

CV Alessandra Celati

Personal data

First and last name: Alessandra Celati

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Education

Current position:

- Winner of a two years **scholarship** sponsored by the **European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme**, under the **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action**, Grant Agreement n. 748645.

Research project title: “*Medicine, Heresy and Freedom of Thought in sixteenth-century Italy: a Network of Dissident Physicians in the Confessional Age – NETDIS*”. My project, supervised by professors Paula Findlen - at **Stanford University** (2017/2018) - and Federico Barbierato - at the **University of Verona** (2018/2019) - will examine and interpret the link between **sixteenth-century heretical thought and the rise of modern science**, exploring the local, national and trans-national levels of this connection. NETDIS will use **Digital Humanities** tools to reveal the network of Italian physicians who developed non-conformist religious views. By exploring the nature, extent and function of the ties among physicians, NETDIS will inquire into the genesis of freedom of thought as an embryonic value shared by most physicians in response to the spread of intolerance in the confessional age.

- **History and philosophy high school teacher, permanent position**, obtained in September 2016 after having passed the 2016 ministerial national examination

- Previous positions:

1. January 2011 - March 2016: PhD school in ***Storia e Orientalistica*** (within the PhD Program in History), at University of Pisa. Supervisors: Prof. Massimo Firpo, Prof. Franco Angiolini.

Thesis titled: *Physicians and heresy in sixteenth-century Italy*

Having specialized during university years in early modern **religious history and history of ideas**, within my PhD I have widened the horizon of my study to the **history of medicine**. The specific subject of my thesis is the **relation between medicine and the Italian Reformation in the sixteenth century**. The main sources of my work are Italian non-catholic physicians' Inquisition trials, their correspondence with Protestant scientists abroad, and their religious and scientific books.

2. January 2012 – July 2012: Visiting Research Student at Birkbeck College, University of London.

Supervisor: Prof. John Henderson.

While taking part in the programme, I had the opportunity to share all the facilities which Birkbeck's PhD students enjoy, attending seminars held by internationally significant historians in the *Department of History, Classics and Archaeology*, and at the *Institute of Historical Research, University of London*. I had the opportunity to **give a research paper at the department's Research Student Day**, where I presented the findings of my London study visit. I also accessed London's excellent libraries and archives.

3. July 2013 – September 2016: Qualification as a History and Philosophy teacher, Efq level 7, with the mark of 99/100. In 2012 I passed the public examination to enter the “Tirocinio Formativo Attivo” (TFA)¹, a postgraduate course for prospective teachers and professors. From January 2013 to July 2013 I have been attending university courses in History, Philosophy, Didactic, Pedagogy, Educational Assessment, passing the corresponding exams and carrying out an intensive in-school training at the Second Level College in Humanities “Vittorio Alfieri” in Turin. Since 2013 I am part-time working as a **high school teacher**. In September 2016 I passed the ministerial national examination to obtain a **permanent position** as a history and philosophy high school teacher.

4. Master's degree in *Storia* at University of Turin, with full marks (110/110 cum laude) in February 2010. Supervisor: Prof. Massimo Firpo

Dissertation titled: *La “Vita di Jesu Christo” di Antonio Musa Brasavola, nella Ferrara di Renata di Francia*.² I transcribed and studied the original handwritten text in four volumes written by the physician from Ferrara Antonio Musa Brasavola between 1538 and 1541. I commented the text putting it in the historical context of the Italian Reformation and taking into consideration the peculiar religious attitude of the physician, which swung between Calvinism, Erasmism and nicodemism.

5. Bachelor's degree in *Società e culture d'Europa* at University of Turin, received with full marks (110/110 cum laude) in October 2006. Supervisor: Prof. Massimo Firpo

Dissertation titled: *L'esperienza di un inquisitore: Girolamo Papino da Lodi (? – 1557)*.³

I examined the correspondence between the Inquisitor of Ferrara Girolamo Papino from Lodi, (who was himself under suspicion of heresy) and the duke Ercole II during the Bologna's phase of the Council of Trent.

¹ Active Educational Training.

² Antonio Musa Brasavola's “Vita di Jesu Christo” in Renée's de France Ferrara

³ The experience of an Inquisitor: Girolamo Papino da Lodi (? – 1557)

Memberships of scientific societies

- Research group on early modern dissent and radicalism EMODIR (2016)
- Renaissance Society of America (RSA)

Presentations to internationally established conferences and invited lectures

1. *Exploring the Existential Dimension of Heresy: Between Inquisition, Repression, and a "Secret Sociability"*
Renaissance Society of America, 65th Annual Meeting, March 2019, Toronto.
2. *A network of dissident physicians in the confessional age. Research perspectives and methodological challenges*
Reconstructing Historical Networks Digitally, New Approaches, Opportunities and Epistemological Implications of Social Network Analysis, German Historical Institute, October 2018, Washington DC
3. *Exploring Heretical Networks in Sixteenth-Century Italy through a Digital Perspective*
University of California, Berkeley, Department of History; Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA), invited lectures, Berkeley, Stanford, September 2018.
4. *Understanding Social Networks Historically: Research Perspectives and Methodological Challenges in One Early Modern Case Study*
DH Fellows Symposium, Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA), June 2018, Stanford.
5. *The Physiognomic Theory of a Calvinist Physician: Guglielmo Grataroli's De predictione morum naturarumque hominum (Basel, 1554)*
*Panel organizer, along with Dr. Mackenzie Cooley, of a panel on *Physiognomy and Natural Temperament in the Renaissance. Scientiae 2018*, University of Minnesota, May 2018, Minneapolis.*
6. *"Venice Homeland of Freedom, Where Everybody Can Live in His Own Way"*
Syracuse University, History Department, invited lecture, April 2018.
7. *Facing the Plague in an Inquisition Prison: the Case of the Heretical Physician Girolamo Donzellini*
The Worlds that Plague Made: Cultures of Disease in the Medieval and Early Modern Period, Medieval and Renaissance Center, NYU, April 2018, New York.
8. *A Network of Dissident Physicians in the Confessional Age*
Renaissance Society of America, 64th Annual Meeting, March 2018, New Orleans.
9. *The Secret Social Network of a Heretical Physician in 16th-century Italy: the Case of Girolamo Donzellini (1513-1587)*
Renaissance conference of Southern California, March 2018, Huntington Library, Pasadena (LA).
10. *A network of dissident physicians in the confessional age. From the Republic of Venice, to Italy and beyond*
Stanford University, Cmems (Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies) workshop, October, 2017.
11. *A laboratory of experimentation in medicine and religion: the university of Padua in the sixteenth-century*
Scientiae_2017, University of Padua, April 2017, Padua.
12. *Inquisitori, dissidenti e medici in età moderna*
*Università degli Studi di Verona, invited lecture delivered at the *Dottorato in scienze storiche e antropologiche* seminar: Department of *Civiltà e forme del sapere*, June 2016, Verona.*

13. *Irenism, Nicodemism and Philosophy in Girolamo Donzellini's *Remedium Ferendarum Iniuriarum sive De Compescenda Ira: Voicing Dissent in the Age of "Confessionalism"**

Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, Boston, 31st March – 2nd April 2016. The paper was delivered within one of the EMoDiR's panels.

14. *A peculiar reformed minority: Italian Protestant physicians between religious propaganda, Inquisition repression and freedom of thought.*

RefoRC Colloquium "Reformed Majorities and Minorities: Mapping Confessional Boundaries" Warsaw, September 2014. I have obtained a scholarship to take part in the colloquium sponsored by the Polish Tolle Lege Institute and the University of Warsaw.

15. *Medicine and the Italian Reformation: Some Research Notes.*

Fourth RefoRC Conference, Fondazione per le scienze religiose Giovanni XXIII, Bologna, May 2014.

16. *Experimental approaches to medicine and theology in Sixteenth-century Italy: an interdisciplinary study.*

Scientiae _2014, University of Vienna, April 2014, Vienna.

17. *Heresy, medicine and Paracelsianism in 16th-century Italy: the case of Girolamo Donzellini (1513-1587).*

Healing and Curing, Medieval to Modern, University of Glasgow, 27th – 28th August 2012. I obtained a scholarship to take part in the conference sponsored by the *Society for Renaissance Studies*.

18. *Heresy and medicine in 16th-century Venice*

Department's Research Students' Workshop, Department of History, Classics and Archaeology, Birkbeck College University of London, March 2012.

Publications

- I am currently working on a monograph from my PhD thesis. Provisional title: *Radical physicians. Heresy and medicine in sixteenth-century Venice*.
- *A Digital Exploration of Sixteenth-century Heretical Networks in the Italian Medical Context*, «Journal of Interdisciplinary History of Ideas», forthcoming 2018.
- Entry *Squarcialupi, Marcello*, in Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani, vol. 93, Treccani, 2018 – forthcoming 2018.
- Entry *Simoni, Pietro Simone*, in Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani, vol. 92, Treccani, 2017 – forthcoming 2018.
- Contra Medicos: *Physicians Facing the Inquisition in 16th-century Venice*, in *Medicine and the Inquisition*, special issue of «Early Science and Medicine», 23, 2018 (Maria Pia Donato ed.), pp. 72-91.

- *Heretical physicians in sixteenth-century Italy: the fortunes of Girolamo Massari, Guglielmo Grataroli and Teofilo Panarelli*, «Society and Politics», vol. 12, n. 1, 2018, pp. 11-31.
- *A peculiar reformed minority: Italian Protestant Physicians between Religious Propaganda, Inquisition Repression and Freedom of Thought*, in *Reformed Majorities and Minorities: Mapping Confessional Boundaries*, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Kornwestheim, (RefoRC board eds.), forthcoming 2018.
- *Donzellini, Girolamo*, in L. Al Sabbagh, S. Isidori, D. Santarelli, D. Weber (eds.), *Per un dizionario di eretici, dissidenti e inquisitori*, Aracne editrice, Roma, 2016.
- Entry *Pigafetta, Antonio Francesco*, in Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani, vol. 83_online, Treccani, 2015.
- *Heresy, medicine and Paracelsianism in 16th-century Italy: the case of Girolamo Donzellini (1513-1587)*, in *Gesnerus, Swiss Journal of the History of Medicine and Sciences*, 71/1 (2014) 5-37.
- Review of: Nancy G. Siraisi, *Communities of learned experience: Epistolary medicine in the Renaissance*, (Singleton Center Books in Premodern Europe), Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore: 2013, Historia Magistra, n. 17, 2015, p. 182.

Linguistic skills

I have an advanced level of English. In July 2012 I achieved the International certificate IELTS with the mark of 7.5. In June 2014 took the Cambridge examination and achieved the CAE certification, passed at grade B (= Level C1 intermediate).

I have an advanced level of latin.

I have a good level of Spanish and French.

I am an Italian native speaker.