

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI FOGGIA

DIPARTIMENTO DI STUDI UMANISTICI

LETTERE, BENI CULTURALI, SCIENZE DELLA FORMAZIONE

(DISTUM)

CURRICULUM VITAE

FRANCESCA MARIA NICOLETTA BASSI is researcher (RTT) in SSD SDEA-01/A – Demo-ethno-anthropological Disciplines at the Department of Humanities, Cultural Heritage, Education Sciences (DISTUM) of the University of Foggia and teaches European Ethnology, Social Anthropology and Anthropology of Cultural Heritage in Bachelor and Master Degree courses. She is a member of EASA (European Association of Social Anthropologists), ABA (Associação Brasileira de Antropologia), BRASA (Brazilian Studies Association) and IUAES (International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences) and is a member of the Commission of Anthropology of Religion of the IUAES. She is a lecturer in the course of studies of the Master's Degree in 'Anthropological and Geographical Sciences for Cultural Heritage and the Enhancement of Territories (SAGE)', DICEM administrative seat - University of Basilicata, University of Foggia and University of Salento and the University 'Federico II' of Naples. She is the Scientific Director of the Ethnographic Laboratory of the University of Foggia, into which the 'Ester Loiodice' Centre for Visual Documentation of Celebrations in Capitanata and the Laboratory of the Anthropology of Intangible Cultural Heritage are located. He is a member of the ObservaBaía- Observatory of Socio-Environmental Risks and Vulnerabilities in the Baía de Todos os Santos (All Saints' Bay), Federal University of Bahia (UFBA), Brazil.

From 2018 to 2024 she was coordinator of the Ritual Time and Festive Space Research Laboratory, UFRB, Brazil.

From 2021 to 2022 she was Visiting Professor at the University of Bologna, Department of Cultural Heritage.

From 2015 to 2024 she was Adjunct Professor at the Federal University of the Recôncavo de Bahi (UFRB), Brazil.

From 2018 to 2023 she was Research Associate at MESCLAS (Memória, Espaço e Culturas), UFRB, Brazil.

From 2010 to 2014, she benefited from a CAPES postdoctoral fellowship, at UFBA, Brazil.

In 2009, she obtained a PhD in Anthropology (Ph.D.) from the University of Montréal (Canada), conducting research on Candomblé rituals in Bahia: Entre mythe et corps: les quizilas dans le Candomblé du Brésil.

From 2006 to 2009, she was a lecturer at the Laboratoire des Pratiques Corporelles/STAPS of the Université Blaise Pascal, Clermont-Ferrand

From 1996 to 2000, she was a member of the CERES Anthropological Laboratory at the University of Montreal, Department of Anthropology (Canada). Lines of research: rituals, reciprocity, symbolic systems. Institutional affiliation: research fellow. Fellowship: FCAR (Québec), Canada.

In 1993 she obtained a degree in Literature (specialising in demoethnoanthropology) from the University of Rome La Sapienza with a thesis in History of Religions: Tabu and Sin in Hertz.

Research activities

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Her research interests focus on the following topics: ritual, symbolic systems, native ontologies, Afro-Brazilian religions, therapeutic practices, popular culture, transmission of memory, festive events, ethnic identity, processes of patrimonialisation and protection of heritage systems in local territories, cultural rights of traditional communities, identity politics and cultural diversity. For several years she has been conducting field research in Bahia (Brazil) in Afro-Brazilian religious communities (Candomblé) and rural communities (Quilombos), focusing on ritual practices and festive manifestations, intangible heritage, religious intolerance and racism, and ethnic-racial dynamics. Other research activities have concerned environmental vulnerability in the fishing communities of the Baía de Todos os Santos (Brazil) and the land rights of rural communities (Quilombos). Recently, she has focused on unofficial heritage, the presence of Afro-Brazilian cults in Europe and Italy, and the relationship between immigration, racism, religiosity and environmental vulnerability.

FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

2024-

Member of the project "SMART LAND. Cultures, Sustainability, Territories" approved and financed by the University of Milan - Bicocca (Prot. no. 0215052 of 31/05/2024 - UOR: 003305) within the public notice for the presentation of proof of concept (PoC) and prototyping projects for Research and Knowledge Dissemination Organisations, "cascade calls" to be financed under the PNRR, Measure 4 Component 2 Investment 1. 5 - Research and Innovation Programme 'MUSA - Multilayered Urban Sustainability Action' ECS_000037, funded by the European Union - NextGenerationEU - CUP H43C22000550001 - Spoke 6 for academic proof of concept activities - POC OPEN AIR LAB (Rectoral Decree no. 3993/2023 prot. no. 414055/2023 of 20.11.2023).

2019 - 2022

Responsible for the project CITY AND FESTIVITY: THE AMBIGUITIES OF THE RECÔNCAVO OF BAHIA (BRAZIL).

The project, which is interdisciplinary in nature, concerned the popular culture and festive events of the cities of the Recôncavo of Bahia; media relations, the cultural industry and heritage. Funding: CNPq, National Council for Scientific and Technological Development- Brazil Project selected and funded Universal MCTIC/CNPq Call for Proposals No. 28/2018, Brazil.

2018 - 2021

Member of the project RESEARCH ON THE AFRO-BRAZILIAN FESTIVAL NAMED “BEMBÉ DEL MERCado” FOR THE PROCESS OF REGISTRATION AS A CULTURAL HERITAGE OF BRAZIL (IPHAN RESEARCH REPORT)

Ethnographic research on an African-Brazilian festival (Candomblé manifestations, Maculelê, Capoeira, Roda Samba), called “Bembé do Mercado”, for the recognition as a cultural heritage of Brazil, through an agreement between the National Institute of Historical and Artistic Heritage IPHAN and the UFRB.

Funding: IPHAN (Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional), Brazil.

2016 - 2019

Responsible for the project THE MEMORY IN PRACTICE: LOCAL THEORY AND INFORMAL LEARNING IN AFRO-BRASILIAN RITUALS AND FESTIVITIES (BAHIA, BRAZIL)

The project concerned the ethnic and religious dimension of Afro-Brazilian groups, ritual practices, festive moments and daily devotion. The ethnography was devoted to Afro-Brazilian cults in the Recôncavo of Bahia (municipalities of Santo Amaro and Cachoeira), giving particular space to the study of Candomblé, but also contemplating other festive and devotional contexts in which Afro-Catholic syncretism appears. The study is inspired by the debate on the efficacy of rituals and their connection with the transmission of memory.

Funded by CNPq (National Council for Scientific and Technological Development) and FAPESB (Research Foundation of the State of Bahia), Brazil.

2012 to 2016

Member of the project FREE TIME, FESTIVITIES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE BAÍA DE TODOS OS SANTOS

The project was dedicated to the identification, registration and mapping of spaces and activities for leisure time and cultural and artistic events in the Bay of All Saints, with a focus on the performance of collective events such as festivals and traditional rituals. Funding: FABESP (Research Foundation of the State of Bahia), Brazil.

2012 - 2015

Member of the project TERRITORY, SOLIDARITY NETWORKS, RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL VULNERABILITY AMONG TRADITIONAL POPULATIONS OF THE BAÍA DE TODOS OS SANTOS (BTS)

The research in the Baía de Todos os Santos (Bay of All Saints) considered the environment, land and health rights; care networks (work and cooperation, health, religion and sociability); vulnerability of coastal areas, socio-environmental impacts

Funding: FABESP (Research Foundation of the State of Bahia), Brazil.

2012-2014

Responsible for the project RITUALS CAUTIONS AND THERAPEUTIC ITINERARIES BETWEEN THE “PEOPLE OF SAINT” (CANDOMBLÉ, BAHIA, BRAZIL)

This project continued the ethnographic work of a previous project (fPRODOC/ CAPES 2010-2012). The field research in Bahia (Brazil) took place in syncretic religious contexts and covered religious and therapeutic rituals of different origins (Candomblé, Afro-Catholic cults); initiation and

purification rituals, prayers and blessings, and phytotherapy were studied. The project aimed to analyse how different ontologies and different therapeutic concepts are integrated in Afro-Brazilian communities in the municipality of Itaparica and the metropolitan region of Salvador de Bahia. Funding: PRODOC- CAPES, Brazil.

2010 - 2012

Responsible for the project RITUALS CAUTIONS AND THERAPEUTIC ITINERARIES BETWEEN THE “PEOPLE OF SAINT” (CANDOMBLÉ, BAHIA, BRAZIL)

Post-doctoral project. In this project, the notions of corporeality and sensibility were elaborated in relation to the ritual processes of the Afro-Brazilian religion called Candomblé. The research took place in Candomblé houses in the State of Bahia (Brazil). The fieldwork was mainly devoted to ritual taboos (quizilas). It was seen that they imply not only overtly prescriptive behaviour (do not do, do not eat) but also exploratory, in fact, part of these prohibitions is initially unknown to the adept; the quizilas are recognised through sensitivity and allergy problems. Bodily sensitivity therefore plays an important role in Candomblé ritual practice.

Funding: CAPES, Postdoctoral Fellowship, Brazil.

OTHER PROJECTS/THIRD MISSION

2018-2020

Member of the ethnographic team to research the Afro-Brazilian festivity called ‘Bembé do Mercado’, for its preservation as a National Intangible Heritage of Brazil (IPHAN research report), Universidade Federal do Recôncavo da Bahia (UFRB), Brazil. Coordinator: Danillo Barata.

2016- 2024

Member of the UFRB research/action team, “Terra de Direitos” (Land of Rights) project, UFRB/COSPE (Italy-Brazil Collaboration)
Coordinator: Marcelo Araújo.

2017 - 2019

Member of the research/action project: Mapping traditional therapies in the Quilombos of Cachoeira, UFBA, Brazil. Coordinator: Fátima Tavares.

2012-2014

Member of the research team on the sociocultural impacts of the re-gasification terminal in Bahia, called TRBA. Study on cultural, socioeconomic, landscape and urban impacts; proposal of mitigation measures for negative impacts. UFBA, Brazil. Coordinator: C. Caroso.

FIELD RESEARCH

She has been conducting field research in Bahia, Brazil, in Candomblé (Afro-Brazilian religion) houses of worship since 1997, taking an interest in ritual behavior, religious symbolism and the relationships between initiation and bodily sensitivity. Between 2010 and 2014 she carried out field research in the Island of Itaparica (Bahia, Brazil), taking an interest in local therapeutic practices, Afro-Brazilian and syncretic cults (Afro-Catholic devotions in Candomblé and Umbanda religion)

and the cult of ancestors of African origin (Baba Egun). In 2013 - 2014, she participated in ethnographic research in several fishing communities in All Saints Bay to assess socio-environmental impacts due to the re-gasification terminal (TRBA). Since 2015, she has also been involved in rural Afro-descendant communities (Quilombos) in the Municipality of Cachoeira (Bahia) by participating in the drafting of anthropological documents in support of quilombo land claims and mapping of phytotherapy practices and traditional cures. Since 2016, she has been conducting, on a regular basis, research in the Recôncavo region of Bahia (an area historically linked to sugarcane production and slavery), whose Afro-descendant population is characterized by a relevant artistic and festive expressiveness ((regional samba, called samba chula, capoeira, folkloric dances, street theater, festivities of the carnival cycle). In 2018, she collaborated in the process of heralding the 'Bembé del Mercato,' an important festival that brings together various of the aforementioned cultural and artistic expressions of the Recôncavo of Bahia. She has recently conducted field research in Candomblé and Umbanda houses in Italy and has been interested in the relationship between immigration, religiosity and environmental vulnerability.

INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITY

Since 2025 she has been a member Group for Quality Assurance of the Course of Study in Heritage and Cultural Tourism (UniFG, DISTUM).

Since 2024, she has been a member for Quality Assurance of the Course of Study in Humanities, UniFG, DISTUM.

From 2018 to 2021, she was the Coordinator of the Specialization Course CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURAL ENVIRONMENTS, UFRB, Brazil.

From 2019 to 2021 she was a member of the University Commission for the Pedagogical Project Development: the Master's Course CULTURE, LANGUAGES AND TECHNOLOGIES, UFRB, Brazil.

From 2016 to 2020 she was a member of the University Collegiate BICULT- UFRB, Brazil.

From 2016 to 2017 she was a member of the University Commission for Pedagogical Project Development: Postgraduate (Specialization) Course in Cultural Policy and Management, UFRB, Brazil.

From 2016-2017 she was a member of the Commission for Pedagogical Project Development: Postgraduate Course (Specialization) Culture, Languages and Technologies, UFRB, Brazil.

From 2016-2017 member of the University Commission for Pedagogical Project Development: Postgraduate Course (Specialization), Citizenship and Cultural Environments, UFRB, Brazil.

From 2016-2017 member of the University Commission for pedagogical project elaboration: LIA, Interdisciplinary Degree Course in Art, UFRB, Brazil.

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBER OR REFEREE OF SCHOLARLY JOURNALS.

Since 2017, she has been a Member of the Editorial Board of the interdisciplinary academic journal TRILHOS (CECULT/UFRB, Brazil). Referee of several scientific journals of anthropology in Italy and Brazil.

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

University of Foggia

2024.2025 (I Sem) Social Anthropology - Master of Arts in Philology Literature and History, DISTUM

2024-2025 (I Sem) European Ethnology - Bachelor in Education and Training Sciences, DISTUM

2023. 2024 (II Sem) Anthropology of Cultural and Environmental Heritage - Bachelor of Arts in Heritage and Cultural Tourism, DISTUM

2022.2023 (II Sem) Anthropology of Cultural and Environmental Heritage - Bachelor of Arts in Heritage and Cultural Tourism, DISTUM

2021. 2022 (II Sem) Anthropology of Cultural and Environmental Heritage- Three-Year Degree Course in Heritage and Cultural Tourism, DISTUM

Integrative teaching and student service: student reception, guidance in thesis preparation, participation in undergraduate sessions as a committee member and as thesis advisor, participation in examinations of all the subjects she is in charge of as committee chair and of Applied Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology, Anthropology of Eating Behaviors, Anthropology of Migration and Ethnoanthropology as a committee member.

University of Bologna, Ravenna Campus

2021.2022 (I Sem) Anthropology of Heritage- Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Heritage.

Universidade Federal do Recôncavo da Bahia (UFRB)

Centro de cultura, linguagens e tecnologias aplicadas (CECULT-UFRB), Bahia, Brazil.

From 2015 to 2022:

Diversity, culture and ethnic-racial relations- Bachelor's degree

Brazilian and Bahian culture- Bachelor's degree

Anthropology and scene- Bachelor's degree

Socio-anthropology- Bachelor's degree

Ethnography of economic exchanges- Specialization

Religions, rituals and devotion- Bachelor's degree

Identity, diversity and territory- Specialization

Studies on religiosity (Bahia, Brazil)- Bachelor's degree

2010-2014 Universidade Federal da Bahia, Department of Anthropology (UFBA-PPGA), Salvador de Bahia, Brazil.

From 2010 to 2014:

Anthropology -Post-Graduation (Master's Degree, Doctorate)

Advanced Seminar in Anthropological Theory, Post-Graduation (Master's Degree, Doctorate)

Reading and Interpreting Anthropological Texts - Post-Graduation (Master's Degree, Doctorate)

Religiosity and Health - Post-Graduation (Master's Degree, Doctorate)

Body, Health and Therapeutic Knowledge - Post-Graduation (Master's Degree, Doctorate)

MEMBER/CHAIRMAN OF SELECTION COMMITTEES.

Member of the Selection Committee of the Selection Procedure for filling 1 post of fixed-term professor (Professor Substitute) (Interdisciplinary) EDITAL D.O.U. No. 08/2019 UFRB/Cecult. 2019. Universidade Federal do Recôncavo da Bahia.

Component of the Selection Committee of the Selection Procedure for the closed number entry of students to the specialization course Citizenship and Cultural Environments (Bando 01/2017 - Edital de seleção 01/2017), Universidade federal do Recôncavo da Bahia, CECULT.

He has participated of several selection committees for qualification (comprehensive exam) and discussion of master's and doctoral theses at UFBA, the UFRB (Brazil) and the University of Lyon (France).

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH DIRECTOR (Thesis Advisor).

She has been co-rapporteur and thesis advisor for several Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral theses in Brazil (UFBA-UFRB) and Italy (UNIBO, UNIFG).

ORGANIZATION OF EVENTS AND CONFERENCES and PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES

Member Commission II ENICECUT. 2019. International Congress, Santo Amaro da Purificação, Bahia, Brazil.

Member Commission I Enicecult. 2017, Santo Amaro da Purificação, Bahia, Brazil.

Member Commission Organization in IV Reconcitec. 2016, Congress, Cruz das Almas, Brazil.

Member of the Organizing Commission of the Research Seminar Baías da

Baía/Week Kirimuré 2014. São Francisco do Conde, Bahia, Brazil.

Member Organizing Committee of the “Journée d’Etude”: Les rites d'intimité dans le monde lusophone, 2008, Clermont-Ferrand, France.

Participation in Conferences:

She has been convenor in several international congresses.

She has presented papers at various international seminars and conferences from 2006 to present.