

ELENA MESSINA – RESEARCH AFFILIATION

Elena Messina

Turin 05/02/1986

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Summary of research and specialization fields

Having worked back and forth between academia, INGOs I am currently working as affiliated researcher at the University of Lausanne, *Institut de sciences sociales des religions contemporaine*. My research project focuses on relationship between organ donation and religion. There is a rigorous conceptual basis for regarding whole-brain death as human death based on the biophilosophical concept of the loss of the organism as a whole. Ever since, brain death raises diverse neuroethical issues, from estate law and religious practices to patient care and organ donation. But, beyond the officially sacred, how does religion shape the way in which the body and the death is perceived?

The research project is an anthropologic survey and link together a wide range of disciplines.

While my training is as an historically deep anthropologist, I am presently working within a specific boundary linking together the social and medical sciences that might be called critical medical anthropology.

Religious systems, rather than being a form of passivity, represent a form of action, contributing to body perception, interpretation and construction. Moreover, Religion consist of many complex ways in which suffering, illnesses, and health inequalities are understood, interpreted and negotiated. With reference to medicine, medical intervention and religion, this research intends to analyze the competing and alternative ideas about what it meant to be alive.

Short presentation of your academic and professional background

Present

2015

Affiliated Researcher – University of Lausanne, ISSRC - *Institut de sciences sociales des religions contemporaine*.

Research Title: *Donors and believers. Anthropologic analysis about organ donation and transplantation and religion.*

Supervisor: Prof. Irene Becci (University of Lausanne).

Description: Compared research project involving different Italian and Swiss hospitals (Turin, Rome and Lausanne) examining the possible existence of any religious limitations or conception about transplant medicine. (The project started in 2012, and supervised by hospital AUO–Città della Salute e della Scienza, Turin).

From 2012

Researcher – Foundation Benvenuti in Italia, in collaboration with University of Turin, Department of History.

Research Title: *A table avec les religions*

Supervisor: prof. MariaChiara Giorda (University of Bologna).

Description: Compared research focusing on food consumption, dietary intake and nutritional status among 6 to 11 years old children with references to religious conceptions in matter of food and commensality.

From 2012 *Assistant Professor at Saint John International University in Sustainable Anthropology (DHM-REL/2100), English Language, 30 hours for Undergraduate students.*

Education

2009 - 2012 Ma in Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology (final mark 110/110) .

2006 - 2009 Bachelor Degree in Intercultural Communication.

Stage

2008 Brazil, Mato Grosso Do Sul;
4 months stage.
At Hospital Sao Juliao, CampoGrande (Mato Grosso)
Activity: Social and cultural representation of leprosy among patients.

Academic Prizes:

2014-2015 Ricerca e Talenti – one year research funding.

2013-2014 CRT Master dei Talenti – one year research funding.

Languages

Italian: Mothertongue.

English: Excellent knowledge of written and spoken English

Other Professional Experiences

2012 member of the Scientific Committee of **Benvenuti in Italia Foundation** Turin - Italy;

2012 member of the **Italian Society for Organ Transplantation** (SITO: <http://www.societaitalianatrapiantidiorgano.com/it/index.html>).

2012 member of the Scientific Committee and freelancer for **IriNews**, ISSN: 2239-1169;
<http://benvenutiinitalia.it/pensiero/pubblicazioni/irinews/>.

Affiliations to other institutes and/or universities

Foundation Benvenuti in Italia (Turin – Italy) – scientific committee and researcher (<http://benvenutiinitalia.it/>).

Other relevant information - Publication List

Books Chapters and Peer-reviewed conference/proceeding

E. Messina 2015, M. Giorda, *Face à la diversité religieuse à l'hôpital, comment améliorer le système de soins ? Le cas du don et de la transplantation d'organes*, in Pierre-Yves Brandt & Jacques Besson (éd.), *La spiritualité en institution hospitalière*, Editions Labor et Fides (collection "psychologie et spiritualité"), Genève, Suisse, in press.

E. Messina 2015, Raffaele Potenza, Mariachiara Giorda, Marco Grosso; Mario Caserta; Anna Guermani, Pietro Paolo Donadio, *Beyond the officially sacred, donor and believer: Religion and organ transplantation*, Transplantation Proceedings, Elsevier, ISSN: 0041-1345, in press.

E. Messina 2015, *Mangiare e bere come rito: una storia lunga quanto il mondo*, in M. Giorda, S. Hejazi, *Nutrire l'anima*, Effatà Editrice, Cantalupa (Turin), pp. 39-49.

E. Messina 2015, *Agnello, vacca, maiale: il consumo di carni nelle grandi religioni*, in M. Giorda, S. Hejazi, *Nutrire l'anima*, Effatà Editrice, Cantalupa (Turin), pp. 51-60.

E. Messina 2014, *Geografia delle good practices. Mensa, ospedale, cimitero, lavoro*, in A. Melloni, *Rapporto sull'analfabetismo religioso*, Il Mulino, Bologna, pp. 451-457.

Articles in journals:

E. Messina 2015, M. Giorda, *Modelli e prospettive future per un servizio socio-sanitario interculturale*, in *Eurel. Données sociologiques et juridiques sur la religion en Europe*, <http://www.eurel.info/spip.php?article2546&lang=fr> and http://www.eurel.info/IMG/pdf/label_report_roma_torino2014.pdf.

E. Messina 2015, M. Giorda, L. Bossi, *Il progetto A tavola con le religioni Alcuni dati*, in *Reset.it* (Dossier n.153, Giugno 2014).

E. Messina, *L'uomo - morto in potenza. Retorica del rito funebre religioso*, *I Servizi funerari*, 4/2014, Ferrara, pp. 13-15.

E. Messina, *Dalla cura della malattia alla cura del malato: lo sviluppo degli hospice e delle pratiche di accompagnamento alla morte*, *I Servizi funerari*, 3/2014, Ferrara, pp. 15-16.

E. Messina, *Innovazione e progetto. A table avec les religions*, *Irinews*, 3/2014, ISSN: 2239 – 1169.

E. Messina, *Evoluzione del concetto di morte, Morte, tecnica, natura ed etica*, *I Servizi funerari*, 2/2014, Ferrara, pp.15-16

E. Messina, *Food-Religion. Cibo, religione e mensa scolastica: tu cosa mangi?* *Irinews*, 1/2014, ISSN: 2239 – 1169.

E. Messina, *Sanità. Prove tecniche per il pluralismo*, *Irinews*, 1/2014, ISSN: 2239 – 1169.

E. Messina, *Evoluzione delle modalità di elaborazione del lutto. Sull'operatore funerario, alcune considerazioni*, *I Servizi funerari*, 1/2014, Ferrara, pp. 14-16.

E. Messina, *Gustare l'altro. Cibo, religione, incontro a tavola*, *Irinews*, 12/2013, ISSN: 2239 – 1169.

E. Messina, *Benvenuti in Piemonte. Cuore Euro Mediterraneo*, IV Quaderno Fondazione Benvenuti in Italia, 12/2013.

E. Messina, *Spiritualità, religione e servizio sanitario. Stato dell'arte*, *Irinews*, 12/2013, ISSN: 2239 – 1169.

E. Messina, *Evoluzione e trasformazione del concetto di morte*, in *Rivista di Scienze sociali*, 9/2013, ISSN 2239 – 1126.

E. Messina, *Il sentiero che conduce alla conoscenza. Morte e buddhismo*, *I Servizi funerari*, 4/2013, Ferrara, pp. 18-20.

E. Messina, *La pratica mortuaria islamica*, *I Servizi funerari*, 3/2013, Ferrara, pp. 29-31.

E. Messina, *Decesso e funerale nell'etica ebraica*, *I Servizi funerari*, 2/2013, Ferrara, pp. 27-30.