

LUIGI ACHILLI

European University Institute
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8408-7099>

Academic Appointments

- Since 2021 *Assistant professor* – Migration Policy Centre (RSCAS-EUI), Florence, Italy
Since 2021 *Senior researcher* – Christian Michaelson Institute (CMI), Bergen, Norway
2017-21 *Marie Curie Fellow* – Global Governance Programme (RSCAS-EUI) and San Diego State University
2015-17 *Research Associate* – Migration Policy Centre (RSCAS-EUI), Florence, Italy
2016 *Research Associate* – MED Programme (RSCAS-EUI), Florence, Italy
2013-15 *Research Associate* – Institut Français du Proche-Orient, Amman, Jordan
2011-12 *Junior Research Fellow* – School of Oriental and African Studies, London, UK
2011 *Ph.D. Associate* – Institut Français du Proche-Orient, Amman, Jordan

Education

- 2012 *Ph.D. in Social Anthropology* – SOAS, London, UK (awarded 12 December 2012)
2006 *MA in Migration and Diaspora Studies* – SOAS, London, UK
2004 *BA & MA in Sociology and Anthropology* – Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, Milan, Italy

University Teaching

- 2021-22 *Lecturer* – Ethics and Safety in Fieldwork. European University Institute (EUI), Florence Italy
2015-20 *Lecturer* – Summer Schools. Topics: humanitarianism, refugee camps, forced displacement, and transnational crime. Migration Policy Centre, European University Institute (EUI), Florence Italy
2015 *Lecturer* – Anthropology of Islam. University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK
2014 *Lecturer* – Middle East: Alternative Perspectives. CIEE, Amman, Jordan
2014 *Lecturer* – International Relations. University of Jordan Amman, Jordan
2010-12 *Teaching Assistant* – Social Theory. SOAS, London, UK

Grants, Research Funds, Awards

- 2022 €22.000 Fritz Thyssen Stiftung Workshop Grant (co-applicant)
2020 €2.000.000 for “War and Fun: Reconceptualizing Warfare and Its Experience, European Research Council, (PI: Antonio de Lauri; co-developed project application)
2020 £55,614.00 Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises (R2HC), ELRHA and UK Department for International Development (contributor)
2017 €262.000 Marie Curie Research Fellowship – European Commission (EC), research project: “MAPS – Migrants and People Smugglers” (applicant)
2017 €60.000 WP4 in H2020: EU-LISTCO - Europe’s External Action and the Dual Challenges of Limited Statehood and Contested Orders (contributor)
2017 €50.000 European Commission - DG HOME-AMIF-PR-MIGR-0005 Lot 2 “Studies on communication channels used by migrants and asylum seekers to obtain information in countries of origin and transit, with particular focus on online and social media” (applicant)
2016 €90.000 IOM, study: “Migrants’ Profiles, Drivers of Migration, Migratory Trends” (applicant)
2015 €90.000 Bourse de Recherche ANR for “LAJEH - Time of conflicts/time of migration (contributor)
2015 \$13.220 Wenner-Gren Workshop Grant (main applicant)
2008 €24.000 Borsa di Studio di Perfezionamento all’Estero, Università degli Studi di Milano (applicant)
2008 €25.000 Fulbright Scholarship, U.S. (offer denied in favour of the BSPE above) (applicant)

Minor grants, research funds and Awards: SOAS Student Research Fund for Language Acquisition (2008); Institut Français du Proche-Orient Bourse de Courte durée (2009); CBRL Travel Grant, Council for British Research in the Levant (2009); SOAS Postgraduate Awards for Fieldwork (2009); Central Research Fund (2009)

Research and Project Management Experience

- Since 2021 **Global Research coordinator for UNODC** – Project name: “STRIVE Juvenile: preventing and responding to violence against children by terrorist and violent extremist groups”. Duties include: (1) Development of a research framework and the elaboration of a detailed research methodology; (2) Coordinate the work of the advisory board; (3) Plan, train and coordinate the national research teams in the three partner countries (Nigeria, Iraq and Nigeria); (4) Ensure quality control of the national research and global deliverables; (5) Assist the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the project
- Since 2017 **Research on migration, crime, and conflict for the Global Governance Programme for European University Institute**. Developing, supervising, and administering research in sensitive zones among hard-to-reach populations for the elaboration of tailored policies aimed to address violence, conflict and crime in Europe, North Africa and Mexico. Duties: design of research methodology and data collection tools, collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative primary and secondary data, regular production and dissemination of articles, policy briefs, and reports. Projects include, among others:
- 2022 – Project name: “WARFUN - War and Fun: Reconceptualizing Warfare and Its Experience (ERC Consolidator, European Commission). Duties: leading the research cluster on forced displacement, developing research and conceptual framework, overseeing research activities and output production.
 - 2017-2021 - Project name: “MAPS – a comparative study of the Mediterranean and the Central American smuggling routes” (MSCA, European Commission). Duties: leading the study, conducting research (ethnography, digital ethnography, and desk-research) in North Africa, US-Mexico Border, Eastern and Southern Europe, managing two research assistants, and drafting written outputs.
 - 2017 - Project name: “Communication channels used by migrants and asylum seekers to obtain information in countries of origin and transit” (DGHOME, European Commission). Duties: contributing to the study, supervising desk review and field research (survey, semi-structured interviews and focus groups) in Italy, and managing four research assistants.
- Since 2008 **Research on minor protection and mobility in Eastern Europe, Middle East, and Africa**. Producing information and evidence to (1) design and implement programs adapted to the context; (2) identify the main risks in terms of protection and develop recommendation; (3) support the development and application of normative frameworks and governance systems in line with international child protection standards; (4) contribute to the advancement of research and knowledge on minors and youth. Projects include:
- 2021 - Project name: “Research on child trafficking and labour trafficking in Turkey to support evidence-based policy formulation and DGMM decisions on Turkey’s anti-trafficking response (International Expert for ICMPD).” Duties: (1) reviewing/providing input to the draft research methodology, (2) reviewing and providing feedback to the preliminary research findings and (3) reviewing/providing feedback to the draft research study.
 - 2021 - Project name: “Enfants et jeunes sur les routes migratoires en Afrique de l’Ouest et du Nord” (Mixed Migration Centre, DRC). Duties: leading the “Mali” case study, supervising research, managing two research assistants, and drafting the report.
 - 2016-17 - Project name: “Assessment and evaluation of Unaccompanied and Separated Children’s protection policies in Lebanon, Jordan and Greece” (Mix Migration Platform). Duties: leading the study, designing research methodology, desk review and qualitative data collection (semi-structured interviews and focus groups) in the selected countries, and drafting final report.
 - 2008 - Project name: “Mobile children: from ‘victims’ to ‘actors’” (Save the Children & Enda Tiers Monde). Duties: qualitative data collection (ethnography, semi-structured interviews, focus groups), review of secondary sources, and report writing on unaccompanied minors and child labour in Senegal.
- 2020 **Expert Researcher for FCDO** – Project name: “Covid-19 In Gaza: Community Perspectives on the Pandemic. Goal: elaborate a better-informed response to COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee communities. Duties: designing rapid qualitative methodology, supervising time-sensitive research in Gaza (line interviews, mobile methods, story completion and informant diaries), managing four research assistants, and drafting report.
- 2015-17 **Research on irregular migration and migration governance for Migration Policy Centre, European University Institute**. Leading and conducting research aimed to improved migration policies and governance in Middle East and along the Eastern Mediterranean route. Duties: designed research collection methodologies, data collection and analysis (qualitative and quantitative data), developed

dedicated information management tools, regular production and dissemination of policy briefs, reports, international updates documents and infographics. Projects include, among others:

- 2015-16 - Project name: “Migrants’ Profiles, Drivers of Migration, Migratory Trends” (with DFID & IOM). Research areas: Southern Europe, North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. Duties: co-led the study, elaborated the methodology, supervising field research in Italy (desk review, survey, semi-structured interviews and focus groups), managed six research assistants, and drafted final report.
- 2017 - Project name: “Human smuggling in limited statehood and contested orders areas” (H2020 - European Commission). Research countries: Libya and Tunisia. Duties: elaborating the methodology.
- 2015 - Project name: “Research on irregular migration and smuggling networks in the Eastern Mediterranean route” (with INTERSOS). Duties: ethnographic research in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Macedonia, and Serbia, participation to UN cluster meetings, elaboration of methodology and the survey, qualitative data collection (ethnography, semi-structured interviews, focus groups) and analysis, and report writing.

2014 *Independent consultant for the Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN)* – Project name: “The Social Life of Nutrition”. Evaluation study of the protection programs implemented among Syrian refugees living in urban areas, refugee camps and informal tented settlements in Jordan. Duties: led the study, qualitative research (semi-structured interviews and focus groups), analysis of secondary sources, and report writing.

Evaluators and Commissions of Trust

2020-21 *Senior member* of the Crisis Working Group, Delta 8.7, United Nations University
2018-21 *Scientific expert* for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Education for Justice (E4J) initiative
2017-19 *Scientific expert* for the Council of Europe in the Working Group on the Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants
2017 *Member of the Pool of International Expert (PIE)* for the Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law (Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Since 2012, I have been acting as reviewer for a number of top tier journals and publishers – e.g. the Annals of the American Association of Geography, the International Migration Review, Global Crime, Royal Anthropological Institute, Geopolitics, JEMS, IJMES, Cambridge University Press, Middle East Critique, and other journals and magazines. Since 2018, I have also been *evaluator of grant proposals* for a number of institutions, such as the Austrian Academy of Science (APART-GSK) and the Guggenheim Foundation.

Editorships

Since 2020 *IMISCOE Editorial Committee Member*
Since 2019 *Editorial Board Member* for Contours: Crossing Borders in Law, Humanities and the Arts, MIT Press
2014-18 *Editorial Team Member* of Allegra: A Virtual Lab of Legal Anthropology

Scientific Societies and Research Groups

Since 2021 *Research expert*, Mixed Migration Centre, Danish Refugee Council
Since 2019 *Member*, Anthropology of Humanitarianism Group in the European Association of Social Anthropologists
Since 2019 *Member*, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime
Since 2018 *Founding member*, Migrant Smuggling Observatory, Migration Policy Centre
Since 2017 *Member*, Migration Working Group, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, Italy
Since 2015 *Member*, Italian Society for Middle Eastern Studies (SeSaMO)
2014-15 *Founding member*, Working Group on Forced Migration and Nation Building in Jordan, IFPO
2012-15 *Member*, Working Group on Frontières et circulations au Moyen Orient, IFPO

Organization of Scientific Meetings

I have organized **several medium and large international conferences and workshops** in Italy, Jordan, the US, and the UK gathering both prominent scholars and junior colleagues from all over the world. These include: International Workshop “Moving in a Divided World: Transnational crime and national borders” (Bielefeld, Germany 2022); *Webinar* “Smuggling in the Illicit Global Economy” (EUI, Italy 2021); *Webinar* “Migration, Smuggling and the Illicit Global Economy” (CMI, Norway 2021); *Workshop* “When Smuggling Goes Wrong” (UNODC & EUI, Italy 2018); *II International Workshop on*

Human Smuggling (RSCAS & The University of Texas at El Paso, Texas 2017); *Wenner-Gren Workshop “Rethinking Political Agency in the Middle East”* (EUI, Italy 2016); *I International Workshop on Human Smuggling* (RSCAS & The University of Texas at El Paso, Italy 2016).

Publications (Selected)

Books

2015 *Palestinian Refugees and Identity: Nationalism, Politics and the Everyday*, I.B.Tauris, London

Edited Volumes and Journal Special Issues

- 2022 *Global Human Smuggling*, John Hopkins UP, New York, forthcoming (successful completed the peer-review process phase) (with Kyle, D.)
- 2021 *Migration, Smuggling and the Illicit Global Economy*. *Public Anthropologist*, vol 3, no 1 (with Sanchez, G.)
- 2020 *Critical Insights on Irregular Migration Facilitation*. RSCAS-EUI, Florence (with Sanchez, G.)
- 2018 *Crimes of Solidarity in Mobility: Alternative Views on Migrant Smuggling*. *The ANNALS of American Academy of Social and Political Science*, Volume 676(1) (with Sanchez, G. & Zhang, S.)
- 2018 *Les camps de réfugiés palestiniens au Proche-Orient: un provisoire qui dure*, Special Issue, *A-Contrario* 2006/2,23 (with Oesch, L.)
- 2008 *Pratiche e politiche dell’etnografia*, Meltemi, Milan (with De Lauri, A.)

Peer-review Articles

- 2019 “Debunking the smuggler-terrorist nexus: human smuggling and the Islamic State in the Middle East.” *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* (with Tinti, A.)
- 2019 “Beyond legality and illegality: Palestinian informal networks and the ethno-political facilitation of irregular migration from Syria”, *JEMS* (with Abu Samra, M.)
- 2019 “Waiting for the smuggler: tales across the border”, *Public Anthropologist*, 1(2): 194-207
- 2019 “In search of dignity: political economy and nationalism amongst Palestinian camp dwellers in Amman”, *Journal of Ethnographic Theory* (HAU), 8(3): 672–685
- 2018 “The ‘good’ smuggler: the ethics and morals of human smuggling among Syrians”, *Crimes of Solidarity in Mobility: Alternative Views on Migrant Smuggling*. *ANNALS* 676(1): 77-96.
- 2017 “Des espaces d’ambiguïté : les camps de réfugiés palestiniens en Jordanie” *A-Contrario*, 2006/2 (23) : 17-36 (with Oesch, L.)
- 2015 “Becoming a Man in al-Wihdat: Masculine Performances in a Palestinian Refugee Camp in Jordan”, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 47(2): 263-280
- 2014 “Disengagement from politics: Nationalism, political identity, and the everyday in a Palestinian refugee camp in Jordan”, *Critique of Anthropology*, 34(2): 234–257

Articles in Journals and Volumes

- 2022 *Human Smuggling in the Mediterranean: A Comparative Analysis of the Central and Eastern Mediterranean Smuggling Routes*. In *The Evolution of Illicit Flows: Displacement and Convergence among Transnational Crime*, edited by Ernesto U. Savona, Rob T. Guerette, and Alberto Aziani. Springer, 2021 (under printing).
- 2021 “Untangling the knot: human smuggling, terrorism, and transnational organized crime in the Central American route and the Middle East.” *Forum on Crime and Society* UNODC (with Yates, C.)
- 2021 “The Deep Play: Ethnicity, the Hashemite Monarchy and the Arab Spring in Jordan.” In *Minorities and State-Building in the Middle East*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham, 2021. 151-173.
- 2020 “Human Trafficking” & “Camp”, In De Lauri, A. (ed.) “Humanitarianism: Keywords, Brill, Leiden.
- 2019 “The politics of being ordinary”, in Turner, M. (ed.) *From the River to the Sea: Palestine and Israel in the Shadow of ‘peace’*, Routledge, New York.
- 2017 “Smuggling and trafficking in human beings at the time of the Syrian conflict”, in Gebrewold, B. et al. (eds) *Human Trafficking and Exploitation*, Rowman & Littlefield: New York
- 2017 “Methodological approaches in human smuggling research: Documenting irregular migration facilitation in the Americas and the Middle East”, *Migration Policy Practice* 8(2), 21-25 (with Sanchez, G.)
- 2017 “Neighbouring Host-Countries’ Policies for Syrian Refugees: The Cases of Jordan”, *IEMED*
- 2016 “Irregular migration to EU and human smuggling in the Mediterranean: the nexus between organized crime and irregular migration”, *Mobility and refugee crisis in the Mediterranean*, *IEMED*
- 2016 “Back to Syria? Conflicting patterns of mobility among Syrian refugees in Jordan”, *Orient I*
- 2015 “La Primavera Araba in Giordania: una lieve brezza o il preludio alla tempesta perfetta”, in M. Omizzolo, P. Sodano (eds), *Migranti e Territori*, Ediesse, 371-398 (with Abu Samra, M.)

- 2010 “Etiqueter dans un espace incertain: le cas des camps de réfugiés palestiniens en Jordanie”, *Migrations Société*, 22(128) : 118-128
- 2008 “Campi di battaglia e campo dell’etnografo. Etnografia, conflitti, violenza”, in De Lauri & A. Achilli, L. (eds), *Pratiche e politiche dell’etnografia*, Meltemi: 113-126 (with De Lauri, A.)

Reports & policy briefs

- 2021 « Enfants et Jeunes sur les routes migratoires d’Afrique de l’Ouest et du Nord : Mali », Danish Refugee Council (DRC) (with Alice Massari).
- 2020 Covid-19 in Gaza: Community Perspectives on the Pandemic, ELHRA & University of Bath (with Jason Hart, Caitlin Procter and Mohammed Al-Rozzi).
- 2020 The “real” transformation of migrant smuggling in the time of COVID-19, Policy Briefs, 2020/20, Migration Policy Centre (with Sanchez, G.)
- 2019 “Migrant smuggling in the Eastern Mediterranean: The case of children” In Achilli, L. & Sanchez, G. *Critical Insights on Irregular Migration Facilitation*. RSCAS-EUI, Florence UNODC
- 2019 Work toward integration: labour inclusion of migrants in Mexico, Policy Briefs; 2019/26; Migration Policy Centre (with Negro, V.)
- 2018 “Reforming Dublin”. In ISPI, *Building Trust*, MED 4TH Edition
- 2018 The human smuggling industry: nuances and complexities. The University of Texas at El Paso, BTI Institute DHS Symposium Series, 2018/14
- 2018 A study of the communication channels used by migrants and asylum seekers in Italy, with a particular focus on online and social media. European Commission (Achilli et al.)
- 2017 On My Own: Protection challenges for unaccompanied and separated children in Jordan, Lebanon and Greece. INTERSOS-MMP (Achilli et al.)
- 2017 What Does It Mean to Disrupt the Business Models of People Smugglers?, Migration Policy Centre (EUI), policy brief (with Sanchez, G.)
- 2016 Migrants’ Profiles, Drivers of Migration and Migratory Trends, IOM & DfID
- 2016 In rotta verso l’Europa: note di campo sugli spostamenti dei richiedenti asilo siriani verso l’Unione Europea, NEODEMOS
- 2016 Tariq al-Euroba: Displacement Trends of Syrian Asylum Seekers to the EU”, MPC Research Report 2016/01
- 2015 The smuggler: hero or felon?, Migration Policy Centre (EUI), policy brief
- 2015 Syrian Refugees in Jordan: a Reality Check, Migration Policy Centre (EUI), policy brief
- 2014 The Social Life of Nutrition among Syrian Refugees in Jordan, ENN, special issue
- 2011 Between Football and Islam”, CBRL Bulletin, 5, 94-95 (2011)
- 2009 Mobile children: from “victims” to “actors”, *JEUDA*, 119, 1-4

Since 2013, I have written regularly for the press, blogs, and online magazines. My work has featured in *The Conversation*, *La Repubblica*, *Public Anthropologist*, *Jadaliyya*, *Doppiozero*, *Analist*, *Border Criminologies*, *openDemocracy*, *AllegraLab* and many other outlets.

Conference Papers and Talks

I have presented and gave keynote speeches at over 60 academic and practitioner conferences over the past five years: American University of Beirut (online, November 2020); British Academy for the Humanities and Social Sciences (March 2019); GIGA Institute (Hamburg-Germany, November 2018); UNODC (Vienna-Austria, January 2021, March 2018 & February 2021; Doha-Qatar, April 2018); United Nations Human Rights & Kingdom of the Netherlands (Geneva-Switzerland, May 2018); Council of Europe (Paris-France, June 2018); European Commission – Mid-term review of the European Agenda on Migration (Brussel-Belgium, July 2017); IOM (May 2017); European Investment Bank (February 2017, Luxemburg); NATO Parliamentary Assembly (Pristina-Kosovo, October 2017); University of Davis (April 2016); EUI (Florence-Italy, June 2017).

Languages

Italian (mother tongue), *English* (fluent), *French* (fluent), *Spanish* (fluent), and *Arabic* (upper-intermediate)