

# Riccardo Martinelli

## Contact

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## RESEARCH FELLOW - PHD CANDIDATE

### *Research Profile*

I am a Research Fellow at the Italian National Research Council and a PhD Candidate in Sociology at Sapienza University of Rome working on the Cultural Political Economy of renewable energy waste. My research investigates global flows of decommissioned photovoltaic panels, focusing on the tension between regimes of recycling and reuse. I analyse the underlying factors that lead to the emergence of illicit solar waste trade in Europe, tracing how these flows circulate and what economic, social, and environmental costs and values they produce in their destination countries across the Global South.

### *Current employment*

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#### Research Fellow

Italian National Research Council – IRPPS, CNR Rome, Italy

June 2024 - present

Collaborating in the ERC “Project Illicit Labour: Unveiling the Dark Sides of the Global Photovoltaic Industry”

#### PhD Candidate in Sociology & Applied Social Research

Sapienza University of Rome

November 2024 - Present

Supervisor: Dr Carlo Inverardi-Ferri (Queen Mary University of London / CNR)

Thesis: “Recycling is Expensive”: Solar Waste Between Policy, Illicit Trade, and Local Practices

### *Past employment and visiting fellowships*

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#### Research Assistant

Institute for Research on Population and Social Policies - CNR

Rome, Italy

November 2023 - June 2024

#### Private Tutor in Sociology

Remote and Various Locations

March 2022 - June 2024

#### Freelance Data Analyst

Fiverr

Remote

January 2024 - March 2024

#### Research Assistant

University of Turin, Green Office UnitoGo - Dora District Cultural Revitalisation Project

Turin, Italy

June 2023 - July 2023

#### Visiting Fellowship

Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai

Cluj Napoca, Romania

March 2023 - June 2023

## Student Internship

Institute for Research on Population and Social Policies - CNR  
Rome, Italy  
November 2022 - December 2022

## Freelance Data Analyst

Fiverr  
Remote  
January 2022 - March 2022 & September 2022 - November 2022

## Research Assistant

Research Institute Carlo Cattaneo  
Bologna, Italy  
March 2019 - September 2019

## Student Internship

Research Institute Carlo Cattaneo  
Bologna, Italy  
January 2019 - March 2019

## *Education*

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### International Summer School in Political Ecology

University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana (Slovenia)  
30 June – 4 July 2025  
Intensive programme focused on political ecology, environmental justice, and governance frameworks.

### University of Turin

Master's Degree in Sociology and Social Research  
September 2020 - July 2023  
Thesis: "Lives in the Gallery: Participant Observation with Homeless People in Turin"  
Final Grade: 110/110 cum laude

### Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna

Bachelor's Degree in Sociology  
September 2016 - March 2020  
Thesis: "Analysis of the Evolution of the Northern League: From *Senatùr* to Captain"

## *Scholarship and Grants*

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### ERC PhD Scholarship – European Research Council

Illicit Labour: Unveiling the Dark Sides of the Global Photovoltaic Industry (Grant ID: 101077766)  
July 2024 – July 2028  
Amount: €27,000 gross/year (total €108,000 over 4 years)

### Project Excellence Scholarship, University of Turin

Project Title: "Gender Gap in Voting"  
September 2022  
Amount: 1,500€

## ***Publications***

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### **Book Chapters**

Martinelli, R. (2024). Da writer ad artista: verso un'estetica autorizzata. In S. Turcio & C. Pennacchiotti (Eds.), *La società italiana nelle interperie del nuovo millennio* (pp. 161-177). IRPPS - CNR.

Valbruzzi, M., Martinelli, R., Panaro, A. V., & Soliman, S. (2019). Che programmi avete per le europee? Un'analisi delle proposte politiche dei partiti. In M. Valbruzzi & R. Vignati (a cura di), *L'Italia sovranista e la sfida all'Europa: Le elezioni europee ed amministrative 2019*. Bologna: Istituto di ricerca Cattaneo.

### **Edited Volumes**

Cuoco, G., & Martinelli, R. (Eds.). (2024). *Pace, guerra e democrazia. Carteggio Norberto Bobbio–Daniele Archibugi 1984–1999*. Quaderni di Scienza & Politica, 15.

### **Reports**

Valbruzzi, M., & Martinelli, R. (2019). *Elezioni amministrative in Sicilia 2019: Chi ha vinto, chi ha perso*. Bologna: Istituto Cattaneo. Available at: <https://www.cattaneo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Analisi-Istituto-Cattaneo-Elezioni-amministrative-in-Sicilia-2019-Valbruzzi-e-Martinelli-1.pdf>

## ***Selected Academic Projects and Freelance Tutoring Contributions***

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Quantitative Data Analysis for BA Thesis on Asbestos-Related Work Fatalities

University of Turin, 2023

Provided methodological support and statistical analysis for a thesis examining work-related deaths in Casale Monferrato (AL), Italy.

Field Research Design for MA Project on Migrant Reception in Trieste

University of Trieste, 2022

Supported the design and implementation of a qualitative research project on challenges in local reception centres.

Application of Grounded Theory in Social Research

University of Turin, 2022

Exam paper analysing the development of Grounded Theory and its epistemological tensions.

The Gamer's Immersion in FiveM's Digital Environment

University of Turin, 2022

Qualitative study exploring representation and *ludus* in digital role-play using FiveM (mod of GTA V).

## ***Academic conferences and seminars***

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Martinelli Riccardo, Julian Lovreglio, Anwasha Aditi & Carlo Inverardi-Ferri, *Illicit Solar Waste Flows: How Definitions Shape Value and Risk*, GCEG 2028, Worcester (MA), US, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Julian Lovreglio, Martinelli Riccardo, Anwasha Aditi & Carlo Inverardi-Ferri, *Solar territories: Geoeconomics, land enclosures, and the contradictions of renewable energy in Puglia*, GCEG 2025, Worcester (MA), US, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Martinelli Riccardo, *Illicit Solar Waste Flows: How Definitions Shape Value and Risk*, John Cabot University, Rome, Italy, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## *Conference and seminar series organisation*

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Organising Committee Assistant - 8th Global Conference on Economic Geography, CNR & Sapienza, Rome, September 2028.

Co-organiser and Moderator – Book Presentation: The Politics of Migrant Labour

Authors: Gabriella Alberti (University of Leeds) and Devi Sacchetto (University of Padua), CNR-IRPPS, Rome, 1 April 2025.

## *Teaching*

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Guest Lecture - Thesis Project Working Lab, MA Programme in Sociology for Sustainability and Global Processes (LM-88)

Sapienza University of Rome | 15 April 2025

## *Editorial work*

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Peer Reviewer - Territory, Politics, Governance (Q1 journal) — since 2025

## *Software*

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Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis: NVivo, Stata, Python, R

Productivity and Visual Communication: Microsoft Office Suite, Canva, Mailchimp

## *Language skills*

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Italian: Native

English: B2 - Upper Intermediate

German: A2 - Elementary Proficiency

## *Academic references*

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Dr Carlo Inverardi-Ferri

Senior Lecturer in Economic Geography

Queen Mary University of London / National Research Council of Italy (CNR)

Email: carlo.inverardiferri@cnr.it

Role: PhD Supervisor

Professor Giulio Moini

Professor of Political Sociology

Sapienza University of Rome

Email: giulio.moini@uniroma1.it

Role: Academic Mentor

Dr Orazio Giancola

Associate Professor of Sociology of Education and Applied Social Research Methodology

Sapienza University of Rome

Email: orazio.giancola@uniroma1.it

Role: Academic Mentor

Professor Daniele Archibugi

Professor of Innovation, Governance and Public Policy

Birkbeck, University of London / National Research Council of Italy (CNR)

Email: daniele.archibugi@cnr.it

Role: Past Reference

Dr Tiziana Nazio

Associate Professor of Sociology

University of Turin

Email: tiziana.nazio@unito.it

Role: Past Reference