

Elena Valdameri (Ph.D., M.A.)

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Education

Nov. 2011 - Jul. 2015

Ph.D. in Historical and Documentary Studies, State University of Milan
Thesis Title: *Foundations of G.K. Gokhale's Nationalism between Nation and Empire*
Supervisor Prof. Michelguglielmo Torri

Feb. 2007 - Nov. 2010

M.A. in History and Historical Documentary Research, State University of Milan
Thesis Title: Thesis: *Thomas Saunders e la rivalità anglo-francese in India 1746–54* (Thomas Saunders and Anglo-French Rivalry in India 1746–54)

Sept. 2004 - Feb. 2007

B.A. in Historical Sciences, State University of Milan

Employment

Jun. 2021 – present

Senior Researcher (Oberassistentin) at the Professorship for the History of the Modern World, ETH Zurich

Apr. 2020 – Jul. 2020

Junior Postdoctoral Fellow, Max Weber College, University of Erfurt

Nov. 2018 - Apr. 2019

Junior Postdoctoral Fellow, ICAS:MP, New Delhi

Sep. 2017 - Oct. 2018

Postdoctoral Researcher, Professorship for the History of the Modern World, ETH-Zurich

Sep. 2016 – Sep. 2018

Lecturer (professore a contratto), Università degli Studi di Pavia

Professional Accreditations

Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale as Associate Professor (Professore di seconda fascia) in Storia delle relazioni internazionali, delle società e delle istituzioni extraeuropee (SPS/14; certification attained in 2023)

Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale as Associate Professor (Professore di seconda fascia) in Culture dell'Asia Centrale e Orientale (10N/3; certification attained in 2023)

Main Interests and Fields of Research

History of India, with a special focus on:

- the anticolonial movement, nationalism and nation-building, political ideologies and the global circulation of ideas;
- discourses and practices of citizenship, in particular citizen-making programs targeting women in late colonial and early independent India;
- female bodies and women's physical education in connection with social norms, citizenship, national welfare and racial vigour in late colonial and early independent India;
- social reform movement in colonial India and its transnational interconnections

Publications

Books

Bodies beyond Binaries in Colonial and Postcolonial Asia, ed. with Kate Imy, Teresa Segura Garcia and Erica Wald, Leiden University Press (forthcoming 2024).

Indian Liberalism between Nation and Empire: The Political Life of Gopal Krishna Gokhale (Routledge 2022).

Peer-reviewed articles and chapters

“Introduction”, with K. Imy, T. Segura Garcia and E. Wald, in *Bodies Beyond Binaries in Colonial and Postcolonial Asia* (ed. by idem), Leiden University Press (forthcoming 2024).

“Purdah, national degeneration, and pelvic politics: women’s physical exercise in colonial India (ca 1900–1947)” in *Bodies Beyond Binaries in Colonial and Postcolonial Asia* (ed. by E. Valdameri, K. Imy, T. Segura Garcia and E. Wald), Leiden University Press (forthcoming 2024).

“Training women’s bodies for new India: female physical education between global trends and local politics in colonial South Asia (ca 1900–1939)”, *International Journal of the History of Sport*, Vol. 39, no. 11 (2022): 1240–64.

“Debates on Citizenship in Colonial South Asia and Global Political Thought (c. 1880–1950)” in *The Routledge Handbook of the History of Colonialism in South Asia*, ed. by Harald Fischer-Tiné and Maria Framke (Routledge 2022), pp. 450–462.

“Gopal Krishna Gokhale: Nazione e Impero tra ‘Oriente’ e ‘Occidente’”, in Marzia Casolari, Claudia Tresso (eds.), *Sguardi sull'Asia. Scritti in onore di Michelguiglielmo Torri*, I Libri di Emil, Bologna 2017, pp. 101-127.

“Indonesia 2017: Towards Illiberal Democracy?” *Asia Maior 2017*, Vol. XXVIII 2018, pp. 165-190.

“Indonesia 2016: A Difficult Equilibrium amid Global Anxiety”, *Asia Maior 2016*, Vol. XXVII 2017, pp. 167-197.

“Indonesia in 2015: The People’s President’s First Year”, *Asia Maior 2015*, Vol. XXVI 2016, pp. 157-195.

“The Influence of Liberalism in the Definition of the Idea of the Nation in India”, *La Révolution française* [online], 8 (2015), published online on the 24 July 2015.

“‘The Man on Earth I Should Dread as an Enemy’. The Administration of Thomas Saunders during the War in the Deccan (1750-55)”, *Società e storia*, n. 135, 2012, pp. 5-40.

Book reviews

Marc Jason Gilbert, *South Asia in World History*, New York, Oxford University Press, 2017, in: H-Soz-Kult, 28.08.2018.

Giulio Abbate, *Un dispotismo illuminato e paterno: riforme e codificazione nell'India britannica, 1772-1883*, (Giuffrè, 2015), in *Ricerche di Storia Politica*, Vol. 20, No. 2 (June 2017).

Contributions to Public Debate

“New(s) waves by women”, discussion on the documentary film *Writing with Fire* screened at the *Zurich Human Rights Film Festival*, 4 December 2021

“India. La pandemia tra disuguaglianze, nazionalismo e elezioni”, Interview for *Confronti. Religioni, Politica e Società*, 22 May 2021 (<https://confronti.net/2021/05/india-la-pandemia-tra-disuguaglianze-nazionalismo-e-elezioni/>)

“Covid in India: fuori controllo?”, Round table discussion organised by *The World This Week*, Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale, 29 Apr. 2021 (<https://www.ispionline.it/it/pubblicazione/world-week-i-dibattiti-dell'ispiformato-podcast-29669>)

“The Sino-Indian border dispute: has India a usable past?” commentary for Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale, 15 Nov. 2020.

“L'elefante e il dragone”, interview for *Nessun Luogo è Lontano*, *Radio 24*, 12 Jun. 2020.

“La protesta dei contadini in India”, interview for *Nessun Luogo è Lontano*, *Radio 24*, 3 Dec. 2020.

“Fragile India ai tempi del Covid-19”, interview for *Popoli e Missione*, Jun. 2020.

“L’India, il blocco, il Kashmir e l’Assam”, interview for *Nessun Luogo è Lontano*, *Radio 24*, 6 Apr. 2020.

“Radical Islam is Gaining Ground in Indonesia”, *The Wire*, 7 June 2017.

“Gopal Krishna Gokhale: The Neglected Liberal”, *The Wire*, 9 May 2016.

“Attentati a Jakarta e influenza saudita in Indonesia”, interview for *L’Ora di Cindia*, *Radio Radicale*, 16 Jan. 2016.

International Conferences and Research Activities

Conference organized

Bodies beyond Binaries in Colonial and Postcolonial Asia, ca 1850s–1960s, ETH-Zurich 15–17 June 2022, Zurich (co-organised with Teresa Segura-Garcia, Kate Imy and Erica Wald)

Panels organized

“Riches and belonging: Global diasporas in the 20th century” with Martin Dusinberre, Harald Fischer-Tiné, Mark Frost and Dario Willi for the Fünfte Schweizerische Geschichtstage, 7 June 2019, Zürich.

“Crafting citizens before and beyond the nation: politics of citizenship in late colonial India 1880-1940” with Harald Fischer-Tiné, Mark Frost and Swapna Banerjee for the Annual Conference on South Asia, 12 October 2018, Madison.

“Alternatives to the British colonial order: Some reflections on the French presence in 18th and 19th century colonial India” with Massimiliano Vaghi, Parimala Rao, and Gopal Gopalakichenane, for the 6th French Network for Asian Studies International Conference, 26 June 2017, Paris.

Papers and Talks Given (selected)

“Making women fit: physical education and citizenship crafting amidst fears of racial degeneracy in colonial India (c. 1900–1939)”, Crises and gender inequalities in the past and the present: Contributions to Planetary Wellbeing from the Humanities and the Social Sciences, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, 6 October 2022, Barcelona.

“Corporeal modernity and citizen-crafting in the context of imperialism and nation-building: women’s physical education in colonial India (ca 1910-1940)”, Current Issues in Imperial History, Università Statale di Milano, 27 September 2022, Milan.

“Shaping bodies, making citizens: women’s physical education and the YWCA in colonial India (c. 1910 -1947)”, Dexterities and Edifices of Belonging. Perspectives on Modern South Asia, Opening Symposium of Max Weber Forum for South Asian Studies, 19 September 2022, Delhi.

“Femininity, (para)eugenics, and pelvic politics: female physical education in colonial India (ca 1900–1947)”, Bodies beyond Binaries in Colonial and Postcolonial Asia (1850s – 1960s), ETH-Zurich, 15 June 2022, Zurich.

“Gokhale, liberalism and citizenship”, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, 24 August 2021, Delhi.

“The poor, the rich, and the citizen: shift in discourses of citizenship in 20th century India”, Fünfte Schweizerische Geschichtstage, 7 June 2019, Zürich.

“Physical Education and Femininity in India (1900s – 1950s): Global Trends and Local Politics towards Crafting Women Citizens”, Women’s Studies Centre, Savitribai Phule University, 14 March 2019, Pune.

Peer-Review Activities

Social History of Medicine (2023), *India Review* (2023), *Gender and History* (2022), *Entremons Journal of World History* (2022), Routledge Studies in South Asian History (2022), *Rivista Italiana di Storia Internazionale* (2022), *Nuovi Autoritarismi e Democrazie* (2022), *Storia delle Donne* (2021), *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* (2021), *Asia Maior* (2021, 2020, 2019), *Società e Storia* (2020).

Other Activities

Associate Editor and Senior Review Editor for *Asia Maior*.

Teaching Activities

Academic Year 2022-23

Seminar Course: “The Body in Global History”, “Technology, Development and Colonialism in the Age of Empire (c. 1800–1950)”, Professorship for the History of the Modern World, Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, ETH Zurich

Academic Year 2021-22

Seminar Courses: “The Body in Global History”, “The Good Citizen: global historical perspectives on citizenship”, “Interdisciplinary Course on Migration and Mobility” (with Lisa Schurrer), Professorship for the History of the Modern World, Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, ETH Zurich

Academic Year 2017-18

Lecture Course: “Storia dell’India e del Sudest asiatico” at the University of Pavia, Department of Political and Social Sciences

Academic Year 2016-17

Seminar Course: “Indian Ocean: History, Geopolitics and Security” (with Dr. Massimo Zaccaria) at the University of Pavia, Department of Political and Social Sciences

Training Courses

Foundations of Teaching and Learning for senior teaching staff organised by ETH Zurich

Lehrentwicklung und Technologie, September 2021 – May 2022

Summer School ‘TOIndia’ on Globalization and Development in India organised by the Department of Political Studies of the University of Turin, 4-8 July 2011

Cycle of seminars on ‘Società internazionale e multiculturalismo dall’antichità ai giorni nostri’ (International society and multiculturalism from ancient history to contemporaneity), promoted by the Centro per gli studi di politica estera e opinione pubblica dell’Università degli Studi di Milano (November 2005-May 2006)

Awards and Funding

Conference grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation (2022, 15.000 CHF)

Three-month Fellowship from Max Weber College, Erfurt University (2020, 3.500 euro)

Six-month Junior Fellowship from ICAS:MP, Delhi (2018-19, 15.000 euro)

“Premio Cesare Bonacossa” for the best Ph.D. thesis on the non-European world in the academic years 2014-2015 by the Centre for the Study of Extra-European Civilisations (CSPE) of the University of Pavia (2016, 1.500 euro)

Three-year Ph.D. scholarship awarded by Ministero dell’Istruzione, dell’Università e della Ricerca (2012-15, 49.050 euro)

Language skills

Italian: native speaker

English: proficiency level

Hindi: advanced level

German: intermediate level (ongoing study)

Spanish: intermediate level

Marathi: beginner level (ongoing study)