Personal Data

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Date of Birth and Place: December 8, 1971 in Parma, Italy.

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Education

Trinity College, Dublin, Republic of Ireland.

Degree: PhD in Political Science

Date: September 2004

Thesis Title: The International Dimension of Democratisation. The Case of Algeria.

External Examiner: Prof. Fred Halliday (LSE)

Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, USA.

Degree: M.A. In International Relations

Date: December 1997

Thesis Title: Changes in the International system and the rise of the Northern League in

Italy: a neo-liberal threat to the nation-state.

University of Trieste, Trieste, Italy. Degree: B.A.(hons.) Political Science

Date: December 1995

Thesis Title: Theories of International Relations and the end of Cold War.

Experience

Position: Full Professor, Department of Political Science, Université Laval, Québec (QC),

Canada

Duties: Lecturing 3 modules per academic year.

Dates: June 2018 – to date

Position: Visiting Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto, Toronto

(ON), Canada

Duties: On sabbatical leave from Université Laval.

Dates: July 2018 – July 2019

Position: Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Université Laval, Québec

(QC), Canada

Duties: Lectured 3 modules per academic year. BA Programme director (2014-2018).

Dates: Sept. 2013 – June 2018

Position: Visiting Professor, Department of Culture, Politics and Society, University of Turin,

Turin, Italy.

Duties: Lectured 1 MA Seminar on politics and religion in the Middle East and North Africa

Dates: Feb. 2017 – May 2017

Position: Senior Lecturer, School of Law and Government, Dublin City University, Dublin,

Ireland.

Duties: Lectured 5 modules per academic year

Dates: Sept. 2004 – Sept. 2013

Position: Associate Research Fellow, Knowledge Programme West Asia, University of Amsterdam/HIVOS, Netherlands.

Duties: Edited a volume on civil society in West Asia and participating in the research

activities of the Programme. **Dates**: June 2010 – Oct. 2011

Position: Visiting Professor, Centre for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of

Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark.

Duties: On sabbatical from Dublin City University.

Dates: Aug. 2008 – Aug. 2009

Position: Visiting Lecturer, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland.

Duties: Lectured two courses: European Union Policy-Making (BA, 4th Year) and

Contemporary Islamic Politics (MA students of the Irish School of Ecumenics).

Dates: October 2003 – June 2004

Position: Lecturer, Department of Politics, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland.

Duties: Lectured four modules: Introduction to International Relations (BA, 1^{st} Year), Comparative Politics (BA, 2^{nd} Year) and Political Islam (BA, 3^{rd} Year and MA students of the European Studies Programme).

Dates: Sept. 2002 - Aug. 2004.

Publications

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(with Samir Amghar) 'Salafism in the contemporary age: Wiktorowicz revisited.' *Contemporary Islam*, Vol. 17, No. 2, 2023, pp. 195-204.

(with Nidhal Mekki) 'How can we agree on anything in this environment? Tunisian media, transition and elite compromises: a view from Parliament.' International Journal of Press/Politics, Vol. 26, No. 4, 2021, pp. 822-841.

(with Paola Rivetti) 'Revolution and counter-revolution in the Middle East and North Africa. A Global perspective on regional politics and knowledge production', *Partecipazione e Conflitto*, Vol. 14, No. 2, 2021, pp. 511-529.

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'Lessons from political transitions in the Arab world: A citizens' perspective', *Orient*, Vol. 61, No. 2, 2021, pp. 7-15.

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'Salafism, liberalism and democratic learning in Tunisia', *Journal of North African Studies*, Vol. 20, No. 5, 2015, pp. 770-783.

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"Geopolitical challenges to the success of democracy in North Africa: Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco", *Democratization* Vol. 8, No. 4, 2001, pp. 175-194.

"The role of the Northern League in Transforming the Italian political system: from economic federalism to ethnic politics and back" *Contemporary Politics*, Vol. 7, No.1, 2001, pp. 27-40.

Books

Explaining Arab politics. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, forthcoming.

(with Alex Baturo and Luca Anceschi, eds.). *Personalism and Personalistic Regimes*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023.

(with Valeria Resta, eds.). *Handbook on Elections in the Middle East and North Africa*. London: Routledge, 2023.

(with Vincent Durac). *Politics and Governance in the Middle East*, 2nd edition. Bloomsbury, 2022.

(with Ozgun Topak, and Merouan Mekouar, eds.). *New Authoritarian Practices in the Middle East and North Africa*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2022.

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(with Fatima El Issawi, eds.), *The Unfinished Arab Spring Micro-Dynamics of Revolts between Change and Continuity*, Gingko Press/University of Chicago Press, 2020.

(with Janine Clark, eds.), *The methodological and ethical challenges of doing research in the Middle East and North Africa*, Oxford University Press, 2018.

(with Lise Storm, eds.), Political Parties in the Arab world, Edinburgh University Press, 2018.

(with Pamela Abbott and Andrea Teti) *The Arab Uprisings in Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia. Social, Political and Economic Transformations.* Palgrave, 2018.

(with Fabio Merone, eds.), Salafism after the Arab Awakening. Contending with people's power, Hurst & Co., 2017.

(with Vincent Durac), Politics and Governance in the Middle East, Palgrave, 2015.

(with Luca Ozzano, eds.), *Religiously oriented parties and democratization*, London: Routledge, 2014.

(with Paul Aarts, eds.), *Civil society activism in Syria and Iran*, Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2013.

State-society relations under authoritarian constraints, (ed.) London: Routledge, 2012.

(with Vincent Durac), Civil Society and Democratisation in the Arab world: the Dynamics of Activism, London: Routledge, 2010.

(with Vincent Durac, eds.), *The foreign policies of the EU and the US in North Africa. Converging or diverging dynamics?*, London: Routledge, 2009.

The international dimension of the failed Algerian transition. Democracy betrayed?, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2009.

(with Frédéric Volpi, eds.), Forgetting Democratization? Recasting power and authority in a plural Muslim world, London: Routledge, 2007.

Book Chapters

(with Paride Turlione) 'Different roots, same trajectory? Socialist and Islamist parties in comparative perspective' in Ebtisam Mostafa (ed.) *Revisiting the Study of Political Islam: One Decade after the 2011 MENA Uprisings*, Syracuse, Syracuse University Press, forthcoming 2024.

(with Valeria Resta) 'Political parties in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia' in George Joffé (ed.) *Handbook of the Modern Maghrib*, London, Routledge, 2023.

'The 2011 uprisings: causes and consequences' in George Joffé (ed.) *Handbook of the Modern Maghrib*, London, Routledge, 2023.

(with Valeria Resta) 'Salafi politics amid the chaos: revolution at home and revolution abroad?' in Samer Shehata (ed.) *The Struggle to Reshape the Middle East in the 21st Century*, Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Press, 2023.

(with Gianmarco Fontana) 'La politique étrangère de l'Union Européenne au Moyen Orient' in Olivier Delas, Mulry Mondelice et Olivier Bichsel (eds.) L'Union Européenne, puissance globale, dans les relations internationals et transatlantique, Brussels, Bruylant, 2023.

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(with Pietro Marzo) 'An exceptional context for a debate on international relations? Toward a synthetic approach to the study of the MENA's international politics' in Raymond Hinnebusch and Jasmine Gani (eds.) *The Routledge Handbook to the Middle East and North African State and States System*, London, Routledge, 2019.

'Overcoming Exceptionalism - Party Politics and Voting Behavior in the Middle East and North Africa' in Larbi Sadiki (ed.) *Handbook of Middle East Politics: Interdisciplinary Inscriptions*, London, Routledge, 2019.

(with Pierre-Michel Turcotte) 'The European Union and Syria: from constructive engagement to marginalization and back?' in Raymond Hinnebusch and Adham Saouli (eds.) *The War for Syria*, London, Routledge, 2019.

(with Pietro Marzo) 'The demise of the Arab Strongman?' in Shahram Akbardazeh (ed.) *Handbook of the International Relations of the Middle East*, London, Routledge 2019.

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(with Paola Rivetti) 'Algeria' in Indra Øverland (ed.), *Public Brainpower: Civil society and natural resources management*, Palgrave, 2018.

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(with Fabio Merone) "The rise of Salafism and the future of democratization" in Nouri Gana (ed.) *The Making of the Tunisian Revolution: Contexts, Architects, Prospects*, Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Press, 2013.

(with Fabio Merone) "Political and social assessment of Tunisia pre and post 'the Arab Spring' in Rosita Di Peri and Raffaella Giordana (eds.) *Revolution without Revolutions*, Bologna, Emil, 2013.

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'Salafism after the Awakening', Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale (ISPI)' Milan, Italy, June 2015.

'La montée de l'Etat Islamique. Enjeux idéologiques et géostratégiques', Base Militaire de Longue-Pointe, Joint Task Force, 2nd Division, Canadian Armed Forces, March 2015.

'All against all? Ideological disputes within Islamism: the case of Tunisia', Conference on Islamism and post-Islamism in Muslim Societies, Queens University. Kingston, Canada, March 2015.

'Methodological issues in Middle East Studies: advocating for the inclusion of quantitative methods', Conference of Contentious Politics in the Arab world, University of Toronto, Canada, March 2015.

'La transition tunisienne entre démocratie, libéralisme et Islam politique', Conference on Pouvoirs et contre-pouvoirs: reconfiguration géopolitique au Moyen-Orient, UQAM, Montreal, February 2015.

'La révolte Syrienne et EI. Enjeux idéologiques et géostratégiques', Institut Militaire de Québec, Canada, November 2014.

'L'État Islamique: implications idéologiques et géostratégiques', Ministère des Relations Internationales et de la Francophonie, Québec, Canada, November 2014.

(with Stefano Torelli) 'From victim to hangman? The Tunisian troika and the rise of Salafism', MESA Annual Conference, Washington DC, USA, November 2014.

'Trois ans après l'éclat de la révolte populaire en Tunisie', UQAM, Montreal, Canada, November 2014.

'Post-Revolution States: Tunisia', International Workshop, "North Africa and the Arab Spring, an Interim Assessment", Tel Aviv University, Israel, May 2013

'Libya and the Maghreb; domestic and international security challenges', UK Defence Academy, United Kingdom, February 2013.

'La reconfiguration des structures de pouvoir en Algérie. Entre le national et l'international', CNRS Paris, France, October 2012.

(with Emanuela Dalmasso) 'The role of women in Islamist movements in Morocco and Tunisia: negotiating new gender roles?', ECPR Joint Sessions, Antwerp, Belgium, April 2012.

'Explaining the success of Ennahda in the 2011 elections in Tunisia', BRISMES Annual Conference, London, UK, March 2012

(with Emanuela Dalmasso) 'The concept of laïcité and the role of religion after the Arab Spring. Constitutional reforms in Tunisia and Morocco' Thirteenth Mediterranean Social and Political Research Meeting, Florence, Italy, March 2012.

(with Emanuela Dalmasso) "Political Islam in Morocco: negotiating the Kingdom's liberal space", ECPR Joint Sessions, St. Gallen, Switzerland, April 2011.

"The convergence of governance. Upgrading authoritarianism in the Arab world and downgrading democracy elsewhere?", 3rd World Congress in Middle East Studies, Barcelona, Spain, July 2010.

(with Emanuela Dalmasso) "The family code in Tunisia and Morocco – The struggle between traditionalism, globalization and democracy", Eleventh Mediterranean Social and Political Research Meeting, Florence, Italy, March 2010.

"The European Union's critical engagement with the Syrian Arab Republic in the 2000s", Johns Hopkins University, Bologna Center, Bologna, Italy, February 2010.

(with Erik Mohns) "Negotiations without end? The EU's failure in engineering Syrian foreign policy", Centre for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark, December 2009.

"Civil activism in Morocco. Much ado about nothing?", Knowledge Project, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Holland, November 2009.

Director of ECPR Workshop 2 "Civil society dynamics under authoritarian rule", ECPR Joint Sessions, Lisbon, Portugal, April 2009.

"Engaging authoritarianism. The European Union, Syria and normative power", UACES Annual Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland, September 2008.

"Tyrants and Terrorists: Authoritarian Consolidation as Counter-Terrorism. The case of the Middle East and North Africa", International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Conference, San Francisco, USA, March 2008.

(with Vincent Durac) "Divergence or Convergence? The European Union and the United States security Policies in the Middle East and North Africa", Panel co-director, Annual Conference of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), Montreal, Canada, November 2007.

"A Clash of Civilisations within civil society? The failure of pro-democracy policies in North Africa", Centre for Comparative Integration Studies, University of Aalborg, Denmark, August 2007.

"Between participation and revolution. The case of the Moroccan Jamiat al-Adl wal-Ihsan", ECPR Joint Sessions, Helsinki, Finland, May 2007.

"Divided they stand, divided the fail. Opposition politics in Morocco", UACES Workshop, Centre for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark, April 2007.

(with Azzam Elananza) "Show me the money. The role of western funding for civil society organisations in Jordan and Lebanon", Eight Mediterranean Social and Political Research Meeting, Florence, Italy, March 2007.

(with Azzam Elananza) "The power of civil society? Evidence from Algeria, Lebanon and Jordan", Annual Conference of the British International Studies Association (BISA), Cork, Ireland, December, 2006.

(with Azzam Elananza) "The secular/religious divide within Arab civil society. Evidence from Algeria, Lebanon and Jordan", Annual Conference of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), Boston, USA, November 2006.

(with Azzam Elananza) "The Authoritarian nature of Arab civil society? The interactions of secular and religious organisations in Jordan and Lebanon", Annual Conference of the Political Science Association of Ireland (PSAI), Cork, Ireland, October 2006.

(with Vincent Durac) "Western Democracy Promotion in the Middle East and the War on Terror: The Case of Tunisia", 2nd World Congress in Middle East Studies, Amman, Jordan, June 2006. Presentation delivered by Vincent Durac.

"The Israeli Religious Right and Settlement Policy. The success story of religious Zionism?", MECACS Seminar series at the School of International Relations, University of St. Andrews, Scotland on November 29th, 2005.

(with Sylvia Kritzinger and Raj S. Chari), "Spectacular failure or cunning plan? The EU, the Barcelona Process and the case of Morocco", XIX Congress of the Società Italiana di Scienza Politica, Cagliari, Italy, September 2005.

"Civil Society, Islamism and Democratisation. The case of Morocco", 3rd ECPR Conference, Budapest, Germany, September 2005.

Director of ECPR Workshop 11 "Post-Cold War Democratisation in the Muslim World: Domestic, Regional and Global Trends", ECPR Joint Sessions, Granada, Spain, April 2005.

"The War on Terror - Perspectives from Radical Islamic Groups", Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, Ireland, November 2004.

"Civil society, democracy and Islam. The case of Morocco", Annual Conference of the Political Science Association of Ireland (PSAI), Limerick, Ireland, October 2004.

(with Sylvia Kritzinger and Raj S. Chari), "Continuities and Change in Party Positions Towards Europe: An Examination of Italian Parties' Euro-Manifestos", APSA Annual Conference, Chicago, USA, September 2004. Presentation delivered by Sylvia Kritzinger.

"Internal-External Linkages in Processes of Democratisation. The Case of Morocco" 2nd ECPR Conference, Marburg, Germany, September 2003.

(with Sylvia Kritzinger and Raj S. Chari), "Continuities and Change in Party Positions Towards Europe: An Examination of Italian Parties' Euro-Manifestos" Workshop on The Europeanisation of the Italian Political System, European University Institute, Florence, Italy, June 2003.

(with Ben Tonra), "Normative foundations in EU foreign, security and defence policy. The case of the Middle East Peace process" ECPR-Joint Sessions, Edinburgh, Scotland, March 2003.

"Western attitudes to radical Islam: a comparative and historical perspective", Dublin European Institute, Dublin, Ireland, October 2002.

"Constructing an open model of transitions. International variables and the Democratization Process in North Africa", APSA Annual Conference, Boston, USA, August 2002.

(with Nalini Persram and Shiera el-Malik), "The Clash and 'Civilisation': Policy, populace and international legitimacy", Dept. of Human Rights, Rabat, Morocco, June 2002.

"The West and the failed democratization of North Africa: the cases of Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria", the Center for International Studies, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA, October 2001.

"Geopolitical challenges to the success of democracy: the case of the Maghreb", Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, October 2000.

"The Impact of the International dimension on transitions to democracy...and back: the case of Algeria", World Congress of the International Political Science Association, Quebec City, Canada, August 2000.

Teaching/Research

Winner of the DCU President's Research Award for the Humanities and Social Sciences in **February 2012**.

Nominated for the Annual DCU President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching & Learning in May 2005, May 2006, May 2007, May 2010 and May 2011.

Nominated for the DCU President's Research Award in **December 2009**, **December 2010** and **December 2011**.

Certificate for a course for teaching improvement skills offered by the Centre for Teaching and Learning, University College Dublin. Obtained **December 2002**.

Trained coder for the Euro-Manifestos Project, University of Mannheim, Germany.

Grants

Fonds de Recherche du Quebec – Societe et culture (FQRSC) – Canadian Dollars (CAD) 258,584 for Soutien aux équipes de recherche / Universitaire - nouvelle équipe. Dates: April 2024 – to date

Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Canadian Dollars (CAD) 163,741 for a project on the values and attitudes of members of Islamist parties in Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.

Dates: September 2020 – to date

British Academy. **Pounds** (GBP) **298,000** for a three-year project on media, conflict and transitions to democracy in the Middle East.

Dates: November 2018 - November 2021

CRSH. Canadian dollars (CAD) 19,000 to organize a two-day conference on geo-strategic developments in the Middle East and Africa.

Dates: 11-12 November 2014.

Faculté de Sciences Sociales, Université Laval. Canadian Dollars (CAD) 7,000 to examine political parties in Tunisia.

Dates: May 2014 – December 2014.

Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Euro 45,000 to examine the rise of Salafism in the wake of the Arab Awakening.

Dates: September 2013 - April 2014.

European Union - FP 7. Euro 200,000 to examine social and political transformations in the Arab world following the Arab Spring.

Dates: January 2013 – September 2016 (tentative).

Gerda Henkel Stiftung. Grant of Euro 55,000 to examine the transformation of Islamist movements.

Dates: April 2012- April 2013.

Dublin City University Research Capacity Building. Grant of **Euro 14,000** to examine Moroccan Islamist human rights associations.

Dates: June 2010-September 2010.

Panos Institute Paris. Grant of Euro 9, 980 to examine the relationship between civil society activism and media access in Tunisia.

Dates: October 2008-April 2009.

Dublin City University Career Start Programme. Grant of Euro 12,316 to examine civil society actors in Morocco and to analyse Syrian foreign policy.

Dates: September 2008-September 2009.

Development Cooperation Ireland (Irish Aid), Dept. of Foreign Affairs, Ireland. Research Grant of Euro 85,000 to examine civil society in four countries: Lebanon, Yemen, Algeria and Jordan. The project is a mapping study of civil society linked to their potential impact on both liberalisation and democratisation.

Dates: February 2006-June 2008.

School of Law and Government (DCU) Research Grant of Euro 3,000 awarded for carrying out a project with the title "The role of civil society in semi-authoritarian political systems." Dates: July 2005-August 2005.

Selected Awards/Scholarships

Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Science awarded the Government of Ireland Scholarship in the Humanities and Social Sciences, August 2001.

Royal Irish Academy (Dublin, Ireland), awarded the Postgraduate Essay Prize, October 1999.

Trinity College Dublin, Tuition Scholarship and Postgraduate Award, awarded from October 1998 until October 2001.

Syracuse University (Syracuse, NY, USA), Tuition Scholarship and Graduate Assistantship, from August 1996 until December 1997.

Syracuse University (Syracuse, NY, USA), Dean's Summer Fellowship, from May 1997 until August 1997.

Administrative Duties

BA Programme Director, Department of Political science, Université Laval.

Dates: June 2014 – June 2018

Director of Teaching and Learning, School of Law and Government, DCU.

Dates: September 2009 to date.

Director of Research, School of Law and Government, DCU.

Dates: September 2007 to September 2008

Acting Director of Teaching and Learning, School of Law and Government, DCU.

Dates: February 2007 to September 2007

Service to the Profession

Co-editor of the ISI-ranked journal Mediterranean Politics

Date: June 2014 – June 2018

External evaluator of research projects. I evaluated a number of projects for Canadian and

European funding agencies

Date: March 2009 – to date

Member of the Advisory Board of the journal Mediterranean Politics.

Date: June 2010 - to date.

Member of the Council of the British Society for Middle East Studies.

Date: April 2011- August 2013