

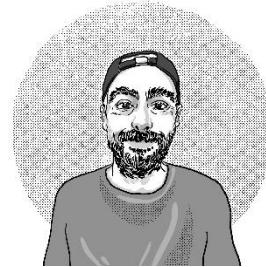
Curriculum vitae and Track Record

PERSONAL DETAILS

Family name, First name: Di Paola, Lorenzo

ORCID: 0000-0002-1141-7640

Nationality: Italian



Education and key qualifications

14/03/2019 **Ph.D.** in Science of Language, Society, Politics and Education, Department of Political Sciences and Communication, University of Salerno, Italy. Supervisor: Prof. Luigi Frezza.

2015 **Master's degree** in Modern Philology, Department of Language, Literature and Translation, University of Naples Federico II, Italy.

2013 **Bachelor's degree** in Modern Literature, Department of Language, Literature and Translation, University of Naples Federico II, Italy.

Current position(s)

2025 - **Postdoctoral Researcher** (FNRS), Faculty of Letters, Translation and Communication, Department of Languages and Letters, Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium.

Previous position(s)

2024 - 2025 **Postdoctoral Researcher**, Department of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, University G. d'Annunzio, Chieti–Pescara, Italy.

2023 - 2024 **Postdoctoral Researcher**, Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, Department of Literary Studies, Ghent University, Belgium.

2021 - 2023 **Postdoctoral Researcher**, Department of Ancient and Modern Civilisations, University of Messina, Italy.

2021 - 2024 **Adjunct Professor** of *Theories and Sociologies of Comics from Print to Digital*, Department of Cultural Heritage Sciences, University of Salerno, Italy.

RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS AND PEER RECOGNITION

Research achievements

My research explores how media shape and are shaped by public imaginaries. Trained in mediology and cultural sociology, I have examined how institutions and technologies mediate collective experience — from early comics and educational media to today's platformed cultures. Working across media studies, media ecology and cultural sociology, I treat comics as a social and cultural medium while moving beyond them into the sociology of literature, digital cultures, and media education. Over time, I have studied fandoms and participatory cultures, transmediality and seriality, and the circulation of moral and conspiratorial narratives across media. This work has consolidated a comparative, transnational and conceptually integrated approach to media as cultural environments.

Selected publications

Comics, Moral Panic and Cultural Regulation in Italy: The Anti-Comics Movement of the 1950s – *Journal of Italian Cinema & Media Studies*, 14 (1), Dec. 2025.
[Forthcoming; peer-reviewed].

First in-depth reconstruction of Italy's anti-comics campaign, framing it within post-war European struggles over youth culture, morality, and media regulation. Shows how media panic functioned as a structural mechanism of cultural governance.

Role: Sole author.

The New World of the Metaverse: Visions, Possibilities, and Disasters (Il mondo nuovo del Metaverso. Visioni, possibilità e disastri) In *Il Metaverso. Profili strutturali, socio-mediologici, economici e giuridici*, (eds. L. Di Majo & G. Frezza) Mimesis, Milan–Udine, pp. 123–138, 2025. [Peer-reviewed; Collana “Eterotopie” n. 1072; ISBN 9791222323756].

Analyse the rise, hype, and decline of the Metaverse after Meta's 2021 announcement, linking it to governance vacuums, EU strategies, Chinese alternatives, and data sovereignty debates.

Role: Sole author.

From the Chickie-Run to the Casal Palocco Challenge: Platforms, Content Creators and Imaginaries (Dalla Chickie-Run alla challenge di Casal Palocco: piattaforme, content creator e immaginari) *Im@go. A Journal of the Social Imaginary*, 22: 15–39, December 2023. [Peer-reviewed; ANVUR “Classe A” Areas 14 & 10].

Traces the genealogy of performative risk-taking from mid-20th-century youth subcultures to today's viral challenges, showing how platform affordances accelerate moral controversy cycles.

Role: Co-author.

Remediation Processes and Reading Protocols: A Genealogy of Digital Comics

Studies in Comics, 14(1): 29–42, 2023. [Peer-reviewed; Special Issue: “Comics Strike Back! Digital Forms, Digital Practices, Digital Audiences”].

Maps the media-archaeological genealogy of digital comics and their remediations across media, identifying new reading protocols in the platform era.

Role: Co-author.

The Elusive Medium: A Cartography of Comics Theories from the 1920s to the Present (L'inafferrabile medium. Una cartografia delle teorie del fumetto dagli anni Venti a oggi)

Polidoro Editore, Naples, 2019. [Peer-reviewed series]: *L'Eternauta. Collana di studi su fumetti e media*; ISBN 9788885737372].

Historicises comics theory across a century, linking conceptual models to cultural and media contexts, and proposing an integrative approach to overcome disciplinary silos.

Role: Sole author.

Academic Event Coordination (Selected Projects)

Comics Strike Back: Digital Comics, Digital Audiences, Digital Practices (Ghent University, Belgium, 11–13 July 2022)

International conference co-organised with Giorgio Busi Rizzi and Nicoletta Mandolini, uniting leading scholars to advance cross-disciplinary research on digital comics. Outcome: peer-reviewed *Studies in Comics* special issue (vol. 14:1, 2023).

Role: Organising committee member; co-led concept, programme, and editorial coordination.

COMICSNeT – Climate, Outreach, Migration, Intersectionality, New Technologies in/through Comics Studies. International Training School, (Universidade do Minho, Portugal, 9–10 September 2024)

Co-organised with CECS, this training school brought together international scholars and professionals to address how comics engage with climate change, migration, gender, and technological transformation, with a focus on the Ibero-American context.

Role: Organising committee member; contributed to thematic design and cross-disciplinary integration.

Selected research leadership & coordination

Erasmus+ Projects (2019–2022): Within *TESEO – Ariadne’s Threads in the Digital Age* and *ELEPHANT – E-learning Prospects for Humanities*, I coordinated content design, instructional strategies, and international partner liaison. I co-developed the *TESEO Toolkit* and the *Media Educator Master*, aligning training to EU occupational standards, and led the development of the *ELEPHANT Toolbox* at the University of Salerno, creating integrated digital tools for innovative teaching.

Editorial and Scholarly Leadership: As Co-Director of the peer-reviewed series *L’Eternauta* (Polidoro Editore), I oversee editorial strategy and peer review, shaping one of the main scholarly venues for comics and media research in Italy. I have also co-edited special issues in international journals (*Studies in Comics, Valle dell’Eden*) and contributed to the international visibility of the field by coordinating editorial projects with leading scholars.

Conference & training organisation: Co-organiser and scientific director of major international events, including *Comics Strike Back* (Ghent University, 2022), *Performatività e/nei/dei media* (Salerno, 2024), and *COMICSNeT International Training School* (Universidade do Minho, 2024). These initiatives brought together leading scholars and professionals, advanced cross-disciplinary research on media and comics, and provided training opportunities for early-career researchers.

University Teaching & Supervision: As Adjunct Professor at the University of Salerno (2021–2024), I designed and delivered the MA course *Theories and Sociologies of Comics from Print to Digital*, consistently achieving excellent evaluations (3.94/4.00 in 2023/24, above Department and University means). I have supervised 10 Bachelor’s and Master’s theses in media and cultural studies (2019–2024), confirming my ability to mentor and train the next generation of scholars.

Peer recognition

Competitive Fellowships and Awards

FNRS Postdoctoral Fellowship (Chargé de recherches) – Université libre de Bruxelles (2024–2027, success rate 15–20%).

Funded *ViVo: Visualising Voices*, an interdisciplinary media ecology study of *Corriere dei Piccoli* (1908–1931) and its role in reshaping Italian cultural identity through the mediation of oral storytelling and emerging visual media.

Postdoctoral Fellowship – University “G. d’Annunzio” Chieti–Pescara (2024)

Within the national PRIN 2020 project *Atlante del giallo*, advanced the first systematic analysis of comics as a constitutive component of Italy’s crime genre, tracing its intermedial evolution across literature, film, and television.

ERC Postdoctoral Researcher – Ghent University (2023)

Selected via international competition to join the ERC-funded project *COMICS*, contributing comparative and transnational perspectives on European comics history and media transformations.

Postdoctoral Fellowship – University of Messina (2021)

Selected through an international competition to join the funded project *Le dinamiche digitali della rifunzionalizzazione* (Digital Processes of Refunctionalisation), investigating how artworks and analog/digital media artefacts are reappropriated and remediated under conditions of rapid social and technological change.

Invited Presentations to Major Conferences and Seminars

University of Toronto (Canada, 2024) – “Mondo Pistola! A Mediological Analysis of the Italian Western Comic” (*America on Our Pages: Italian Comics and the Myth of America*, international conference).

University of Naples Federico II (Italy, 2024) – “Between Ruins and Possible Worlds: The Post- Apocalyptic in Comics and TV Series” (seminar lecture, invited).

Bibliotheca Hertziana – Max Planck Institute (Italy, 2022) – “Underground Roots: A Mediological Analysis of Italian Underground Comics” (*Fumetti underground tra ricercare festival mainstream*, international conference).

University of Toronto (Canada, 2022) – “What Are We Talking About When We Talk About Graphic Novels?” (invited roundtable).

Organisation of International and National Conferences

Scientific Committee Member, Comics and The Politics of Looking. Gender, Representation, and The Transnational Gaze – Ghent University, 2025.

Scientific Director, Performatività e/nei/dei media – University of Salerno, 2024.

Scientific Director and Main Organiser, Delitti e vignette (PRIN 2020 Workshop) – University of Chieti- Pescara, 2024.

Organising Committee Member, Comics Strike Back: Digital Comics, Digital Audiences, Digital Practices – Ghent University, 2022.

Scientific Committee Member, I Congreso Internacional. Motivos Visuales en la Esfera Pública – Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, 2021

Editorial and Reviewing Roles

Scientific Committee Member, *Challenging the visual: Distrust, emergency, uncertainty. Mutaciones de los motivos visuales en la esfera pública*, (Eds. Pintor Iranzo, I., Salvadò Corretger, G., & Sourdis, C.), Editorial Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, 2024.

Scientific Series Co-Director, *L'Eternauta. Collana di studi su fumetti e media* (peer-reviewed series, Alessandro Polidoro Editore) – Co-directed with Gino Frezza and Mario Tirino. Oversaw editorial strategy and peer review for multiple volumes.

Editorial Board Member, *Eracle. Journal of Sport and Social Sciences* (peer-reviewed, indexed).

Peer Reviewer for leading international journals, including *Italian Studies*, *Quaderni d'Italianistica*, *Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics*, *Im@go*, *Funes*, *Elephant & Castle* and *Between*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

My research is grounded in an interdisciplinary approach that integrates historical, sociological, mediological and cultural perspectives, enabling me to connect long-term historical analysis with the study of contemporary digital phenomena. Over the years, I have built collaborations across Belgium, Canada, Portugal, Italy and Spain, fostering exchanges that link different academic traditions and research contexts. This transnational dimension strengthens both the comparative scope and the methodological innovation of my work. Alongside individual research, I have consistently invested in **mentoring and community building**. Through teaching and supervision, I have guided students and early-career scholars in shaping independent projects. My role in organising conferences, training schools and editorial series has taught me how to transform research agendas into structured outputs and collective achievements. Leading international collaborations—from Erasmus+ projects to FNRS initiatives, and through networks such as SnIF, COMICS in Ghent and ACME in Liège—I have learned to connect institutions, researchers and disciplines across Europe. These experiences show that **I am not only a researcher but also a facilitator**, able to make colleagues, students and entire networks grow and thrive.

Career breaks, diverse career paths and major life events

2019–early 2021 (post-PhD, pre-postdoc): teaching roles in Italian secondary/primary education (Italian & history/geography; PON Creative Writing). The period, during pandemic disruptions, expanded pedagogical design skills and media-literacy practice that later informed academic research and project coordination.

Other contributions to the research community

I contribute beyond individual outputs by strengthening international networks, building capacity for earlycareer researchers, and advancing research-led teaching in media and comics studies.

Strengthening international research networks – Active member of cross-national research groups that shape the scholarly agenda in comics and media studies:

- o *SNIF – Studying 'n' Investigating Fumetti* (founding member), fostering collaborative research on Italian comics history and theory;
 - o *Osservatorio sul romanzo contemporaneo* (University of Naples Federico II), contributing to the “Favole per gli occhi” team on visual culture analysis;
 - o *ACME – Groupe de recherche en bande dessinée* (University of Liège), linking francophone and international comics scholarship;
 - o *COMICS – International research group on comics in Europe* (Ghent University), connecting research on European comics history and transnational media flows;
 - o *DiCS Lab – Digital Cultures and Sports Research Laboratory* (University of Salerno), integrating sports, media, and digital culture research.
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Research-led teaching and training – From 2021 to 2024, I served as Adjunct Professor of *Theories and Sociologies of Comics from Print to Digital* at the University of Salerno. In this role, I designed and delivered a full MA course, achieving consistently excellent evaluations (average 3.94/4.00 in 2023/24, above both Department and University means) and supervising 10 Bachelor's and Master's theses in media and cultural studies (2019–2024). These results highlight my proven ability to engage students, foster independent research, and mentor graduate projects that bridged historical media analysis with digital methods. Between 2020 and 2023, I was also an invited lecturer for the MA in Social Media Management at the University of Messina, where I delivered a recurring seminar series on *The Image from Hypertext to Transmediality*. These seminars introduced students to visual culture and media theory in the digital age, encouraging critical engagement with platforms and transmedia practices.