

### **Introduction**

Selenia Marabello is Associate Professor in Cultural Anthropology at the Department of Linguistic and Cultural Studies at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, where she teaches Anthropology of Migration, Public Anthropology and Anthropology of Contemporary World. From 2023 she is the coordinator of LEA-Laboratory of Ethno-Anthropology.

Since 1998 he has been conducting field research in Ghana and Italy dealing with diasporas and development cooperation, health and gender relations, economic practices and political subjectivity. The research activity was carried out in the academic and professional field, coordinating competitive research projects for national and international organizations on health issues, gender violence, and discriminatory processes. She has been visiting researcher at the African Studies Centre (Netherland) and has been selected speaker and member of the scientific committee at numerous national and international conferences. In 2020 he shared (with M. Giuffrè and M. Turci) the scientific responsibility of the VIII National Conference of the Italian Society of Applied Anthropology. She is a member of the European Association of Social Anthropologist (EASA), the Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA), the Association for African Studies in Italy (ASAI), the Italian Society of Applied Anthropology (SIAA) and the Italian Society of Cultural Anthropology (SIAC).

### **Education**

She trained in Italy and Great Britain and earned a degree in Philosophy with a demo-ethno-anthropological orientation at the University of Siena. She then continued her education at the University of Catania, obtaining the Master of Science and Culture in Social Policies and Mediterranean Cultures and, still, at the London School of Economics and Political Sciences earning the title of Master of Science in Anthropology and Development. Finally, she completed her studies in the anthropological field, obtaining a PhD in International Cooperation and Policies for Sustainable Development at the University of Bologna, where she was a fellow researcher until 2021.

### **Research experiences**

The commitment to scientific research on contemporary mobility from West Africa has been divided into three areas that concern the anthropology of development and migration, the field of health with reference to the representations of infectious diseases and, most recently, the relationship between motherhood, migration and theories of conviviality. While experimenting with different survey methodologies, the analyses are essentially based on ethnographic research and long-term field relationships.

A first area was developed thanks to the doctoral and immediately post-doctoral research on the nexus migration and development - keywords in wide-ranging trans-debate disciplinary -, where through a project ethnography was analyzed the anthropological significance of co-development policies. Policies that have emphasized the autochthonies reinforcing, at least discursively, cultural affiliations by focusing on the role of migrants and remittances in the development of countries of origin. My research, was also recognized with the nomination for the International **Vilakazi Prize** held by the journal *African Studies* for theoretical and methodological innovation among the articles published in 2013. The article aimed precisely at revealing the processes of translation of

representations on culture, belonging, gender and kinship, developing the analysis of brokers' figures in the contemporary world. This line of research allowed a fruitful inter-disciplinary collaboration with economics and management scholars.

The analysis on the migration processes involving Ghanaian migrants in Italy were then expanded, from a theoretical-methodological point of view, observing, in comparative terms, international and internal mobility at the Italian border also thanks to the participation in the FARB LI 1 2013 project "Internal migration and social dynamics in Europe". The theme of the mobility and gender relations was again focused in a research assignment entrusted by the victory of the competitive project Alma Idea 2017 on the imagination of alterity between fashion, Children's publishing and daily practices.

The second area of research concerns, instead, the field of migrations and infectious diseases by investigating the sense diffractions around the representation of the virus, the treatment and the therapy analyzing the socio-policies between social groups, biomedical institutions, and migrants.

A third and wider research area, on which I am still engaged, analyse the migrants mothers' social networks, agency and the elaboration of the freedom's notion. This last research has been funded by Alsos Foundation and developed as an external member of the Bologna Research Unit of the National Project of Relevance PRIN Genealogies of Freedom (P.I. Alice Bellagamba). For further information see: <https://africanfreedoms.com>, and most recently by the financial support of FAR 2022 Project.

### **Scientific activities**

Among the numerous scientific assignments received by the University of Bergamo and the University of Bologna on the issues of mobility, discrimination and conviviality, only scientific research with an applicative value is noteworthy. In particular, we note the coordination in 2004 of the research unit on law enforcement and health services in the European Project Anti-Violence Network between cities Urban-Italy - *URBAN PIC program, Research and study service* entrusted by the Ministry of Equal Opportunities and the coordination, in 2007, of the research unit in Sicily of the project *I Colori della Giustizia*, entrusted by the Anti-Discrimination Office (UNAR) of the Ministry of Equal Opportunities – Italian Presidency of the Council. In 2007, she was assigned a collaborative assignment by CE-SPI and OIM (International Organization for Migration) to conduct MIDA Ghana-Senegal research. She is the Coordinator of the WP5 within the project *ACHIEVE-IT- Academic Collaboration through Higher International Education for a viable and equitable Africa with Italy* which involves 7 Italian and 38 African universities.

The research activity was then enriched by the editorial experience in the journal *Public Anthropology*, and with the commitment in Scientific Committees of two series of anthropological research (Ed-it and CISU) as well as the activity of anonymous refereeing for magazines: *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *International Journal of Migration*, *Geography Compass*, *Etnografia e Ricerca Qualitativa*, *Archivio Antropologico del Mediterraneo*, *Global Legal Studies*, *Medical Anthropology Cross Cultural Studies in Health and Illness*, *Antropologia.*, ANUAC. She is a member of the Scientific College of the Research Centre on Mobility, Diversity and Social Inclusion (MODI) and of the Gender Studies Centre (CSGE) of the University of Bologna.

### **Institutional Positions**

She was Deputy Project Director DIALOGUE <https://www.dhialogue.it> and Representative of the researchers in the Departmental Committee (2021-2024) and Admission Committee for Anthropological Disciplines Degree in Anthropology and History of Contemporary World.

She is now the contact person for the degrees' stakeholders and the Internship coordinator for the Undergraduate course on history (Contemporary History and Cultures) and the post graduate course in Anthropology and History (Anthropology and history of contemporary world). Lastly she is Member of the Review Group quality for the postgraduate degree in Anthropology and History of contemporary world.

### **Additional information**

Scientific research and professional activity characterized have been intertwined ranging from empirical research, consulting and training for local and national institutions, international organizations, NGOs, social cooperatives, and health services. She has a consistent experience in training for third sector bodies and institutions addressed to professional figures including health professionals. In 2020 and 2021 she also coordinated, on behalf of the Emilia Romagna Region, the activities of health promoters in prison. In 2022, 2023 and 2024 she was the winner and scientific coordinator of competitive public engagement projects funded by the Modena and Reggio Emilia University.

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