

CURRICULUM VITAE

Prof. Pierluigi Valsecchi PhD

Date of Birth: 23rd of March 1956

Nationality: Italian

Languages: Italian (mother tongue), English, French

Pierluigi Valsecchi is Professor of the History of Africa in the Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Pavia. From 2005 to 2008 he was Professor in the Faculty of Communication, University of Teramo, and tenured Researcher in the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Urbino, from 1993 to 2005. From 1975 to 1985, he studied at the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, first as an undergraduate and later as a doctoral student in History. Between 1986 and 1993 he was in charge of the African section of the Istituto per le relazioni coi paesi dell'Africa, America latina e Medio oriente (Ipalmo), Rome, where he focused in particular on political issues concerning post-colonial African States, development, and the political transition in South Africa. He has been conducting research in Ghana and the Ivory Coast since 1987. His research interests include political and social history (17th-20th century), chieftaincy, elites. He published several articles and books, including *Mondes Akan. Identité et pouvoir en Afrique occidentale / Akan Worlds. Identity and Power in West Africa*, Paris - Montréal, L'Harmattan, 1999 (co-ed. with F. Viti); *I signori di Appolonia*, Rome, Carocci, 2002 ; *Africa: la storia ritrovata*, Rome, Carocci, 2005 (co-authored with G.P. Calchi Novati); *Power and State Formation in West Africa. Appolonia from the Sixteenth to the eighteenth Century*, New York, Palgrave Macmillan, 2011

Education

1975-1979 Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa – student in the Arts and Humanities Department.

Result: Diploma in Arts and Humanities

1975-1979 University of Pisa – student at the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy

Result: MA in Arts and Humanities

1982-1985 Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa – Post-graduate student in history

Result: Ph.D in History (October 1989)

International Education

1983-1984 Sussex University – graduate exchange student.

1985 Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris – graduate exchange student.

Professional history

- My current position is with the University of Pavia, Faculty of Political Sciences as Full Professor (Professore Ordinario) in the History of Africa. I have been working in this position since November 2008.

- Nov. 2005 to Nov. 2005 University of Teramo, Faculty of Communication, Full Professor, African History

In October 2002 I qualified for the post of Full Professor.

- 1993 to Nov. 2005 University of Urbino, Faculty of Political Sciences, Researcher (Ricercatore) with tenure. Tenure was granted in 1997. In October 2002 I qualified for the post of Full Professor.

- 1986-1988 and 1992-1993 IPALMO – Institute for Relations with the Countries of Africa, Latin America and the Middle East, Rome, Researcher, Management of the Africa desk.

- 1980-1981 IPALMO, Librarian

Research record

- Political and Social History of West Africa

- History of the Akan polities of West Africa (Ghana and Ivory Coast)

- Personal dependency and Slavery

- Politico-historical and socio-anthropological research into the ruling groups of West Africa during the nineteenth and twentieth century

- Matters relating to the postcolonial State in Africa: centre-periphery relations, governance and chieftaincy.

- African Borders

- Political and institutional developments in South Africa and Southern Africa (1980s-1990s).

Research stays funded by research institutions

- April-May 1987: Ivory Coast (funded by the Istituto Italo-Africano in Rome).

- 1989-1990: Research grant from the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) to carry out research at the Public Record Office (PRO), and School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London.

- February-April 1991: Ghana, Western Region (funded by the Istituto Italo-Africano in Rome).

- August-September 1992: Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg, and the Africa Institute of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa; IPALMO research on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- October-December 1993, Research in Ghana on “The State and Traditional Powers in Western Africa: the case of south-western Ghana” (CNR funding).

- October-November 1994, Research in Ghana on “The State and Traditional Powers in Western Africa: the case of south-western Ghana”
- October 1995-January 1996: Research in Ghana on “The State and Traditional Powers in Western Africa: the case of south-western Ghana”
- October-December 1996: research in Ghana as part of CNR project 17, “Political, Social and Cultural Dynamics in Annò Society (Ivory Coast) and Nzema (Ghana)”.
- November 1997-February 1998: research into "The State and Chieftaincy in Western Africa: the case of south-western Ghana (Nzema)".
- July-October 1998: research in Ghana and UK as part of the project on "Dependency/Emancipation" (Ministry of Higher Education and Research)
- August-October 2000: research in Ghana and UK as part of the project on "Dependency/Emancipation"
- March-April 2003: research in Ghana as part of the Italian Ethnological Mission to Benin and West Africa (Ministry of Foreign Affairs).
- July-August 2004. research in Ghana as part of the Project on “Dependency in the context of Transition” (Miur, 2001).
- August-September 2005: research in Ghana as part of the Italian Ethnological Mission to Benin and West Africa (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and the project “Hierarchy, governance and citizenship in Africa” (Miur 2004).
- August-September 2006: research in Ghana as part of the Project “From Dependency to Citizenship. Anthropology and History” (Miur 2004).
- August-Sept. 2007: research Ghana as part of the Ethnological Mission to Benin and West Africa (Ministry of Foreign Affairs).
- June-July 2008: historical research in Ghana as part of a project of rehabilitation of a 18th century British fort funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (implementing agency: COSPE).
- Dec. 2008-Jan. 2009. Research in Ghana as part of the Ethnological Mission to Benin and West Africa (Ministry of Foreign Affairs).
- Dec. 2009-Feb. 2010. Research in Ghana as part of the Ethnological Mission to Benin and West Africa (Ministry of Foreign Affairs).
- August-September 2011, Research in Ghana as part of the Ethnological Mission to Benin and West Africa (Ministry of Foreign Affairs).
- Dec. 2011, research in Ghana for the Project "The Ankobra Gold Route: Common Ghanaian-Dutch Historic and Cultural Heritage".
- July 2012, research in Ghana for the Project "The Ankobra Gold Route: Common Ghanaian-Dutch Historic and Cultural Heritage".
- February-March 2013, research in Ghana for the Project "The Ankobra Gold Route: Common Ghanaian-Dutch Historic and Cultural Heritage".
- August-Sept 2014, research in Ghana for the Project of National Interest (PRIN) “State, Plurality and Change in Africa”

- August-Sept 2015, research in Ghana for the Project of National Interest (PRIN) “State, Plurality and Change in Africa”.
- August-September 2016, research in Ghana for the Project of National Interest (PRIN) “State, Plurality and Change in Africa”.
- August-September 2017, research in Ghana as part of the Ethnological Mission to Benin and West Africa (Ministry of Foreign Affairs).
- August-September 2018, research in Ghana as part of the Ethnological Mission to Benin and West Africa (Ministry of Foreign Affairs).
- July-August 2019, research in Ghana as part of the Prin 2017 Project “Genealogies of African Freedoms”.
- August-September 2021, research in Ghana as part of the Prin 2017 Project “Genealogies of African Freedoms”.
- July-August 2022, research in Ghana as part of the Prin 2017 Project “Genealogies of African Freedoms”.
- October 2023, archival research at The National Archives, Kew Gardens, London, UK, as part of the Prin 2017 Project “Genealogies of African Freedoms”.
- January-February, August-September 2024, research in Ghana as part of the Prin 2017 Project “Genealogies of African Freedoms”.

Direction, coordination, membership of specific research projects and groups

- 2012-2016 National coordinator (PI) of the Research Project of National Interest (Prin 2010-11) “State, Plurality and Change in Africa”, funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (member units: Pavia-Political sciences, Napoli-IUO-Political sciences, Bologna-Political Sciences, Bologna-Humanities, Modena e Reggio Emilia-Humanities, Catania-Political Sciences, Milano Bicocca-Education).
- 2019-2022. Head of Unit of the Pavia Unit in the Research Project of National Interest (Prin 2017) “Genealogies of African Freedoms”, PI Alice Bellagamba, University of Milano-Bicocca. ONGOING
- 2015. Director of the research Project “ChinAfrica”, CSPE “Cesare Bonacossa”, University of Pavia (funding provided by Domus Academy, Milan) ONGOING
- 2011-13. Research Director in the project “The Ankobra Gold Route: Ghanaia-Dutch Common Historic and Cultural Heritage”, funded by the Dutch Government (implementing agency: the ngo “Ricerca e Cooperazione”).
- 2004-2007 Head of unit of the Urbino Unit for a project jointly financed (COFIN) by MIUR (Ministry of Higher Education and Research): “Hierarchy, governance and citizenship in Africa” (national coordinator P.G. Solinas).
- 2001-2004: Head of unit of the Urbino unit for a project jointly financed (COFIN) by MIUR (Ministry of Higher Education and Research) “Forms of dependency in transition” (national coordinator P.G. Solinas)
- 2000 Member of the Italian Ethnological Mission to Benin and West Africa MESAO (Funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs). ONGOING

Organisation of International and National Conferences and Workshops as Principal Organizer and Chairperson

- 9-11 May 1996 (with Fabio Viti) International Conference "Identity and Power in West Africa. An International Conference of Akan Studies, Università di Urbino,.
- 24-25 May 2006. Conference "Percorsi d'arte e di memoria storica. Politica e comunicazione culturale in Africa", Facoltà di Scienze della comunicazione, Università degli Studi di Teramo,.
- 8 - 9 October 2009. Conference "Politiche di appartenenza: lavoro, rappresentanza e cittadinanza in Africa, Asia, America Latina", Pavia .
- 17 – 18 June, 2010. Workshop Elections and Political Representation in Sub-Saharan Africa, Aula Grande, Facoltà di Scienze Politiche, Pavia.
- 18-20 Sept. 2012. "Conferenza degli Studi Africani in Italia/African Studies Conference", Pavia (International biennial Conference of ASAI: Associazione per gli Studi Africani in Italia)
<http://www-3.unipv.it/webdsps/conferenza/inglese/homepage.html>
- 12th Nov. 2015, International Conference Il Dies Academicus (convegno internazionale) Persona, trascendenza, potere in Africa/Person, Transcendence, Powers in Africa, Classe di Studi Africani, Accademia Ambrosiana, Biblioteca Ambrosiana, Milan, 12-14 Nov. 2015.
- 7-8 April 2016, Workshop Prin 2010-11, Stato Pluralità, cambiamento in Africa/State, Plurality, Change in Africa, Department of Political and Social Sciences, Pavia,
- 16-17 June 2016 (with Giulia Casentini), International Workshop Understanding and Managing Migration in Africa. Multidimensional Perspectives, CSPE, Pavia, 16-17 June 2016.

Co-organiser/Convenor

- Co-organiser International Conference "Dipendenza e gerarchia/Dependency and Hierarchy", Certosa di Pontignano, Siena, 7-9 December 2001.
- Convenor (with Erdmute Alber and Alice Bellagamba) of the panel "Extended families in time. Creating alliances and power networks in Western Africa societies and history" (discussant T.C. McCaskie, Soas, London), AEGIS European Conference on African Studies, 11-14 July 2007, African Studies Centre, Leiden.
- Convenor of the Panel "Confini, frontiere e piani dell'appartenenza", International Conference Studi italiani sull'Africa a 50 anni dall'indipendenza, Naples, 30th Sept-2nd Oct. 2010.
- Convenor, co-organizer and host of the Symposium, "Tematiche, caratteristiche e metodologie delle storie di area in Italia: un confronto", 7-8 ottobre 2016, CSPE, Università di Pavia.
- Convenor of the Panel "Belief in Colonial Ghana: Changes and Continuities", Ghana Studies Association-sponsored Panel, 60th Annual Meeting of the ASA, Institutions: Creativity and Resilience in Africa, November 16th-18th 2017.
- Co-Convenor/organizer with Ettore Morelli of the Symposium "Lexicons of African Freedoms", Pavia 29th-30th April 2022.

Papers presented at Conferences, Workshops, Seminars

- 9th May 1996. Paper on “Groups, Politics and Power between the Ankobra and the Tano”, at the International Conference “Identity and Power in West Africa. An International Conference of Akan Studies”, Università di Urbino, 9-11 May 1996.
- 8th November 1999. Paper on “Kingship, chieftaincy and politics in 20th century Nzema”, at the Colloque International: Rois et chefs dans les États africains de la veille des indépendances à la fin du XXe siècle. Éclipses et résurgences”, Université Paris 1 (Sorbonne).
- 7th December 2001. Paper “Il big man è uno schiavo. Status personale e rapporto col potere nella Costa d’Oro tra Sette e Ottocento”, at the International Conference “Dipendenza e gerarchia”, Certosa di Pontignano, Siena, 7-9 December 2001.
- 20th Sept. 2002. Paper “L’osservatorio sul mondo Akan e la storia dell’Africa occidentale”, at the Annual Conference of the Società italiana di storia contemporanea (SisSco) Il mondo visto dall’Italia. Orizzonti internazionali della storiografia italiana, (Siisco)”, Milan 19-20 Sept. 2002.
- 26th Sept. 2003. Paper “Guerra coloniale come ‘intervento umanitario’: un caso della Costa d’Oro ottocentesca”, at the Annual Conference al convegno della Società italiana di storia contemporanea (SisSco), Lecce 24-27 Sept. 2003.
- 25th Oct.2003. Paper “La realtà dell’Africa nera (1848-1878)”, at the conference Daniele Comboni: Il Piano per la rigenerazione dell’Africa tra storia di popoli e storia delle Missioni cattoliche, Roma 25th Oct. 2003.
- 19th Jan. 2005. Paper on “Big Men Stories and Family Histories. Developing a Social History of South-West Ghana (19th-20th centuries)”, at the workshop Changing Concepts and Practices in Anthropology: Fifty years of the Italian Ethnologica Mission Mission to Ghana (1954-2004), Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana.
- 8th Sept. 2005. Paper on “Notes on Time and History”, at the Workshop on the Methodology of Historical Research and the Teaching of History, Department of History, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana.
- 16th Dec. 2005. Paper on. “He who sets the boundary’. Chieftaincy as a ‘necessary’ institution in modern Ghana”, International Conference Beside the State New Forms of Political Power in Post-1990 Africa, Università di Milano-Bicocca 15-17 December 2005.
- 24th May 2006. Paper on “Linguaggi del potere: la ‘rinascita’ delle autorità tradizionali in Africa occidentale”, at the Conference Percorsi d’arte e di memoria storica. Politica e comunicazione culturale in Africa, Facoltà di Scienze della comunicazione, Università degli Studi di Teramo, 24-25 May 2006.
- 19th November 2006. Paper on “Rulers, Smugglers, and Parvenu in South-west Ghana (1870s-1920s)”, at the 2006 African Studies Association US Annual Meeting Thinking Africa and the World: Internal Reflections, External Responses, San Francisco, CA, November 16-19, 2006.
- 13th July 2007. Paper on “Choosing the side of the Nvaviles. A family network in 20th century Nzema (Ghana-Ivory Coast)”, at the Second European Conference of African Studies (ECAS-AEGIS)”, African Studies Centre, Leiden, Netherlands.
- 26th Sept. 2007. Paper on “Careers of slaves and bonded individuals on the Western Gold Coast (17th-18th century)” at the International Workshop Finding the African Voices: Narratives of Slavery and Enslavement, Rockefeller Foundation, Bellagio, 24-28 Sept. 2007.
- 4th Dec.2007. Paper on “Looking for the voice of slaves in 17th and 18th century European sources about the Gold Coast” at the conference Journées d’études pluridisciplinaires,: Esclavage et dépendances, IFAN, Dakar, Senegal, 4-6 dicembre 2007.

- 3-5 giugno 2008. Three lectures on "Religione e istituzioni in Africa Occidentale" at the Seminari di storia e civiltà dell'Islam, Istituto Italiano di Studi Filosofici, Napoli: 1) Società e istituzioni nelle regioni forestali dell'Africa occidentale fra '500 e '700. 2) Politica, cultura e ideologia nell'Asante ottocentesco (Ghana). 3) Culture politiche nel Ghana del Novecento.
- 5th March 2009. Paper on "Conflittualità, confini e linguaggi della politica" at the Conference Prospettive di studi africanisti in Italia, La Sapienza, Università di Roma 1, 5-6 March 2009.
- 21st May 2009. Paper on "'My dearest child is my slave's child': Personal status and the politics of succession in south-western Ghana (19th-20th century)", at the International Conference Tales of Slavery: Narrative of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Enslavement in Africa/Les voix de l'esclavage : histoires d'esclavage, capture et traite d'esclaves en Afrique, New College, University of Toronto, 20 to 23 May 2009.
- 8th Oct. 2009. Paper on "La frontiera come storia. Politiche dell'appartenenza sui confini fra Ghana e Costa d'Avorio", at the Conference Politiche di appartenenza: lavoro, rappresentanza e cittadinanza in Africa, Asia, America Latina Pavia 8 - 9 Oct. 2009.
- 20th Nov. 2009. Paper on "The 2008 General. Elections in Ghana: A View from Jomoro/Western Nzema", at the 2009 African Studies Association (US) annual meeting Africa at a Crossroad (Panel "Ghana 2008 elections. Regional perspectives"), 'New Orleans, Louisiana, 19-22 Nov. 2009.
- 17th June 2010. "Introduction" workshop Elections and Political Representation in Sub-Saharan Africa, Aula Grande, Facoltà di Scienze Politiche, Pavia, June 17 – 18, 2010.
- 23th Sept. 2010. Paper on "Ghana and West African History from the 18th Century to 1875", International Seminar Africa Days 2010, Höskolarn Dalarna, Falun, Svezia, 23-24 Sept. 2010.
- 1st Oct. 2010. Paper on "La questione del Sanwi. Storia e politiche di frontiera fra Costa d'Avorio e Ghana", at the International Conference Studi italiani sull'Africa a 50 anni dall'indipendenza, (Panel "Confini, frontiere e piani dell'appartenenza"), Neaples, 30th Sept-2nd Oct. 2010.
- 16th Nov. 2010. Paper on "The Transfer of Political Models in the Study of Africa", at the Seminar Transfer of Political Models and State Building. Lessons from the Past, Experience from the Present, Guidance for the Future, Pavia-Milan, 16-17 Nov. 2010.
- 21st Nov. 2010. Paper on "Nkrumah and the Mouvement de Libération du Sanwi Politics across the Ghana-Côte d'Ivoire Boundary" (Panel X-ND5-16: Within and Beyond the Nation: Competing Conception of Nation and Nation-Building in the Era of Nkrumah). 2010 African Studies Association (US) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, 18-21 Nov. 2010.
- 15th June 2011. Paper on "Sanwi Separatism in Historical Perspective. Politics of Belonging in the Côte d'Ivoire-Ghana Borderland" (Panel 56 – Session 2, "Secessionist Movements in Africa"), ECAS 4. 4th European Conference on African Studies, 15-18 June 2011, Uppsala.
- 17th Nov. 2011. Paper on "Nemo Profeta in Patria: Chieftaincy and Nationalism in the Career of Annor Adjaye I (1920-38)" (Panel III-26: "Biographies: Making a Difference"), 2011 African Studies Association (US) Annual Meeting, Washington, 17-20 Nov. 2011.
- 20th Apr. 2012. Paper on "L'Araba Fenice degli studi africani", at the Conference Humanities oggi: che fare? Formazione, tutela, innovazione, Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana, Palazzo Mattei di Paganica, Roma.

- 29th June 2012. Paper on “Early-modern European-language sources on African slavery: their value and limitations”, at the workshop Slavery and Freedom in Africa and Beyond – Sources, Silences and Methodology, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin / Institute for Advanced Studies, 28-29 June 2012.
- 22th Nov. 2012. Paper “Powers, Territory and Politics of Personal Dependency in the Western Gold Coast (Ghana-Ivory Coast)”, as Invited Lectures at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Leiden University, Afrika Studie Centrum, Leiden, 22 November 2012.
- 23rd May 2013. Paper on “Free People, Slaves and Pawns in the Western Gold Coast: The Demography of Dependency in a Mid-Nineteenth Century British Source”, Panel A: New Histories of European Colonialism, Perspectives on Ghana. An International Conference, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi 23-26 May 2013.
- 29th June 2013 Paper on “Politics of History in the Ghana-Côte d’Ivoire Borderland” (Panel P018 The “Politics of History in Contemporary African Border Disputes”), at the International Conference ECAS2013, 5th Conference on African Studies African Dynamics in a multipolar World, 26-29 June, Instituto Universitario de Lisboa (ISCTE-IUL).
- 5th Sept. 2013, Paper on “The Fall of Kaku Aka. Social and political change in mid-nineteenth century western Gold Coast”, at the International Conference Crossroads in African Studies, Centre of West African Studies, Birmingham, 4-6 Sept. 2013.
- 23rd Nov. 2013, my paper on “Stories of Slaves and their Masters in the Nzema region of Ghana (late 19th-early 20th century)” was presented and discussed by Prof. Emeritus Martin Klein, Un. Of Toronto, at the 2013 African Studies Association (US) 56th Annual Meeting, Mobility Migration and Flows, Baltimore, 21-24 November 2013.
- 22 Oct. 2014. Paper on “Immagini dell’Europa nell’Africa occidentale fra Sei e Settecento”, at the International Conference I Dies Academicus, L’Africa, l’Oriente mediterraneo e l’Europa. Tradizioni e culture a confronto, Classe Studi africani, Accademia Ambrosiana, Milan, 22-23 Oct. 2014.
- 21st Nov. 2014. Paper on “The Violence of Power in Southwest Ghana. (Late Eighteenth to Early Twentieth Century)”, 57th Annual Meeting African Studies Association US, Rethinking Violence, Reconstruction and Reconciliation, Indianapolis 20-23 Nov. 2014.
- 26th Nov. 2014. Paper on “Lombardi in Africa fra Sei e Ottocento”, at the International Conference Dies academicus Milano, l’Ambrosiana e la conoscenza dei nuovi mondi (secoli XVII-XVIII), Classe di Studi borromaici, Biblioteca Ambrosiana, Milan, 26-28 Nov. 2014.
- 12th Nov. 2015, “Prolusion”, at the International Conference II Dies Academicus Person, Transcendence, Powers in Africa/Persona, trascendenza, potere in Africa, Classe di Studi Africani, Accademia Ambrosiana, Biblioteca Ambrosiana, Milan, 12-14 Nov. 2015.
- 7th April 2016, “Relazione introduttiva”, Workshop Prin 2010-11, Stato Pluralità, cambiamento in Africa/State, Plurality, Change in Africa, Pavia, 7-8 April 2016.
- 16th June 2016, “Introduction”, International Workshop Understanding and Managing Migration in Africa. Multidimensional Perspectives, CSPE, Pavia, 16-17 June 2016.
- 23rd September 2016, “Slaves and their masters, Changing social relations in early 20th Century South-West Ghana”, panel “Societies and politics of labour in 20th Century Western and Southern Africa”, IV ASAI Conference (Associazione per gli Studi Africani in Italia), Catania, 22-24 September 2016.
- 4th April 2017, “L’Africa al centro”, invited speaker in Conference Cycle “Il Disordine Globale”, Fondazione Clementina Trebeschi, Auditorium di San Barnaba, Brescia.

- 24th June 2017, "Violence Hierarchy and Personal Status in Nineteenth century West Africa", International Workshop "The idea of violence", Kent State University, Florence.
- 18th November 2017, "World Religions and Core Beliefs in Colonial Nzema", in the Panel "Belief in Colonial Ghana: Changes and Continuities", ASA 60th Annual Meeting, INSTITUTIONS: CREATIVITY AND RESILIENCE IN AFRICA, November 16 - 18, 2017, Chicago.
- 25th Jan. 2018, paper on "Cyclicity and History: The Ordering of Time in the Akan South-West (Ghana – Côte d'Ivoire) between the Eighteenth and Twentieth Centuries" in IV Dies Academicus (International Symposium) "TEMPO E STORIA IN AFRICA/TIME AND HISTORY IN AFRICA", Classis Africana, Biblioteca Ambrosiana, 25-26 Jan. 2018.
- 15th April 2018, "Nelson Mandela", invited speaker LA STORIA IN PIAZZA 2018: RIVOLUZIONI, Genova 12-16 April 2018.
- 26th October 2018, paper on "Belief and Social Hierarchy in West Africa (18th-19th century)", in the International Workshop ETHNICAL AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATIONS AND RELIGIOUS IDENTITIES: NORMS, PRACTICES AND INTERACTIONS, 1400-1850, Istituto Sangalli, Florence 24th-26th October 2018.
- 12th June 2019, paper on "A Longue-Durée Approach to the History of the Ghana-Côte d'Ivoire Frontier", in ECAS 2019 Conference Africa: Connections and Disruptions, Edinburgh, 10-14 June 2019.
- 13th July 2019, paper on "You Bury a Corpse you don't Bury a Case: The History and Politics of a Family Network in South-West Ghana", in Ghana Studies Association 3rd Triennial Conference Ghana as a Center, Accra 10th-13th July 2019.
- 8th November 2019 "Mass Exoduses and Nationalism Across the Ghana-Ivory Coast Border", International Conference Internal Migrations and Displacements within Africa: Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Dynamics, Ravenna 8th Nov. 2019
- 22nd November, 2019 " Mass Migration and Territorial Particularism across the Ghana-Ivory Coast Border: the Sanwi Exoduses of the 20th Century", in the panel "VII-L-13 Making Space and Mobilizing Mobility: New Approaches to West African History", 62nd Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association BEING, BELONGING AND BECOMING IN AFRICA November 21 – 23, 2019, Boston
- 29th June 2022, paper about "African Agency in the Negotiation of the Ghana-Ivory Coast Colonial Frontier", ASAI VI: "Afriche del terzo millennio nel mondo globale: sfide, riconfigurazioni e opportunità" | "Third millennium Africas in the global world. Challenges, reconfigurations, and opportunities" | Università degli Studi di Urbino Carlo Bo, 29 Giugno-1 Luglio 2022, Urbino.
- 19th July 2022, papers about: a) "Consuming the Nzema Environment in Alliance with the Gods", Pierluigi Valsecchi (University of Pavia); 2) "L'Affaire du Sanwi: Migration, Secession and Politics Across the Côte d'Ivoire-Ghana Frontier (1959-1981)", presented at the Ghana studies association 4th Triennial Conference, Ghana at Crossroads, Tamale, Ghana, 18-20 luglio 2022.
- 8th June 2023, Symposium "MIGRAZIONI RITUALI SCAMBI Le recenti ricerche della Missione Etnologica Italiana in Ghana", COSPEC, Università di Messina, DISCUSSANT of the following papers: Carolina Domina, "Come nasce un distillato. Premesse storiche e ciclo di produzione di un gin locale nello Nzema", Nicole Stella Metz "Islam e religione locale nello Nzema: storie di fondazione di villaggi e dispute di potere".
- 1st December 2023, "Cyclicity, Ritual and History: the Ordering of Time in the Akan South-West (18th-20th Century)", panel VI-K-17 New Histories of African Polities, ASA US African Studies Association Annual meeting African Presences: Envisioning Africa in Text and Deed, San Francisco, 30 Nov.-2 Dec. 2023.

Direction of research institutions

- President of the Centro Studi Popoli Extra-europei “Cesare Bonacossa”, Università di Pavia. From 2012 ONGOING

Direction of PhD Programs

- Director of the PhD Program in History, University of Pavia, Sept. 1st 2016-2022.

Journal editing

- Editor of "Africa" (Roma). From 02-2019 ONGOING

Direction and co-direction of book series

- Ex-Africa, Editore Viella (with Fabio Viti)
- Asia Major, Editore Viella (Collana del CSPE “Cesare Bonacossa”, Pavia)
- Collana Storica del Centro Studi per i Popoli Extra-europei, Franco Angeli

Membership of Editorial Boards

- Member of the Journal of West African History’s Advisory Board
- Member of the Managing Board of the Journal “Asia Maior”, Pavia.
- former Member of the Advisory Board of the journal “Africa”, Rome
- Member of the Editorial board of the Journal “Transactions of Ghana Historical Society”, University of Ghana
- Member of the Scientific Committee of the journal “Il Politico”, Università di Pavia
- Member of the Scientific Committee of the journal “Afriche e Orienti”, Bologna/San Marino.

Honors and Awards

- 2016 I was awarded the Prize “Giorgio Maria Sangiorgi per la Storia ed Etnologia dell’Africa” by the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome
- 2014 I was one of the founding members of the Class of African Studies, Ambrosiana Academy, Milan
- 2013 I was awarded a research fellowship by the Bogliasco Foundation

Other activities and involvements

- Member of the Ghana Studies Association
- Member of the African Studies Association, US

- Member of the Société des africanistes
- Member of ASAI (Associazione per gli studi africani in Italia)
- Member of SiSi (Società italiana di Storia internazionale)
- Founding member of CSIAO-Centro Studi dell’Africa e Oriente, Rome, 2013-2016.
- Member of the Centro Studi Popoli Extra-europei “Cesare Bonacossa”, Università di Pavia.

Tenure and research reviewer

- May-August 2015, External reviewer in the tenure review process of a Professor of Medieval to Modern West Africa History, Lyon G. Tyler Department of History, The College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA, USA
- referee VQR (Italy) 2004-10; 2011-14

Main publications (a full list may be produced on request)

Books

- VALSECCHI P. (2011). Power and State Formation in West Africa. Appolonia from the Sixteenth to the Eighteenth Century, NEW YORK: Palgrave Macmillan, ISBN: 9780230117761
- CALCHI NOVATI GIAN PAOLO, VALSECCHI P. (2005). Africa: la storia ritrovata. Dalle prime formazioni politiche alle indipendenze nazionali. ROMA: Carocci, p. 1-359, ISBN: 88-430-3324-7.

A new, revised and substantially enlarged edition of the book was published in 2016.

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