

Rajiv Boscolo Agostini, Ph.D.

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🐦 @Raj94_

🌐 Rajiv Boscolo Agostini

🌐 <https://raj94b.github.io/>

Research experience





- 11/2024 – ongoing 📌 **Research Fellow.** Life Sciences and Biotechnology Department, Population Genomics Research Group, University of Ferrara.
Statistical and bioinformatic analyses on ancient human genomic and metagenomic variability to reconstruct the Neolithic transition process in the Mediterranean basin.
- 12/2020 – 01/2021 📌 **Collaborator.** Life Sciences and Biotechnology Department, Population Genomics Research Group University of Ferrara.
Application of machine learning algorithms on the analysis of genomic data of ancient and modern human populations.
- 04/2020 – 07/2020 📌 **Research Fellow.** Life Sciences and Biotechnology Department, Population Genomics Research Group, University of Ferrara.
*Hybrid genome assembly analyses of Tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*) data.*
- 12/2019 – 10/2021 📌 **Attending Graduate.** Life Sciences and Biotechnology Department, Population Genomics Research Group, University of Ferrara.
*Genome assembly of the Appenine Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos mariscanus*) using long reads.*

Education

- 2021 – 2025 📌 **Ph.D., Evolutionary Biology and Ecology**, University of Florence.
Curriculum: Genetics and Evolution
Thesis title: *The evolutionary history of Italy from the Mesolithic to the present: lessons from ancient genomes*
Approved cum laude
- 2017 – 2019 📌 **M.Sc. Biomolecular and Evolutionary Sciences**, University of Ferrara
Thesis title: *Worldwide *Helicobacter pylori* genetic variation is informative about the evolutionary history of anatomically modern humans.*
Final mark: 110 cum laude
- 2014 – 2017 📌 **B.Sc. Biological Sciences**, University of Ferrara
Thesis title: *Worldwide genetic variability of *Helicobacter pylori* and identification of European groups.*

Publications in peer-reviewed journals and preprints

- 1 A. Tommasi*, **R. Boscolo Agostini***, G. Villani*, N. Rambaldi Migliore*, M. T. Vizzari, I. Caridnali, R. Di Gerlando, V. Nicolini, G. Sorasio, P. Santos, A. Olivieri, U. A. Perego, G. Catalano, N. Volante, L. Sarti, D. Caramelli, L. Sineo, H. Lancioni, A. Modi, S. Ghirotto**, and A. Achilli**, “Fifteen millennia of human mitogenome evolution in Sicily,” (Accepted) *Science Advances*, 2025.
- 2 **R. Boscolo Agostini**, M. T. Vizzari, A. Benazzo, and S. Ghirotto, “Disentangling the worldwide invasion process of *Halyomorpha halys* through Approximate Bayesian Computation,” *Heredity*, 2024.
🔗 DOI: 10.1038/s41437-024-00735-9.
- 3 F. F. Vale, **HpGP Research Network**, R. J. Roberts, I. Kobayashi, M. C. Camargo, and C. S. Rabkin, “Gene content, phage cycle regulation model and prophage inactivation disclosed by prophage genomics in the helicobacter pylori genome project,” *Gut Microbes*, 2024. 🔗 DOI: 10.1080/19490976.2024.2379440.

- 4 M. T. Vizzari, S. Ghirotto, **R. Boscolo Agostini**, P. Maisano Delser, L. Cassidy, A. Manica, and A. Benazzo, "Low-ABC: A robust demographic inference from low-coverage whole-genome data through abc," *BiorXiv*, 2024.  DOI: 10.1101/2024.08.01.606209.
- 5 K. Thorell, Z. Y. Muñoz-Ramírez, D. Wang, S. Sandoval-Motta, **R. Boscolo Agostini**, S. Ghirotto, R. C. Torres, D. Falush, M. C. Camargo, and C. S. Rabkin, "The *Helicobacter pylori* genome project: Insights into *H. pylori* population structure from analysis of a worldwide collection of complete genomes," *Nature Communications*, 2023.  DOI: 10.1038/s41467-023-43562-y.
- 6 A. Modi*, M. T. Vizzari*, G. Catalano, **R. Boscolo Agostini**, S. Vai, M. Lari, C. Vergata, V. Z. Zaro, L. Liccioli, M. Fedi, S. Barone, L. Nigro, H. Lancioni, A. Achilli, L. Sineo, D. Caramelli, and S. Ghirotto, "Genetic structure and differentiation from early bronze age in the mediterranean island of Sicily: Insights from ancient mitochondrial genomes," *Frontiers in Genetics*, 2022.  DOI: 10.3389/fgene.2022.945227.
- 7 S. Sarno*, **R. Boscolo Agostini***, S. De Fanti, G. Ferri, S. Ghirotto, G. Modenini, D. Pettener, and A. Boattini, "Y-chromosome variability and genetic history of commons from Northern Italy," *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 2021.  DOI: 10.1002/ajpa.24302.

Contributions to conferences and meetings

- 1 **R. Boscolo Agostini**, S. Vai, M. T. Vizzari, F. Santos Patricia De Pizzol, M. Vanni, A. Modi, A. Mittnik, E. Cilli, D. Luiselli, C. Martinez-Labarga, O. Rickards, N. Volante, L. Sarti, F. Martini, L. Sineo, D. Lo Vetro, D. Reich, S. Ghirotto, and D. Caramelli, *Unveiling the Complex Genetic History of Italy from Paleolithic to Middle Ages through Ancient Whole-Genome data*, Oral presentation, AAI-UZI Congress, Cagliari, 2025.
- 2 **R. Boscolo Agostini**, *La ricostruzione delle dinamiche popolazionistiche attraverso il DNA antico*. Seminar, Department of Historical Sciences and Cultural Heritage, University of Siena, 2024.
- 3 **R. Boscolo Agostini**, S. Vai, M. T. Vizzari, S. Perretti, F. De Pizzol, A. Mittnik, D. Luiselli, O. Rickards, L. Sineo, N. Volante, D. Reich, S. Ghirotto, and D. Caramelli, *The evolutionary history of Italy from Mesolithic to the Middle Ages: Lessons from ancient genomes*, Oral presentation, SIBE Congress 2024, University of Naples "Parthenope", 2024.
- 4 **R. Boscolo Agostini**, S. Vai, M. T. Vizzari, S. Perretti, F. De Pizzol, A. Mittnik, D. Luiselli, O. Rickards, L. Sineo, N. Volante, D. Reich, S. Ghirotto, and D. Caramelli, *The evolutionary history of Italy from Mesolithic to the Middle Ages: Lessons from ancient genomes*, Poster Presentation, EMBO | EMBL Symposium, Heidelberg, 2024.
- 5 S. Vai, **R. Boscolo Agostini**, A. Mittnik, D. Luiselli, O. Rickards, L. Sineo, N. Volante, D. Reich, S. Ghirotto, and D. Caramelli, *1000 Ancient Italian Genomes: Evidence from ancient biomolecules for unravelling past human population Dynamics*, Tandem presentation, EAA Congress 2024, University of Rome La Sapienza, 2024.
- 6 **R. Boscolo Agostini**, M. T. Vizzari, A. Benazzo, and S. Ghirotto, *Disentangling the worldwide invasion process of halyomorpha halys through ABC*, Poster presentation, SMBE, Ferrara, 2023.
- 7 **R. Boscolo Agostini**, M. T. Vizzari, A. Benazzo, and S. Ghirotto, *Disentangling the worldwide invasion process of halyomorpha halys through ABC*, Joint Meeting AGI SIMAG 2023, Cortona, 2023.
- 8 **R. Boscolo Agostini**, M. T. Vizzari, A. Benazzo, and S. Ghirotto, *Reconstructing the global invasion routes of Halyomorpha halys through Approximate Bayesian Computation*, Poster Presentation, SIBE Congress, Ancona 2022 and FISV, Napoli, 2022.

- 9 Y. Moodley, S. Ghirotto, A. Brunelli, **R. Boscolo Agostini**, N. De Serio, V. Chelysheva, A. Klyubin, A. Maady, K. Mominyalev, B. Linz, and M. Achtman, *The genetic history of modern humans in Siberia: A bacterial perspective*, Poster Presentation, SIBE Congress, Padova, 2019.






Outreach

Talks



- 6/11/2023  **L'Ominazione: il giro del mondo in sei milioni di anni.** Talk presented in the outreach event "SCIENZE. PANORAMI SCIENTIFICI L'UOMO" hosted by Arci Rovigo

Teaching and tutoring

Academic tutor





- 01/2024 – 09/2024  **Genetics.** Tutoring for the Genetics course in the Biotechnology B.Sc program, University of Ferrara. (55 hours)
- 02/2023 – 09/2023  **Genetics.** Tutoring for the Genetics course in the Biotechnology B.Sc program, University of Ferrara. (55 hours)
- 02/2022 – 02/2023  **Genetics.** Tutoring for the Genetics course in the Biotechnology B.Sc program, University of Ferrara. (55 hours)
- 02/2019 – 07/2019  **Genetics.** Genetics course in the Biological Sciences B.Sc. program, University of Ferrara. (55 hours)
- 11/2018 – 07/2019  **Biostatistics.** Tutoring for the Biostatistics course in the Biological Sciences B.Sc. program, University of Ferrara. (68 hours)

Final thesis tutoring

- 2021 – 2023  **Master thesis.** Students: Giulia Battaglia, Sara Albertini.
- 2021 – 2022  **Bachelor thesis.** Students: Camilla Giacometti, Silvia Fiori, Brigida Pantaleo, Francesco Occhipinti.

Workshops and courses

Workshops

- 6/06/2023 – 9/06/2023  **Phylogenetics workshop.** Workshop organized by the Italian Society for Evolutionary Biology (SIBE) at the University of Trento.
- 12/06/2023 – 13/06/2023  **The ancient DNA revolution: from the initial attempts to the Nobel Prize.** Genetics school "Mario Polsinelli" organized by The Italian Geneticists Association (AGI) at Cortona.
- 31/07/2023 – 4/08/2023  **Introduction to Ancient Metagenomics Summer School.** Online workshop organized by SPAAM Community on data processing and ancient metagenomic analyses.
- 24/02/2021 – 26/02/2021  **SIBE PHYLO Crash Course** Online workshop by the Italian Society for Evolutionary Biology (SIBE), Exploring evolution using tree based methods: phylogenetics, molecular clocks, barcoding, and phylogenomics.

Skills

Languages	■	Strong reading, writing and speaking competencies for English (level C1).
Coding	■	Bash, Python, R, Github
Genomic analyses	■	Relatedness, Genomic structure, Phylogenomics, Coalescent simulations (fastsim-coal, ms), Uniparental markers
Bioinformatics	■	high-performance computing (HPC) clusters, reads processing, Genotype likelihoods, Imputation, Variant calling, Genome assembly
Web Dev	■	HTML, CSS,
Operating Systems	■	Windows, MacOS, Linux
Misc.	■	Academic research, teaching, training, consultation.

Other

Volunteering

05/2023 - 07/2023	■	Volunteer at SMBE 2023. Volunteer for the international scientific congress SMBE23 at Ferrara organized by the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution (SMBE) and the University of Ferrara.
01/2025 - 09/2025	■	Summer School Organizer. Organizer for the SIBE (Italian Society of Evolutionary Biology) Summer School 2025. https://sites.google.com/view/sibesummerschool/home-page

Language certifications

2006	■	Certified Level B2 English (FCE) . Awarded by Cambridge ESOL.
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References

University of Ferrara (Italy)	■	Prof. Silvia Ghirotto. email: silvia.ghirotto@unife.it
University of Ferrara (Italy)	■	Prof. Giorgio Bertorelle. email: giorgio.bertorelle@unife.it