politica: teorie, pratiche, discorsi* (549-553). *Memorie geografiche*, 24. Firenze: Società di Studi Geografici. ISBN 978-88-94690149
- Dal Borgo A. G. & **V. Capocefalo** (2023). Storie di territori, storie di comunità: pratiche di rigenerazione socio-territoriale ai margini di Milano. In Albanese V. & Muti G. (eds.). *Oltre la Globalizzazione – Narrazioni/Narratives* (pp. 137-144). *Memorie geografiche*, 23. Florence, Società di Studi Geografici. ISBN 978-88-94690132
- **Capocefalo V.** & Gambazza G. (2023). Le dimensioni geografiche del conflitto urbano. Movimenti sociali e istituzioni alla prova del verde pubblico. Il caso dell'ex Parco Bassini. In Rocca L., Castiglioni B., Lo Presti L. (eds.). *Geografie in movimento. XXXIII Congresso Geografico Italiano*, Padova 8-13 settembre 2021 (pp. 423-430). Vol. III. Padua, Cleup. ISBN 9788854953475