

Curriculum Vitae

Marcella Milana



Title: Associate professor

Affiliation:

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I hold a PhD in Innovation and Evaluation of Education Systems from the University of Rome III (Italy) and have lived, worked and carried out research in North America (United States), Latin America (Argentina, Brazil) and Europe (Denmark, Italy). My mother tongue is Italian, but English has been my chief working language since 2005, and I have good knowledge of Spanish and acquaintance with Danish and Portuguese.

I research primarily adult education policy and governance at national and international levels, also from comparative perspectives, and have a vivid interest in the growing complexity of European and global education governance; hence, I draw on multidisciplinary knowledge and collaborate with scholars in disciplines other than education (e.g., sociology, political science). Methodologically, qualitative and quantitative approaches are needed; though most of my work has used qualitative methods, I am experienced with collaborative research adopting mixed methods.

I have won competitive research awards and managed and participated in various research projects in adult and lifelong education policy and governance. These include a Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowship to examine the effects of globalisation on adult education at international and national levels and leading the national team in a Horizon 2020-funded project that researched how policy interventions in adult education markets could be more effective. I have also led a project in the broader field of education under the "Research Projects of National Interest" scheme (organised by the national ministry responsible for universities and research).

By leading the Nordic Comparative and International Education Society (NOCIES), partaking in several committees of the World Council of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES), and serving the International Society for Comparative Adult Education (ISCAE), I strongly supported the comparative education research community in the past. I continue to serve the international research community as Chair of the European Society for Research on the Education of Adults (ESREA). ESREA has 13 research networks, each organising a programme of activities: conferences, seminars, publications, etc. I have been joint convenor of the ESREA Network on Policy Studies in Adult Education since 2010. I am also joint convenor of the European Educational Research Association (EERA) Network 23 (Policy Studies and Politics of Education).

I also support research communication as Editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Lifelong Education* (Taylor & Francis) and the book series *Studies in Adult Education and Lifelong Learning* (Palgrave Macmillan/Springer).

Academic qualifications

- National Scientific Professional Qualification as Full Professor (sector: Education) (obtained in 2018, valid until 2029), Italian national ministry responsible for universities and research

Institutional responsibilities

- Represent my university in the Network of Italian Universities for Lifelong Learning (RUIAP) (appointed by the Rector) (2018-2025)
- Member of my Department's Management Board (2018-present)
- Member of the Departmental Quality Assurance Committee, reviewing procedures to maintain and improve quality, equity and efficiency (2018-2024)
- Departmental Dean for Internationalisation, leading the internationalisation of the Department (2018-2024)
- Supporting the international mobility of students and staff (President of the Commission for Internationalisation) (2018-2021)
- Supporting the Department's research policies as a member of the Research Policy Committee (2024-present)
- Reviewing research projects by Departmental staff as a member of the Ethics Committee (2017-2018)

Previous academic positions

- Associate professor, Aarhus University, Department of Education (DK) (2008-2015)
- Assistant professor, Aarhus University, Department of Education (DK) (2005-2008)

Scientific degree

- Doctorate in Innovation and Evaluation of Educational Systems, University of Rome III (IT) (2005)
- Master of Arts in Educational Sciences, University of Rome III (IT) (110/110 cum laude) (1999)

Other appointments/affiliations

Honorary appointments

- Honorary Lecturer (2016-2019) and Honorary Professor of Adult Education (since 2019), School of Education, University of Nottingham

Visiting scholar/affiliated staff

- Affiliated staff, Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain) (5 months, 2023), University College, London Institute of Education (UK) (1 month, 2018), University of California-Los Angeles (USA) (2 years, 2012-2014)
- Visiting Scholar, UCLouvain (Belgium) (1 month, 2024), Lisbon University (Portugal) (1 month, 2022), Aarhus University (Denmark)(1 month, 2021), University of Verona (Italy) (3 months, 2015), Melbourne University (Australia) (1 month, 2012), University of California - Los Angeles (USA) (6 months, 2011), Roskilde University (Denmark) (7 months, 2004-2005)
- Associate member, Centre for Research and Development in Adult and Lifelong Learning, University of Glasgow (UK) (2013-present)
- International Research Associate, Paulo Freire Institute, University of California - Los Angeles (USA) (2011-2016)

Governance

Academic societies

- European Society for the Research on the Education of Adults (ESREA), Chair (2023-present), Vice-chair (2019-2023), Steering Committee member (2014-to date)
- International Society for Comparative Adult Education (ISCAE), Vice-President (2017-2020), Steering Committee Member (2009-2020)
- Nordic Comparative and International Education Society (NOCIES), Immediate Past President (2017-2020), President (2013-2017), Vice-President (2011-2013), Executive Committee Member (2009-2011)

Institutional networks

- Councilwoman, Network of Italian Universities for Lifelong Learning (RUIAP) (2021-2024)

Research leadership

Director, research centre

- Managing the International Research Centre for Global and Comparative Policy Studies on the Education and Learning of Adults (IRC-GloCoPos) (2015-present)

Coordinator, research network

- Co-convening the Network on Policy Studies on Adult Education, European Society of the Research on the Education of Adults (ESREA) (2010-present)
- Co-convening Network 23 - Policy Studies and Politics of Education, European Educational Research Association (EERA) (2021-present)
- Co-convening the Working Group on Comparative Studies in Education, Italian Pedagogical Society (SIPED) (07/2017-03/2018)
- Supporting the UNESCO Chair in Global Citizenship Education in Higher Education, University of Bologna (Italy) (member of the International Advisory Board) (2022-present)

Panel member/referee

- Evaluating applications for tenure-track positions (Social Sciences), Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (2024)
- Reviewing research projects: Czech Fulbright Commission (2022); Comenius programme, Dutch Research Council (2018); Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (ARIS) (2025)
- Reviewing research outputs, Scientific Research Quality Evaluation, Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research (2021; 2025)
- Performing complaint analysis (Social Sciences), Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (2020)
- Evaluating candidates for academic positions or promotion: University of Louvain, Belgium (member of the Evaluation Committee) (2019); Victoria University, Australia (independent external assessor) (2024)

Funded research projects

Principal investigator/coordinator

- REsearch at the SERvice of Educational fragilitiesS (RE-SERVES). Call for proposals PRIN (Research Projects of National Interest) 2017 by the then Italian

Ministry of Education, University and Research. Grant Agreement no. 2017XPR3W9, 42 months (2019-2023). Total budget: 971 084 €

- Encouraging Lifelong Learning for an Inclusive and Vibrant Society (ENLIVEN), Research and Innovation Action of the European Union. Call for proposals H2020-YOUNG-SOCIETY-2015. Grant Agreement no. 693989, 36 months (2016-2019). National budget: 253 537,25 € (Project budget: 2 499 788,50 €)
- Globalization and the Education of Adults (GLOBE-A), Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowship, Contract no. FP7-GA-2011-297727, 36 months (2012-2015). Project budget: 285 798,90 €
- Becoming adult educators in the European Area - BAEA, Contract no. 142405-LLP-1-2008-1-DK-GRUNDTVIG-GMP, 24 months (2009-2010). Project budget: 392 162 €
- Becoming adult educators in the Baltic-Sea Area - BABAR (with financial support of the Nordic Council of Ministries), 18 months (2009-2010)
- A European Archive of Memories for the development of social and civic competences of the European citizens. Contract no. 142129-LLP-2008-IT-GRUNDTVIG-GMP, 24 months (2009-2010). Project budget: 387 070 €

Proposal writing & associate researcher

- Lifelong learning, Innovation, Growth and Human Capital Tracks in Europe (LLLight in Europe), Framework Programme 7, Contract no. FP7-SSH-2011-2-290683, 45 months (2012-2016)

Researcher

- Global Civic Education. Transforming global citizenship education into practice through civic education (GloCivEd). Call for proposals PRIN (Research Projects of National Interest) 2022 by the then Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research. Grant Agreement no. 20229PZXAF, 24 months (2023-2025)
- Stocktaking study on lifelong learning for democratic citizenship through adult education. Contract no.: 225292-CP-1-2005-1-DK-GRUNDTVIG-G1. 24 months (2008-2009)

Research skills

- Application of scientific theory to qualitative data
- Qualitative interviewing
- Taking and interpreting field notes
- Document and discourse analyses
- Network ethnography
- Analysis using Nvivo and Atlas.ti

Recognitions & awards

- Recognised Top Scholars by SholarGPS in two specialisations: adult education (ranked 12th out of almost 8,700 scholars) and lifelong learning (ranked 20th out of more than 13,200 scholars) (2025). (Top Scholars are those whose productivity, impact and publication quality rankings place them in the top 0.5% of those specialising in the same field of study)
- Book prize, Italian Pedagogical Society (SIPED) (2018). Milana, M. (2017). *Global Networks, Local Actions: Rethinking adult education policy in the 21st*. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon / New York, NY: Routledge. The citation stated that “[...] the work undoubtedly brings an important knowledge advancement in educational studies. Through a rigorous methodology of field investigation, the author safely

outlines significant aspects of contemporary educational practices in the framework of the critical nodes of today's democratic societies.”

Consultancy/public service

- Data gathering in preparation of the IV Global Report on Adult Learning and Education (GRALE) (National Focal Point appointed by the UNESCO National Committee) (2018)
- Writing a background paper on citizenship education and adult learning and education to support the V Global Report on Adult Learning and Education (GRALE 5) (commissioned by the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning) (2020)
- Writing a thematic paper on global citizenship education and adult learning and education (commissioned by the UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning and the Asia-Pacific Centre Education for International Understanding) (2019)

Editorial responsibilities/consulting roles

Editor

- Editor-in-chief (2022-present), and co-editor (2012- 2022), *International Journal of Lifelong Education*, Taylor & Francis.
- Co-editor, book series *Palgrave Studies in Adult Education and Lifelong Learning Series*, Palgrave Macmillan/Springer (2018-present)
- Co-editor, book series *Research on the Education and Learning of Adults Series*, Sense/Brill (2014-2020)

Consulting editor/editorial board member (journals)

- *KEDI Journal of Educational Policy (KJEP)*, Korean Educational Development Institute (2026-present)
- *SINAPPSI*, National Institute for Public Policy Analysis (INAPP) (2024-present)
- *Adult Education Quarterly*, American Association for Adult and Continuing Education/SAGE (2024-present)
- *International Review of Education (IRE)*, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning/Springer (2023-present)
- *European Educational Research Journal (EERJ)*, Sage (2023-present)
- *European Journal for Research on the Education and Learning of Adults (RELA)*, Linköping University Electronic Press (2018-present)
- *Studies in Adult Education and Learning/Andragoška spoznanja*, University of Ljubljana (2019-present)
- *Scuola Democratica*, Società Editrice il Mulino, (2015-present)
- *Journal of Adult & Continuing Education (JACE)*, Sage (2009-present).

Scientific board member (book series)

- *Pedagogia Generale e Sociale*, Armando Editore (2019-present)
- *Invalsi per la ricerca*, Franco Angeli Editore (2018-present)
- *Research on the Education and Learning of Adults Series*, Sense/Brill (2012-2014)

Referee

- Reviewing book proposals and/or full manuscripts for academic publishers (alphabetical order): Edward Elgar; Franco Angeli; Palgrave Macmillan; Springer; Routledge (2016-present)

- Reviewing articles for academic journals (alphabetical order): *Adult Education Quarterly*; *Compare*; *Comparative Education Review*; *Education Sciences*; *Encyclopaedia*; *EPALE Journal*; *European Education*; *European Education Research Journal*; *European Journal of Education*; *European Journal for Research on the Education and Learning of Adults (RELA)*; *Formazione, lavoro, persona*; *International Journal of Lifelong Education*; *International Review of Education*; *Italian Sociological Review*; *LLinE - Lifelong Learning in Europe*; *Journal of Adult and Continuing Education*; *Magis*; *Policy & Administration*; *Scandinavian Journal of Educational Research*; *Scuola Democratica*; *Sociologia Italiana - AIS Journal of Sociology*; *Studies in Continuing Education* (2006-present)

Conferences

Organising committee member

- Planning and managing the conferences of the ESREA Research Network Policy Studies on Adult Education in the Czech Republic (2019), Italy (2017), Denmark (2014), United Kingdom (2012)
- Planning and managing the conferences of the Nordic Comparative and International Education Society (NOCIES) in Denmark (2017) and Norway (2015)
- Planning and managing a panel on higher education and social justice for the International Meeting of the Paulo Freire Forum in the USA (2012)
- Planning and managing the conference of the International Society for Comparative Adult Education (ISCAE) in liaison with the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE) in the USA (2012)

Scientific committee member/referee

- Commenting on the conference rationale, promoting, and reviewing abstracts for the triennial conferences of the European Society for Research on the Education of Adults (ESREA) (Italy, 2022; Serbia, 2019; Czech Republic, 2025), the V conference of the ESREA Research Network Policy Studies on Adult Education (Portugal, 2024), and the I International Conference of the journal *Scuola Democratica* (Italy, 2019)
- Promoting and reviewing abstracts for the I International Conference on Education and Training (ICET) (Portugal, 2022) and for the III International Conference on Communication and Education in the Knowledge Society (Romania, 2017)
- Reviewing abstracts for the annual conferences of the European Educational Research Society (EERA) (2020-present), the annual conferences of the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) (2014-2019), the International Conference “Adult Education in Global Times” (AEGT) organized by eight academic and professional societies (2020), the World Congress of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES) (2016), the International Conference on Researching Work and Learning (2015)

Keynote speaker

- “European policies and adult (lifelong) learning in the wider societal context”, Conference of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, 17-18 April 2024, Brussels, Belgium
- “Lifelong learning policies and the futures of ULLL: Some critical reflections”, 52° Conference of the European University Continuing Education Network (EUCEN), 8-10 July 2022, Budapest, Hungary

- "The Fascination with Adult Learning as the Panacea for Societal Injustices: Participation, Visibility, and In/exclusion", European Conference on Educational Research (ECER) of the European Educational Research Association (EERA), 4-7 September 2018, Bolzano, Italy
- "Global Research on Public Adult Education: Methodological Challenges", VI conference of the International Society for Comparative Adult Education (ISCAE), Würzburg University, 15-18 February 2017, Würzburg, Germany
- "El trabajo de la UNESCO sobre la educación de personas adultas y la educación como bien común: ¿Cuáles son las implicaciones para la Pedagogía Social?", International Congress and XXX Inter-university seminar of Social Pedagogy, University of Seville, 8-10 November 2017, Seviglia, Spagna

Curriculum development/teaching/supervision

Curriculum development, University of Verona (2016-present)

- Leading collegially an international doctoral programme in human sciences

Curriculum development, Aarhus University (2006-2012)

- Leading collegially the Erasmus Mundus Masters in lifelong learning: policy and management (Aarhus University, University of Deusto, College of London-Institute of Education), and directing the national (Danish) master
- Directing a master programme in adult education and human resources
- Contributing to the development of Master Study Programs in Education in Easter-European countries. DEMED project. Contract no. 144677-TEMPUS-2008-IT-JPCR, 24 months.

Lecturer, University of Verona (2015-present)

- Planning the course and delivering teaching sessions on social pedagogy (undergraduate level), comparative education, international organisations and adult learning policies (graduate level)
- Delivering teaching sessions on transversal skills (project development and academic writing) at doctoral level
- Supervising (undergraduate, graduate and doctoral) dissertations
- Co-supervising doctoral dissertations (Antwerp University, Belgium)
- Assessing students (undergraduate and graduate levels)

Lecturer, Aarhus University (2006-2012)

- Planning the course and delivering teaching sessions on individual learning and adult psychology, researching professionalism (master level)
- Delivering teaching sessions on qualitative methods, the individual learner in a lifelong learning perspective, lifelong learning and the knowledge society, comparative and transnational education (graduate level),
- Supervising (graduate and master) dissertations
- Assessing students (graduate and master levels)

Guest lecturer (2009-2022)

- Delivering lectures at graduate and doctoral levels in various universities in Europe (Charles University, Lisbon University, University College of London Institute of Education, University of Bergamo, University of Ferrara, University of Rome III, University of Tor Vergata, University of Trento), North America (University of California-Los Angeles), and Australia (Melbourne University)

Seasonal school lecturer (2017-2024)

- Designing and directing an international doctoral school on international perspectives on education policies (IPEP) and delivering teaching sessions on document and discourse analysis and adult learning and education policies
- Assessing students

External examiner (2016-present)

- Examining doctoral dissertations in Europe (University of Deusto, University of Padua, University of Turin), North America (British Columbia) and Australia (Monash University)

Language skills

- Italian (mother tongue)
- English (C2)
- Spanish (C1)
- Danish (B2)
- Brazilian Portuguese (B1)

Updated 17/04/2026