

Luca Sterchele Curriculum Vitae

Research Interests and Experiences

Prison studies; Prison Ethnography; Criminology; Sociology of Law; Ethnography; Qualitative methods for social research.

Education

PhD in Social Sciences: Interactions, Communication and Cultural Constructions (March, 2020), Department of Philosophy, Sociology, Education and Applied Psychology, University of Padua, Italy. Thesis: "The prison and its double. Psychiatric knowledge in prison: therapeutic aims and logics of govern". Viva result: excellent with honors. Supervisor: Prof. Francesca Vianello.

- MSc in Sociology and Social Research, 110/110 with honours, University of Bologna (December, 2015). Thesis: "Punish or Heal: a study on Veneto's inmates at the Reggio Emilia Forensic Psychiatric Hospital". Supervisor: Prof. Sandro Mezzadra; Co-Supervisor: Prof. Giuseppe Mosconi.

BSc in Communications, 103/110, University of Padova (July, 2013). Thesis: "A Human Face Penalty: a Comparison between the English and the Italian Prison Systems". Supervisor: Prof. Vincenzo Romania.

Research Experiences

Research fellow on the project "PolPenEventiCritici-XXIII. La polizia penitenziaria di fronte agli eventi critici" (01/08-31/10/2023), coordinated by prof. Roberto Cornelli, University of Milano Bicocca.

Research fellow on the project "Valuing the emergency. Quality indicators to evaluate the teaching practice and to plan curricular and territorial training proposals" (01/12/2021-31/12/2022), coordinated by prof. Alessandra Decataldo, University of Milano Bicocca.

Research fellow on the project "Mental Health and Prison Cultures: Ethnography of a Women's Prison" (15/04/2020-15/04/2021), coordinated by prof. Francesca Vianello, University of Padova.

Research collaborator on the project "Punished Mothers. Women with children serving sentences" (01/02/2020-31/01/2023), coordinated by prof. Francesca Vianello, University of Padova.

Teaching experiences

Lecturer in "Sociology" (full course – 42 hours), University of Padova (a.a. 2022/2023 and 2023/2024).

Lecturer in "Sociology of Health, Law and Deviance" (full course - 40 hours), University of Padova (a.a. 2021/2022, 2022/2023 and 2023/24).

Lecturer at the seminar “Legal Culture and Qualitative Research” (15 hours) within the course of Sociology of Deviance, University of Padova (aa. 2021/2022 and 2022/23).

Lecturer at the seminar “Qualitative Research in Prison” (15 hours) within the course of Sociology of Deviance, University of Padova (aa. 2020/2021).

Lecturer at the seminar “General Sociology” (20 hours), University of Padova.

Lecturer at the seminar “Qualitative Research in Prison” (15 hours) within the course of Sociology of Deviance, University of Padova (aa. 2019/2020).

Lectures on “Mental Health, Psychiatry and Prison Cultures” at the First Level Specialization Degree in Critical Criminology, University of Padova (aa. 2018; 2019; 2020).

Lectures on “Qualitative research in prison” at the PhD program in Social Sciences: Interactions, Communication and Cultural Construction, University of Padova (2020; 2021).

Lectures on “Health in prison” at the seminar “Theories and techniques of penalty”, University of Bologna (2017; 2021).

Other Experiences of Study and Research

Visiting Scholar at the Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law (April-May 2023).

Visiting Student at the University of Edinburgh (February 2019-July 2019) with Prof. Richard Sparks.

Visiting Student at the Open University (September-October 2017) with Prof. David Scott.

Traineeship at the Observatorio del Sistema Penal y los Derechos Humanos (Universitat de Barcelona, January-May 2016). Research Activities with Prof. Iñaki Rivera Beiras.

Erasmus Student at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow (September 2012-June 2013).

Publications

Books

Sterchele, L. (2021) “Il carcere invisibile. Etnografia dei saperi medico psichiatrici in carcere”, Milano, Meltemi Editore. [Invisible prison. An ethnography of psychiatric and medical knowledges in prison].

Journal Articles

Sterchele L. (2018), “Geografie post-manicomiali? La circuitazione psichiatrica tra carcere e REMS”, in “Antigone. Quadrimestrale di critica del sistema penale e penitenziario”. [Post-asylum geographies? Psychiatric circuits between prison and forensic residences]

Sterchele, L. (2020) “Il principio di ‘less eligibility’ alla prova della ricerca etnografica. Considerazioni a partire da una ricerca sul Servizio Sanitario in carcere”, “Autonomie Locali e Servizi Sociali”, vol. 3, il Mulino, pp.481-493. [The “less eligibility” assumption through the lens of ethnographic research. Some considerations from a research on the Healthcare Service in prison]

Pascali V., Sarti T. e Sterchele L. (2020), “Carcere, rivolta, violenze: note sul caso di Modena”, in “Antigone: Semestrale di critica del sistema penale e penitenziario”, year XV, vol. 2, pp. 110-125. [Prison, revolts, violence: notes on Modena’s prison]

Bertoni, F., Sterchele, L. (2021) “Oltre la brigata ‘Appendili e Frustali’. Sguardi e posture di ricerca sulla Teppa”, in “Studi Culturali”, il Mulino, pp. 53-61. [Beyond the ‘Hang and Whip Them’ Brigade. Gazes and postures in researching thugs]

Rodelli, M., Sterchele, L. (2022) “Salute attraverso le sbarre. Percorsi di cura tra carcere e territorio”, in “Salute e Società”, Franco Angeli Editore, 1, pp. 143-158. [Health through bars. Healthcare paths between prison and community].

Maculan, A., Sterchele, L. (2022) “The left and right arm of the prison. Prison work and the local legal culture of the penitentiary”, in Oñati Socio Legal Series.

Sterchele, L. (2022) ““Ma uno si deve proprio tagliare?” Ricorsività del dolore e usi simbolici del corpo nelle pratiche di auto-scarificazione in carcere, in Etnografia e Ricerca Qualitativa. [“Do I really need to cut myself?” Recursion of pain and symbolic uses of body in prisoner’s self-harming practices].

Sterchele, L. (2022) “Immobilization and forced mobilization. Psychiatric prisoners’ coercion in the shadows of law”, in Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia.

Sterchele, L. (in press) “Effetti collaterali. Riflessioni etnografiche sugli usi del farmaco in carcere”, in Rassegna Italiana di Criminologia.

Book Chapters

Sterchele L. (2017), “Subverting ‘Crime Diagnosis’: the Deconstruction of Social Dangerousness in Biographical Tales of ‘Mentally Ill Offenders’”, in Fletcher S., White H. (2017) “Emerging Voices: Critical Social Research by European Group Postgraduate and Early Career Researchers”, EG Press, London.

Sterchele L., Bertoni F., Biddau F. (2019), “Introduzione” to the book Bertoni F., Biddau F., Sterchele L. (ed by), “Territori e Resistenze: spazi in divenire, forme del conflitto e politiche del quotidiano”, ManifestoLibri, Roma. [Introduction and editing of the book “Territories and Resistances: spaces in the making, forms of conflict and everyday politics”]

De Caro, E., Chiarelli, F., Sterchele, L. (2019), “Salute e salute mentale” in Fabini, G., Sbraccia, A. (ed by) “Primo rapporto sulle condizioni di detenzione in Emilia Romagna”, Antigone Edizioni, Roma. [Health and Mental Health in Prison]

Gentile M., Sterchele L. (2020), “Il caso Modena”, in Associazione Antigone (a cura di), “Il carcere al tempo del Coronavirus. XVI Rapporto di Antigone sulle condizioni di detenzione”, Antigone Edizioni, pp. 65-68. [“The Modena prison revolt”, chapter for Antigone’s Annual Report on Prison Conditions]

Sterchele, L. (2021) “Can the ‘psychiatric prisoner’ speak? Notes from Convict Criminology and Disability Studies”, in Ross, J.I., Vianello, F. (eds), “Future of Convict Criminology”, London, Routledge.

Sterchele L. (2021), “Medicalizzazione”, in Dino A. e Rinaldi C. (eds), Sociologia della Devianza e del Crimine. Prospettive, ambiti e sviluppi contemporanei”, Mondadori Editore, pp. 471-482. [“Medicalization”, chapter for the edited book “Sociology of Crime and Deviance. Perspectives, scopes and contemporary developments]

Sterchele, L. (2021), “O ‘preso psiquiátrico’ pode falar? Notas sobre criminologia dos condenados e estudos sobre incapacidade”, in Ross, J.I., Vianello, F. (eds), “A criminologia dos condenados e o futuro”, São Paulo, Tirant lo Blanch, pp. 197-211.

Sterchele, L., Toso, M. (2022) “‘Corpi estranei’: la negoziazione della riforma tra comparti sanitari e amministrazione penitenziaria nelle carceri venete”, in Associazione Antigone (ed), “Il carcere visto da dentro. XVIII rapporto di Antigone sulle condizioni di detenzione”.

Sterchele, L. (2022) “Teppa in galera. Prison cultures nel carcere frammentato”, in Bertoni, F., Caroselli, A., Sterchele, L. (eds) “Le strade della Teppa”, Roma, RedStarPress.

Bertoni, F., Caroselli, A., Sterchele, L. (2022) “Le strade della Teppa. Pratiche, spazi e soggettivazioni delle culture di strada”, in Bertoni, F., Caroselli, A., Sterchele, L. (eds) “Le strade della Teppa”, Roma, RedStarPress.

Sterchele, L., Maculan, A. (2023) “Riots and deaths in Italian prisons at the outbreak of the pandemic”, in Rotta Almeida, B., Pimentel, E., Cacicedo, P. (eds) “Saúde e mortalidade no sistema penal, volume 1”, São Paulo, Tirant lo Blanch.

Sterchele, L., Vianello, F., Marchio, V. (2023) “Vissuti e politiche della pena”, in Vianello, F. (eds) “Maternità in pena. L’esecuzione penale delle donne con figli minori”, Milano, Meltemi.

Reviews

Sterchele L. (2016), Review of the book by Miravalle M. (2015), “Roba da matti. Il difficile superamento degli Ospedali Psichiatrici Giudiziari”, Torino, Gruppo Abele. Published in “Studi sulla questione criminale”, 1, pp. 126-128.

Sterchele L. (2016), Review of the book by Fassin, D. (2016), “Prison Worlds: an ethnography of the carceral conditions”, Policy Press, London. Published in “Studi sulla Questione Criminale Online” (<https://studiquestionecriminale.wordpress.com/2016/12/20/prison-worlds/>).

Sterchele L. (2018), Review of the book by Gariglio, L. (2017), “Doing coercion in male custodial setting: an ethnography of Italian prison officers using force”, Routledge, London. Published in “Etnografia e Ricerca Qualitativa”, vol. 1/2018, pp.194-195.

Curatorship

Bertoni, F., Biddau, F., Sterchele, L. (2019) (eds) “Territori e resistenze: spazi in divenire, forme del conflitto e politiche del quotidiano”, Roma, Manifesto Libri.

Bertoni, F., Caroselli, A., Sterchele, L. (2021) (eds) “Are the kids alright? Valerio Marchi e le prospettive divergenti nella ricerca”, in “Studi Culturali”, il Mulino, pp. 49-96. [Are the kids alright? Valerio Marchi and the conflicting perspectives in research]

Bertoni, F., Caroselli, A., Sterchele, L. (eds) (2022) “Le strade della Teppa”, Roma, RedStarPress.

Other publications

Sterchele L. (2018), “Riprendere la 180: appunti su una legge in movimento”, published in “Studi sulla Questione Criminale Online” (<https://studiquestionecriminale.wordpress.com/2018/05/16/riprendere-la-180-appunti-su-una-legge-in-movimento-di-luca-sterchele-universita-degli-studi-di-padova/>). [Resuming law 180: notes on a law in movement]

Conference organizations or convening

Organizer and coordinator of the Workshop “Law and culture in the juridical field of the prison: theoretical and empirical perspectives on the social uses of Law in prison” at the Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law, 18-19 May 2023. Coordinators: Iñaki Rivera Beiras (Universitat de Barcelona), André Giamberardino (Università Federal do Paraná), and Richard Sparks (University of Edinburgh), Luca Sterchele (Università degli Studi di Padova), Francesca Vianello (Università degli Studi di Padova).

Convenor of the 4-session panel “Ethnographies of Law” at the 9th Ethnography and Qualitative Research International Conference, Università di Trento, 7-10 June 2023.

Conference Presentations

Sterchele L. (2017), “(Post)Manicomial Geographies: the informal reorganization of carceral spaces”, at the 17th annual conference of the European Society of Criminology “Challenging Crime and Crime Control in Contemporary Europe”, Cardiff, 13-16 September 2017.

Sterchele L. (2017), “Biopolitical Prisons? Medical Knowledge and the Segmentation of Prison Space”, at the 2nd International Conference for Carceral Geography, Birmingham, 11-12 December 2017.

Sterchele L. (2018), “Living on the Edge: Mental Illness in the Medical-Criminal Continuum”, at the PhD Workshop of the ESA Mid-Term Conference – Research Network 16 ‘Sociology of Health and Illness’, Torino, 18 April 2018.

Sterchele L. (2018), “La salute in carcere tra cura e normalizzazione: una riflessione a partire da Franca Ongaro Basaglia”, at the Convegno di fine mandato AIS – Sezione di Sociologia del Diritto - “La Sociologia giuridica al tempo della transizione: temi e metodi di ricerca”, Napoli, 18-20 May 2018. [Health in prison between care and normalization: a reflection moving from Franca Ongaro Basaglia]

Sterchele L. (2018), “Notes for a Carceral Territoriality of Mental Health”, at the 7th Ethnography and Qualitative Research Conference, Bergamo, 6-9 June 2018.

Sterchele L. (2018), “Managing the crisis: psychological disorders, prison and the ‘psychiatric issue’”, at the European Group for the study of Deviance and Social Control 46th Annual Conference “Social harm in a digitalized global world: Technologies of power and normalized practices of contemporary society”, Ljubljana, 22-24 August 2018.

Sterchele L. (2018), “Prison doctors and lay criminology: a working hypothesis”, at the 18th annual conference of the European Society of Criminology “Crimes against humans and Crimes against Humanity”, Sarajevo, 29 August-2 September 2018.

Sterchele L. (2018), “Multiple Confinements. Forms of restraint in the Carceral and Psychiatric archipelago”, at the Interlabo GERN “Confinements, Emprisonnements, Detentions”, Padova, 28 September 2018.

Sterchele L. (2018), “A carceral territory of mental health: notes for a reconstruction”, at the 3rd International Conference for Carceral Geography, Liverpool, 17-18 December 2018.

Sterchele L. (2019), “Can the ‘mad prisoner’ speak? Convict criminology and the epistemic violence of psychiatrization”, at the “Future of Convict Criminology” Conference, Padova, 31/05-01/06/2019.

Sterchele L. (2020), “Psichiatria e culture del penitenziario: ambivalenze del lavoro *psy* in carcere”, at the conference “Giustizia e legalità alla prova delle disuguaglianze”, Roma, 22-24 January 2020. [Psychiatry and prison cultures: psychiatric work and its ambivalences within prison; at the conference “Justice and Legality to the test of inequalities]

Sterchele L. (2020), ““This woman is completely unreasonable’: Prison Cultures and Governmentality in a Psychiatric Prison Ward”, presentation at SIGEP: International Symposium on Gender and Prison Culture, University of Coimbra (published in the book of abstract: <https://sigep.pt/en/abstract-book/>).

Maculan A., Sterchele L. (2021), “The left and right arm of the prison: prison work and the local legal culture of the penitentiary”, presentation at the workshop “Legal Culture and Empirical Research”, Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law, 20-21/05/2021.

Sterchele, L. (2021), “The carceral recursion of pain. Penal suffering, imprisoned bodies and meanings of self-harm in carceral settings”, presentation at 8th Ethnography and Qualitative Research Conference, Università di Trento, 9-12/06/2021.

Sterchele, L. (2021), intervention at the roundtable “Socio-juridical approaches toward penalty”, XVI National Seminar of the Diritto e Società Association, Isola di Capraia, 28/08-04/09/2021.

Sterchele, L. (2021), “Governing an ‘unreasonable woman’. Uses of law within a prison mental health ward for women”, presentation at the Interlabo GERN “Gender and Prison”, Padova, 24/09/2021.

Sterchele, L. (2022) Dealing With “psychiatric Prisoners”. Governmental Strategies at the Crossing of Prison Cultures and Psychiatric Knowledges in Italian Prisons, presentation at the Global Meeting on Law and Society, Lisbon.

Sterchele, L. (2022) Il carcere in pillole. Diritto e culture del penitenziario sotto la lente degli psicofarmaci, Seminario nazionale di Sociologia del Diritto, Isola di Capraia, 27/08-03/09/2022.

Sterchele, L. (2022) Prison in pills. What psychopharmacological consumption can tell us about Law and imprisonment, 50th Annual Conference of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control, Torino, 7-9/09/2022.

Sterchele, L. (2023) Ri-assemblare il carcere. Lo psicofarmaco come punto di osservazione del diritto e delle culture giuridiche del penitenziario, Re-assembling the social. 40 anni di AIS, Napoli, 19-21/01/2023.

Sterchele, L. (2023) “Psychiatric work in a female prison ward: translating the clinical into juridical”, Workshop “Law and culture in the juridical field of the prison: theoretical and empirical perspectives on the social uses of Law in prison” at the Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law, 18-19 May 2023.

Memberships in Scientific Journals

Member of the Editorial Board of Studi sulla Questione Criminale (Carocci Editore).

Member of the International Editorial Collective of Justice Power and Resistance (Polity Press).

Member of the Scientific Committee of the “Etnografie” series, Ombre Corte press.

Other Memberships

Member of the Organizing Committee of the Master in Critical Criminology and Social Security (University of Padova-University of Bologna).

Collaborator to the Research Group SLAN.G – Slanting Gaze on Social Control, Labor, Racism and Migration (University of Padova).

Member of AIS Diritto [Italian Sociological Association: section of Sociology of Law].

Member of the CRN03 on Ethnography, Law and Society of the Law & Society Association.

Member of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control.

Member of Associazione Antigone's Prison Observatory (Triveneto).

Member of Associazione Antigone's Juvenile Prison Observatory.

Member of the Observatory for the overcoming of Forensic Mental Hospitals (OPG), StopOPG Association.

Language Skills

Italian (native)

English (C1)

Spanish (B1)