
ELISA FREI

Ph.D., History

Università di Trieste/Udine, 2017

Fields: Religious History; Cultural History; History of Emotions; Global history

Dissertation: *“Outpouring of hearts on fire”. Italian Jesuits Asking for the East Indies (c. 1678–1730)*

Grade: *Summa cum laude.*

Master of Arts, Philology and Literary Hermeneutics

Università di Verona, 2014

Fields: Cultural history; Anthropology; Global History; Early Modern History; Palaeography

Dissertation: *The Jesuit Adventure in Japan (XVI-XVII centuries)*

Grade: *Summa cum laude.*

Bachelor of Arts, Archival Studies and Librarianship

Università di Trento, 2006

Fields: Archival studies; Epistolography; Local history; Palaeography

Dissertation: *The Epistolary of Giovanni Battista Sardagna (1828-1888), with Regesta of his Letters*

Grade: *Summa cum laude.*

State Diploma in Archival Studies

School of Archive-keeping, Paleography and Diplomatics, State Archive of Bolzano, 2006

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022- Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, Faculty of Catholic Theology.
Assistant Professor.
- 2019- Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies, Boston College.
Project assistant for the *Digital Indipetae Database*.
- 2021 Jan.-2022 Apr. University of Macerata, Italy.
Research Fellow in Early Modern and Global History.
- 2021 June Research Infrastructure on Religious Studies (ReIReS), Mainz, Germany.
Short-term fellow.
- 2021 May-June University of Lisbon, Department for the History and Philosophy of Science.
Visiting scholar.
- 2021 April-June *Jesuit Online Bibliography* (editor in-chief: Seth Meehan, Boston College).
Assistant editor for *Archivum Historicum Societatis Iesu*.
- 2020 March Research Infrastructure on Religious Studies (ReIReS), Mainz, Germany.
Short-term fellow.
- 2020- Centre for Renaissance and Early Modern Studies, University of York, UK.
Research associate.
- 2018-2019 Co-editor of *Asia (1653)* by the Jesuit Daniello Bartoli.
- 2017-2018 Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies, Boston College.

Junior research fellow.

2015 Centre for Renaissance and Early Modern Studies, University of York.
Visiting research student (Fall semester).

PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 -“Glorifying Francis Xavier’s (1506-52) Good Deeds or Miracles? The Negotiation of Sanctity in the *Relatio Rotae* (1619) and Daniello Bartoli’s *Asia* (1653),” *Journal of Early Modern Christianity*: 1-20.
- 2022 -“I procuratori della Compagnia di Gesù: Talent scout di missionari per l’impero cinese,” *Intorcettiana* IV/8: 52-59.
- “Consigli agli indipeti: le risposte dei Generali e il manuale di Girolamo Pallas,” in *Le lettere indipetae come fonte per la storia della Compagnia di Gesù. Nuove prospettive di ricerca*, Brescia, Editrice Morcelliana: 143-160.
- “La vocazione missionaria dei gesuiti: Intorno agli ultimi studi sulle *Litterae indipetae*,” *Ricerche di storia sociale e religiosa* 94: 141-152.
- “Minds and Hearts and Digital Data. Collaborative Learning with Jesuit Manuscripts and Databases,” special issue on John O’Malley of *Jesuit Higher Education. A Journal* 11 (2): 95-104.
- “Missionary FAQs: The Migration of Knowledge about and from Early Modern Jesuit Missions,” *Migrant Knowledge*, September 2, 2022 (<https://migrantknowledge.org/2022/09/02/missionary-faqs/>).
- “Le risposte dei Generali,” in Pierre-Antoine Fabre, Girolamo Imbruglia, and Guido Mongini (eds.), *Cinque secoli di Litterae Indipetae. Il desiderio delle missioni nella Compagnia di Gesù*, Rome: Institutum Historicum Societatis Iesu: 323-336.
- “*Zin zhin* e altre cortesie: Matteo Ricci e i gesti cinesi di civiltà,” *Intorcettiana* IV/7: 46-51.
- “Through Daniello Bartoli’s Eyes: Francis Xavier in *Asia* (1653),” *Journal of Jesuit Studies* 9: 398-414.
- 2021 -“La gioventù cinese nelle *Istorie della Compagnia di Gesù* di Daniello Bartoli (XVII secolo),” in Giulia Falato and Renata Vinci, eds., *Giovani virtuosi e dove trovarli: Percorsi formativi e rappresentazioni dell’età giovanile nella tradizione pedagogica e letteraria cinese*, monographic issue of *Sulla via del Catai* 25: 31-42.
- “Alla ricerca di missionari per l’Impero Qing. I procuratori della Compagnia di Gesù e i loro viaggi italiani (XVII-XVIII secolo),” *Ricerche di storia sociale e religiosa* 93: 102-122.
- “*The Devils Sang Matins So Properly*: Francis Xavier’s Close Encounters with Demons in Daniello Bartoli’s *Asia* (1653),” co-author with Laura Madella, *Quaderni d’Italianistica-Official Journal of the Canadian Association for Italian Studies* 42/2: 15-41.

- “Dimostrare autorità e usare cortesia. L’etichetta giapponese nel *Cerimoniale* di Alessandro Valignano (1583),” co-author with Laura Madella, *Bruniana & Campanelliana* 2021/2: 307-324.
- “Le Filippine: campo di battaglia spirituale tra ordini religiosi attraverso le *Istorie* di Daniello Bartoli e le *Litterae Indipetae* (XVI-XVIII secolo),” *Studi Francescani* 118/3-4: 289-303.
- “*You only torment and upset yourself: Replies to a Restless Writer at the Turn of the Eighteenth Century*,” in Cristiano Casalini, Emanuele Colombo, and Seth Meehan (eds.), *Engaging Sources: The Tradition and Future of Collecting History in the Society of Jesus*, Boston: Institute of Jesuit Sources: 1-14.
- “Muzio Vitelleschi Replies to *Litterae Indipetae*: Two Case Studies from the Austrian Province in the Seventeenth Century,” *Archivum Historicum Societatis Iesu* LXC/179 (2021/I): 63–87.
- 2020 -“*The ardent desire to spread all my sweat and blood. Italian Litterae indepetae between 1690 and 1730*,” in Leonardo Cohen (ed.), *Narratives of Suffering, Persecution and Disappointment in the Early Modern Period. Giving Birth to New Martyrs*, Lisbon, Universidade Católica Portuguesa - Centro de Estudos de História Religiosa, 2020: 101–126.
- 2019 -“*Signed in Blood. Negotiating with the Superior General about the Overseas Mission (18th century)*,” *Studies in the Spirituality of Jesuits* 51/4 (Winter 2019): 1–34.
- “*The Indipetae*,” *Boston College Magazine* (Summer 2019): 42–45.
- Daniello Bartoli, *Dell’Istoria della Compagnia di Giesù. L’Asia* (2 volumes), Torino, Einaudi, 2019: co-editor with Umberto Grassi (supervisors: Adriano Prosperi and Mauro Bersani).
- 2018 -“*To go to China or Japan... not to stay in these colleges. Jesuit Procurators of China and Petitioners for the Indies (1640s and 1690s)*,” *Orientis Aura. Macau Perspectives in Religious Studies* 3 (2018): 81-102.
- “*In nomine patris. The Struggle Between an Indipeta, his Father, and the Superior Generals of the Society of Jesus (1701–1724 ca.)*,” *Chronica Mundi* 13/I (2018): 107–123.
- 2016 -“*The Many Faces of Ignazio Maria Romeo, SJ (1676–1724?)*, Petitioner for the Indies: A Jesuit Seen through his *Litterae Indipetae* and the *Epistulae Generalium*,” *Archivum Historicum Societatis Iesu*, Vol. 85, Fasc. 170 (2016/II): 365–404.
- (forthcoming) -*Early Modern Litterae Indipetae for the East Indies*. Monograph under contract with Brill, series “Historical Legacies of Christianity in East Asia” (publication is expected in 2022).

-with Christoph Nebgen, *Interview with the Missionary: Frequently Asked Questions for Jesuit Petitioners for the Indies*. Boston: Institute of Jesuit Sources (publication is expected in 2023).

-co-editor with Eleonora Rai, *Profiling Saints. Understanding the Theological and Cultural Foundations of Catholic Hagiographical Models (1500s–1900s)*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht Verlag (publication is expected in spring 2023).

-co-editor with Thomas Santa Maria, *Catholic Missions and Emotions and the Beginnings of the Global World*. Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer (publication is expected in 2023).

-“From Europe to China: The Power and Promises of Jesuit Procurators (ca. 1600-1730),” in Alexandre Coello de la Rosa and Fabian Fechner, eds., *Procurators of the Society of Jesus*, Leiden-Boston: Brill (proposal accepted in November 2021; publication is expected in 2023).

-co-author with Eleonora Rai, “Mission impossible. Antonio Crimali, the Jesuit ‘Protomartyr’ who was Never Martyred (India, 1549),” in Elisa Frei and Thomas Santa Maria, eds., *Catholic Missions and Emotions and the Beginnings of the Global World*, Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer (proposal accepted in December 2022; publication is expected in 2023).

-co-author with Laura Madella, “*A Thousand Miles of Troubled Sea We Sailed*. The Island as a moral guide in Daniello Bartoli’s geographical work (1664),” *Viator* (proposal accepted in August 2022; publication is expected in 2024).

BOOK REVIEWS of: 2022

-Andreea Badea, Bruno Boute, Marco Cavarzere, and Steven Vanden Broecke, eds., *Making Truth in Early Modern Catholicism*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2021. In *Cromohs* 25: 1-3.

-Carla Nappi, *Translating Early Modern China: Illegible Cities*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021. In *Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies* 53: 263-264.

2021

-Yasmin Haskell and Raphaële Garrod, eds., *Changing Hearts: Performing Jesuit Emotions Between Europe, Asia, and the Americas*. Leiden-Boston: Brill, 2019. In *Archivum Historicum Societatis Iesu* XC, Fasc. 180 (2021/II): 676-678.

-Anna Grasskamp, *Objects in Frames: Displaying Foreign Collectibles in Early Modern China and Europe*. Berlin: Dietrich Reimer Verlag GmbH, 2020. In *Reformation & Renaissance Review* 23/2 (2021): 189-190.

-Giulia Falato, *Alfonso Vagnone’s Tongyou Jiaoyu (On the Education of Children, c. 1632). The Earliest Encounter Between Chinese and European Pedagogy*. Leiden-Boston: Brill, 2020. In *Cromohs* 23 (2021): 186-188.

-Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, Robert Aleksander Maryks, and Ronnie Po-chia Hsia, ed., *Encounters Between Jesuits and Protestants in Asia and the Americas*. Leiden-Boston: Brill, 2020. In *Cromohs* 23 (2021): 183-185.

- 2020 -Thomas M. McCoog, ed., *With Eyes and Ears Open: The Role of Visitors in the Society of Jesus*. Leiden-Boston: Brill, 2019. In *Archivum Historicum Societatis Iesu* 89, Fasc. 177 (2020/I): 259—260.
- 2019 -Kaspar Castner, *Sancian als Tor nach China: Kaspar Castners Bericht über das Grab des Heiligen Franz Xaver*, edited by Gerd Treffer, Thierry Meynard, München 2019. In *Archivum Historicum Societatis Iesu* 88, Fasc. 176 (2019/II): 620–622.
- Daniello Bartoli, *Istoria della Compagnia di Gesù. L'Asia*, a cura di Umberto Grassi con la collaborazione di Elisa Frei, Introduzione di Adriano Prosperi, Torino, Einaudi, 2019. In *Archivum Historicum Societatis Iesu* 88, Fasc. 176 (2019/II): 626–629.
- Padre Claudio Acquaviva SJ preposito generale della Compagnia di Gesù e il suo tempo, edited by Martín María Morales and Roberto Ricci, L'Aquila 2018. In *Archivum Historicum Societatis Iesu* 88, Fasc. 175 (2019/I): 215–219.
- 2016 -Kaijian, Tang, *Setting Off from Macau: Essays on Jesuit History during the Ming and Qing Dynasties*, Leiden and Boston 2016. In *Journal of Early Modern History* 7-8 (2016): 271–273.
- Missioni, saperi e adattamento tra Europa e imperi non cristiani, edited by Sabina Pavone and Vincenzo Lavenia, Macerata 2015. In *Archivum Historicum Societatis Iesu* 85, Fasc. 169 (2016/I): 253–256.
- 2015 -*Jesuit Mapmaking in China. D'Anville's Nouvelle Atlas de la Chine (1737)*, edited by Roberto M. Ribeiro and John O'Malley. In *Archivum Historicum Societatis Iesu* 84, Fasc. 167 (2015/I): 167–169.
- (forthcoming) Pierre-Antoine Fabre, Girolamo Imbruglia, and Guido Mongini (eds.), *Cinque secoli di Letterae Indipetae. Il desiderio delle missioni nella Compagnia di Gesù*, Rome: Institutum Historicum Societatis Iesu, 2022. In *Rivista di Storia del Cristianesimo*.
- Daniel Leonhard Purdy, *Chinese Sympathies. Media, Missionaries, and World Literature from Marco Polo to Goethe*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press and Cornell University Library, 2021. In *Annali.Reviews.Online*.
- Andreea Badea, Bruno Boute, Marco Cavarzere et al., eds., *Making Truth in Early Modern Catholicism*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2021. In *SEHEPUNKTE - Rezensionenjournal für die Geschichtswissenschaften*.

GRANTS AND PRIZES

- 2021, May *Renaissance Society of America* Grant for “Innovative Online Teaching of Renaissance Studies to High School Students,” with the project “On the Edition of Renaissance Manuscripts.”

UNIVERSITY LECTURES

- 2022 -“I gesti nel *Cerimoniale* di Alessandro Valignano (1582 ca.)” I provided one lecture as a part of the BA course “Early Modern Social History” of Prof. Michela Catto at the University of Turin (March).
- 2021 -“From Paper to Screen: the *Digital Indipetae Database*.” I co-organized five seminars of Prof. Sabina Pavone, provided one lecture and tutored the

students of the digital history lab at the University of Macerata (November-December).

-“Gesti di cortesia: il *Cerimoniale* di Alessandro Valignano per i missionari gesuiti in Giappone (1582 ca.):” I provided one lecture as a part of the BA course “Medieval and Early Modern History” of Prof. Sabina Pavone at the University of Macerata (October).

-“The *Digital Indipetae Database*: A Digital Tool to Study Religious Mobility:” I presented three seminars of Prof. Lucio Biasiori as a part of the master course for foreign students “Digital Tools for Mobility Research” at the University of Padua (March-April).

2020 -“From Paper to Screen: the *Digital Indipetae Database*:” I provided one lecture and tutored the students of the digital history lab of Prof. Sabina Pavone at the University of Macerata (November-December).

2019 -“*Outpouring of hearts on fire*: Italian Jesuits yearning for the Indies (XVII-XVIII centuries):” I presented a seminar for the Lecture Series of Prof. Arndt Brendecke “Global History” at the Centre for Global History, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (April).

-“Jesuit Petitioners for the Indies: the Role of Scientific Skills and Blood in their Letters (XVII-XVIII c.):” I presented a seminar of Prof. Henrique Leitão at the Centro Interuniversitário de História das Ciências e da Tecnologia, Lisbon (October).

2016 -“Per una storia e per una filosofia dei sentimenti:” co-organization of the doctoral seminar on History of emotions at the University of Trieste (April).

INVITED TALKS AND COLLOQUIA

2022 -“Unsuccessful Saints of the Society of Jesus: Antonio Crimalini and Leonard Lessius,” virtual talk with Eleonora Rai at the Jesuit History Research Group, University of Toronto (January).

2021 -“On the Edition of Renaissance Manuscripts:” I presented the project awarded with the “Innovative Online Teaching of Renaissance Studies to High School Students” Grant (June).

2019 -“Francis Xavier: a Life through Letters - un progetto di biografia,” talk at the Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trent (July).

2018 -“*For the Greater Good of our Order*. Jesuits Betting on the Rites Controversy,” colloquium with Prof. Eugenio Menegon of Boston University at the Burns Library, Boston College (April).

INVITED WORKSHOPS

2022 -“The Network of the Petitioners for the Indies,” for the workshop *Two Early Modern Global Networks in Asia: The Society of Jesus and the Dutch East India Company*, University of Warsaw and National Science Centre Warsaw (December).

-“Missionaries on the Move within a Global Empire,” for the Bucerus Young Scholars Forum on *Histories of Migration: Transatlantic and Global Perspectives*, German Historical Institute at UC Berkeley, San Francisco (October).

-“Missionare manipulieren Medikamente: Jesuiten und Medizin in Asien (ca.1540-1600),” jährliches Sankt Georgen - JGU Mainz - Goethe-Universität Netzwerktreffen, Philosophisch-Theologische Hochschule Sankt Georgen, Frankfurt am Main (September).

-“Un protomartire controverso. Antonio Criminali in India (1544-1549),” presentation at the workshop “Martirio e sacrificio nella Compagnia di Gesù durante il generalato di Claudio Acquaviva,” Atri, Italy (July).

2021 -“Chinese Youth in Daniello Bartoli’s *China* (1633),” presentation at the online workshop for contributors of the volume *Giovani virtuosi e dove trovarli*, monographic issue of *Sulla via del Catai* (September).

2019 -“*Lacking ships, I will reach those islands by swimming. A Renewed Desire for Japan in the Jesuit Petitions for the Indies (Italian Assistancy, 1690-1730 ca.)*,” presentation at the workshop for young researchers “Entangled Knowledges: Judaism, Christianity, Islam (13th-19th centuries),” Sangalli Institute, Florence (October).

-Presentation of the *Digital Indipetae Database*, Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies, Boston College (June).

2018 -Presentation of my book manuscript at the workshop “Historical Legacies of Christianity in East Asia. Bridging a New Generation of Scholars and Scholarships,” co-sponsored by the University of Minnesota James Ford Bell Library and the Ricci Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History at the University of San Francisco, Minneapolis, Minnesota (October).

PAPERS AT CONFERENCES

2022 -“Martyrdom in the Library. The Books of the Early Modern Jesuit Novitiate in Mainz (Germany),” International Symposium on Jesuit Studies “The Jesuits and the Church in History,” Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies, Boston College (August).

-“Chinese Youth in *China* (1663) by Daniello Bartoli SJ,” presentation at the 24th Asian Studies Conference Japan, online (July).

-“Né santo né martire: vita e morte di Antonio Criminali in India (Parma 1520-Punnaikayal 1549),” seminar for the series “Sacrifice in the Europe of the religious conflicts and in the early modern world: comparisons, interpretations, legitimations” (April).

2021 -“Profiling Saints. Understanding the Theological and Cultural Foundations of Catholic Hagiographical Models (1500s–1900s),” co-organizer with Eleonora Rai of a three-day online conference (December).

- “A Missionary Handbook No Missionary Read: *Misión a las Indias* by Girolamo Pallas SJ (ca. 1620),” presentation at the EUARE (European Academy of Religion) online conference (September).
- “Through Daniello Bartoli’s Eyes: Francis Xavier in Asia (1653),” presentation at the Renaissance Society of America online conference (April).
- 2019 -“*You only torment and upset yourself*. Jesuits between Indifference and Restlessness (Sicily, 17-18th centuries)” and “The Generals’ Answers:” presentations at the International Symposium on Jesuit Studies “Engaging Sources: The Tradition and Future of Collecting History in the Society of Jesus,” Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies, Boston College (June).
- 2018 -“*Outpouring of hearts on fire*. Italian Jesuits Asking for the Indies,” presentation at the Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies, Boston College (January).
- “*He studies Mathematics, because he heard it can be of use there*. The motivations behind Jesuit petitions for Chinese missionary assignments (17th-18th centuries),” 7th annual “Scientiae” conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota (May).
- 2017 - “Rivali o alleate? Matteo Ricci e le donne dell’Impero Ming (1582-1610 ca.),” annual conference of the Società Italiana delle Storiche, Pisa (February)
- “Bloody Jesuits! Italian Candidates to the Indies and Their Temperaments (XVII-XVIII centuries),” 6th annual “Scientiae” conference, Padua (April).
- “*Ready to use every violence against my domestic enemies*. Italian Jesuits Yearning for the Eastern Indies (XVII–XVIII centuries),” conference “Powerful Emotions/Emotions and Power,” sponsored by the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions and the University of York, UK (June).
- 2016 -“The Best Candidate to the Indies (16th-18th century),” conference “Emotions: Movement, Cultural Contact and Exchange, 1100-1800” sponsored by Freie Universität Berlin and Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, with involvement of scholars from The Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin (June).
- “Matteo Ricci (1552-1610): True and False miracles in the Ming Empire,” 5th annual “Scientiae” conference, St Anne’s College, University of Oxford (June).
- “*In nomine patris*: The Struggle Between an indipeta, his Father, and the Father General of the Society of Jesus (1702-1720),” annual conference of the International Society for Cultural History, Trieste (July).
- 2015 -“A Jesuit in the Chinese Empire: Matteo Ricci (1552-1610) and the complicated balance between “accomodatio” and condemnation,” Conference “The Early Modern World: Near & Far, 1450-1650,” at the Cabinet of Curiosities, CREMS, York (September).

-“Perché desiderare le Indie: la richiesta della missione gesuita in Cina e Giappone,” biennial ANUAC conference “Ambienti di vita e ambienti immaginati. Nuove sfide per l’antropologia,” Freie Universität Bozen (November).

EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

- 2021- *The European Jesuit Libraries Provenance Project.*
Editor-in-chief: Kathleen Comerford, Georgia Southern University.
Correspondent.
- 2019- *Digital Indipetae Database.*
Editor-in-chief: Emanuele Colombo, DePaul University.
Member of the editorial board and project assistant.
- 2019- *Jesuit Online Bibliography.*
Editor in-chief: Seth Meehan, Boston College.
Associate editor.
- 2013-2018 *The Boston College Online Jesuit Bibliography.*
Editor-in-chief: Robert A. Maryks, Boston College.
Correspondent.

LANGUAGES

Italian (native); **English** (very good); **German** (very good oral and written understanding); **Portuguese, Spanish, Latin** (good written understanding); **French** (basic notions); **Japanese** (JLPT N5 basic level).