

CV VERONICA MARGHERITA COCCO

Veronica Margherita Cocco is an Associate Professor of Social Psychology at the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, a position she has held since November 2024.

She obtained her Master's Degree in Clinical and Social Intervention Psychology from the University of Parma in 2020 and completed her PhD in Psychology at the same university in 2023, during which she carried out part of her activities as a Visiting Researcher at the University of Greenwich (UK). As a result of the research conducted during her PhD, she received the SPSP Student Publication Award (2023) for the paper: “Mobilizing or Sedative Effects? A Narrative Review of the Association between Intergroup Contact and Collective Action among Advantaged and Disadvantaged Groups.”

Following her PhD, she carried out research activities at the University of Verona as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow within the PRIN PNRR 2022 project PASSION (sPort to promote solidArity and wellneSS among chIldren and yOuNgsters), focused on the use of sport to promote solidarity and well-being among children and adolescents.

She served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Social Psychology Section of the Italian Association of Psychology (AIP) during the 2022-2025 term.

She is currently:

Member of the Third Mission Committee of the Department of Surgery, Medicine, Dentistry and Morphological Sciences with Interest in Transplantation, Oncology and Regenerative Medicine, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (since 2025).

Coordinator of incoming student orientation for the Bachelor's Degree Programme in Psychological Sciences and Techniques at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (since 2024).

Coordinator of the “Quasi Amici” project at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, in collaboration with the association Il Tesoro Nascosto (quasiamici.org), a project aimed at fostering meaningful friendships between young people with and without disabilities (since 2020).

Member of the coordinating committee of the “Equality Week” initiative at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, the first Italian university to establish a week dedicated to promoting inclusion and diversity by encouraging the participation of both the academic community and the wider public on issues including disability, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and equal opportunities.

Member of the Editorial Boards of the Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology (since 2020) and the British Journal of Social Psychology (since 2024), within which she has also served as Guest Editor for special issues on topics related to social inclusion and the promotion of social change.

Coordinator of numerous national and international projects and interventions aimed at promoting the inclusion of disadvantaged groups, including in the field of sport, in collaboration with UEFA and national football associations. In these contexts, sport has been used as a social tool to promote a more equitable and inclusive society.

Her teaching and research activities in Social Psychology mainly focus on group processes and intergroup relations, with a strong interest in promoting social inclusion and equality. In particular, her work addresses prejudice reduction, bullying prevention, and the promotion of social change towards greater equity. She has contributed to the field by publishing numerous scientific articles in international peer-reviewed journals and collaborating with several national and international research laboratories.

These research interests have also been applied within the University's Third Mission activities, through a strong commitment to knowledge transfer and the promotion of high-impact social initiatives aimed at addressing the major challenges of contemporary society.

July 6, 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Franca Rea', written in a cursive style.