



HEALTH AND RISK COMMUNICATION IN AN INTERPANDEMIC WORLD

STRATEGIES FOR A SYSTEM THINKING AND EQUITY- DRIVEN APPROACH

The American University of Rome
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Short Biographies

Faculty Lead and Course Director

RENATA SCHIAVO (PHD, MA, CCL)

Renata Schiavo is a global health practitioner and a public health/ social science academic with a deep commitment to public service, health equity, community engagement, and systems-driven solutions. She is a senior lecturer at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, Department of Sociomedical Sciences, a principal at Strategies for Equity and Communication Impact (SECI), a women-owned global consultancy, and the founder and board president of Health Equity Initiative, a nonprofit membership organization.



She is the Editor-in-Chief of the peer-reviewed *Journal of Communication in Healthcare; Strategies, Media, and Engagement in Global Health*, and serves as Senior Editor of the *Journal of Health Equity*, and on the editorial board of *Health Equity*.

Her work is at the interface of health and risk communication, health equity, global health, social and behavior change, health policy, multisectoral partnerships, and community and patient engagement. She has worked with leading organizations, including UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ-Brazil), the Office of Minority Health Resource Center, HHS Office of Minority Health, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Macy's, Safe States Alliance, Solving Kids' Cancer, focusing on research, interventions, and policies, and/or serving on advisory committees, to improve health outcomes among groups from underserved and marginalized settings. Renata's extensive experience spans 20+ health and human rights areas, including COVID-19, epidemics and emerging disease outbreaks, health equity, maternal and child health, immunization, and building trust in science. She has worked in the United States, Africa, Europe, Eastern Asia, and Latin America. Her capacity building and training experience includes 450+ organizations.

As an advocate, researcher, and practitioner, she is interested in community and system-driven solutions for health, equity, and communication issues. She is the author of *Health Communication: From Theory to Practice* (Jossey-Bass, an imprint of Wiley), and 175+ scientific presentations and 75+ publications.

Currently, she is the lead editor of a contributed volume on *Health Equity: Strategies for Action* (Wiley, Fall/Winter 2024) and is leading The Science of Trust Initiative at the *Journal of Communication in Healthcare*. She is a well-recognized expert in health and risk communication, global health/public health, and health equity, and has been writing and speaking on these topics in a variety of settings.

For a full bio: <https://www.renataschiavo.com/about.html>

Site Visit Hosts and Guest Lecturer*

SOFIA BILOTTA (MA - MAXXI, ROME)

Sofia Bilotta is an art historian and museologist. She holds a European Master's degree in History of Architecture from the University of Roma Tre. She is an expert in museum education, accessibility, and heritage pedagogy. She has curated projects for several museums and participated as a researcher in projects for La Sapienza University and the Lazio Region on regional museum systems. She has worked at MAXXI since 2004, first in the Education Office, which she managed from 2014-2018, and is currently responsible for the Education Office and the Public Engagement Office, which implements accessibility and intercultural projects from a participatory perspective. Since the academic year 2016-17 she has been a lecturer in museum and territorial didactics at the School of Specialisation in Historical and Artistic Heritage of the Faculty of Humanities of the Sapienza University of Rome. She is a member of the Icom Italia Accessibility Committee.



MUSEUM EDUCATIONAL VISION TEAM (MAXXI, Rome)

Since 2004, MAXXI's Education Office has aimed to share and interpret the content of contemporary art and architecture with different audiences (schools, adults, and families). One of its main goals is to create effective experiences of reflection and play with them. Next to the telling of museum spaces through the words of its young visitors, the intense relationship between galleries, artworks, and interpersonal exchanges is deepened. Objectives that the MAXXI Education Office carries out through a transdisciplinary methodology achieved through continuous research and open and active dialogue with its participants.

ARIANNA DE LEO (MA - UNICEF, ITALY)

Arianna De Leo is currently the Head of Philanthropic and Corporate Partnering for UNICEF Italy, implementing an integrated approach to engaging philanthropic and corporate partners in multi-year partnerships to benefit vulnerable children worldwide. Prior to joining UNICEF, Arianna worked in the private sector as the Director of the Development Impact Department at a venture capital firm. In this role, her focus was on the development of impact and ESG strategies, policies, and metrics for the firm's new affordable technology investment fund in sub-Saharan Africa. She was also responsible for establishing a corporate foundation as part of the firm's investment strategy. Also, Arianna spent several years



as Programme Director for an Italian NGO, establishing and consolidating fundraising initiatives and programmes in Central America, Southeast Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Arianna's academic background includes a master's degree in Development Studies and a bachelor's degree with honours in Business Administration.

ALESSANDRA DIODATI (MD, PHD - NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH, MIGRATION AND POVERTY (INMP)/ WHO COLLABORATING CENTER ON HEALTH AND MIGRATION EVIDENCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING, ROME)

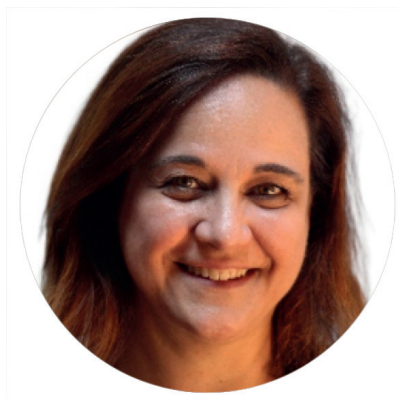
Alessandra Diodati is a medical doctor, Acting Director of the International Relations, Regional Relations and Project Cycle Management Unit and Head of the Global Health Unit at INMP. She is a senior expert in coordinating the design, implementation, and evaluation of projects to address health inequalities and promote the health of migrants. She has significant experience and extensive field practice on organizing health care services/ access for newly arrived migrants in the migrant reception system. She also has extensive experience in developing guidelines and procedures to protect the health of migrants and refugees, and in organising training and capacity-building activities on global health and migrant health for health professionals at national and international level. Since 2023, she has also been co-leader of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Health and Migration Evidence and Capacity Building.



WHO Collaborating Centre on Health and Migration Evidence and Capacity Building.

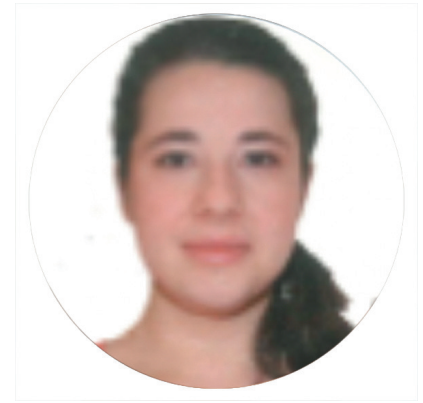
FRANCESCA SCORSINO (NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH, MIGRATION AND POVERTY (INMP), ROME)

Francesca Scorsino is an administrative expert in the Training, Education and Communication Unit of INMP. She has experience in public and intercultural communication and vocational training and specializes in social policy issues, particularly in the fields of health, migration, and poverty. During the last ten years, she has been particularly involved in identifying the core competencies of the training curriculum for cultural health mediators and developing training programs for health professionals. She has also contributed to the development of strategies and specific content for communication and awareness-raising campaigns on health, migration, and poverty with a culturally sensitive approach.



LEUCONOE GRAZIA SISTI (MD, PHD - NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH, MIGRATION AND POVERTY (INMP)/ WHO COLLABORATING CENTER ON HEALTH AND MIGRATION EVIDENCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING, ROME)

Leuconoe Grazia Sisti is a medical doctor and public health specialist in the International Relations, Regional Relations and Project Cycle Management Unit at INMP. She has experience in producing evidence on refugee and migrant health and in training students and health professionals on global health and health inequalities. She is also involved in researching and producing guidelines and operational procedures for building migrant- and vulnerable population- sensitive health services at national and international levels. Since 2023, she has also been co- leader of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Health and Migration Evidence and Capacity Building.



*Guest Lecturers**

LUCIO ARGANO (UNESCO ROME CITY OF FILM)

Lucio Argano is a lecturer in cultural management at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, the University of Roma Tre, and the University of Genoa. He previously served as General Director of the Rome Film Festival and Gruppo CLAS S.p.A. and President of the High Council for Entertainment of the Italian Ministry of Culture. He was also a project manager for Perugia 2019, a consultant for Matera European Capital of Culture 2019, an organizational director of the Roma Europe Festival and the Teatro Popolare di Roma, and a cultural expert for the Compagnia San Paolo Foundation. He also served as management designer for the Auditorium Parco della Musica in Rome and several other cultural spaces, including the Gallerie d'Italia in Turin in 2022. He is currently the project manager for the Rome City of Film - UNESCO Creative City project and a human resources consultant at PTS, a strategic consulting firm. He has authored over 80 cultural management publications.



LORENZO CORETTI (PHD - THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ROME)

Lorenzo Coretti is an Italian academic with experience in research, social media, TV production and journalism both in Italy and the United Kingdom. He has published extensively on critical theory of technology and social movement theory, with a specific focus on the relationship between technological design and social movement activities, including mobilization strategies, organizational patterns, and collective identity building processes. Lorenzo holds a PhD from CAMRI (Communication and Media Research Institute), University of Westminster. During his PhD studies, Lorenzo investigated the influence of commercial social media on social movement organizations.



Lorenzo's research interests lie in the social, political, and economic implications of digital media and social technologies. He teaches courses on communication and society, social media, advertising, ethics, and digital technologies. Lorenzo is an Associate Professor and Program Director of the undergraduate program on Communication and Digital Media at The American University of Rome.

ANTONIO MARCHESI (PHD - THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ROME)

Antonio Marchesi teaches international law at the Law Faculty of the University of Teramo and is Director of the Graduate Program in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution at The American University of Rome, where he teaches international law of war and peace and international human rights. He was Chairman of Amnesty International Italy from 1990 to 1994 and from 2013 to 2019. He has been a consultant to the International Secretariat of Amnesty International, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, the European Parliament and the European Commission, several NGOs and the Italian National Guarantor for the Rights of Persons Deprived of Personal Liberty. He has written for daily newspapers and periodicals and has authored over fifty academic articles and several books. His interests include State responsibility, international human rights, international criminal justice and refugee law. He holds a PhD in Law from the European University Institute.



CHIARA MONTALDO (MD, MS - DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS, ITALY)

Chiara Montaldo, a medical doctor specialised in tropical medicine (University of Genoa) and with a master's degree in epidemiology (London School Hygiene and Tropical Medicine), has been working with Médecins Sans Frontières since 2005 as a doctor, project coordinator and medical coordinator in various fields and contexts, including

- HIV/AIDS and TB/MDR/XDR TB in China, India, Ukraine and Italy
- Chagas's disease in Latin American communities in Italy
- Health of migrants and refugees in Italy, Greece, Serbia, Lebanon, Tunisia
- Haemorrhagic fevers (Ebola and Lassa fever) in Guinea Conakry, Nigeria and Democratic Republic of Congo
- Cholera epidemic in Haiti



In addition to her work with MSF, she has worked as a clinician in infectious diseases wards in Genoa and Savona. From March 2019 to July 2022, she worked as a researcher on emerging infections and COVID-19 at the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Lazzaro Spallanzani (Rome). She has been the head of the medical unit at MSF-Italy since August 2022.

CRISTIANA SALVI (WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK)

Cristiana Salvi leads the Risk Communication, Community Engagement, and Infodemic Management Unit of the WHO Regional Office for Europe's Health Emergencies Programme. She has worked in health emergencies for 20 years, supporting countries in Europe, Asia, and Africa, and has led the RCCE-IM response to several emergencies in the European Region in recent years. This experience has been translated into the establishment of RCCE-IM as a technical area in the European Region and capacity building of countries through innovative platforms. It has also initiated the engagement of civil society organisations and information management in the Region, built regional and country partnerships, and promoted the generation and sharing of evidence on RCCE-IM. The first WHO Technical Advisory Group on RCCE-IM, which Cristiana established, positions this area of work as an evidence-based public health intervention at the core of the emergency cycle.



**In alphabetical order by last name*