

Curriculum Vitae | Stefan Festini Cucco

Education since leaving school

2018 PhD in Human and Social Sciences

University of Cologne and University of Salento (cotutela)

2013 M.A. in Social and Cultural Anthropology

Faculty of History, Arts and Oriental Studies, University of Leipzig

2011/12 International exchange program

Post-graduate program in Social Sciences (PPCIS)

State University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2009 B.A. in International Relations and Diplomacy

SID Gorizia, University of Trieste, Italy

2006/7 Sokrates – Erasmus program

Institute of Social and Political Sciences (ISCSP)

University of Lisbon, Portugal

Professional experience

2023-2025 Post-doctoral research fellow

Project: *Global pastures - ethnographic explorations of Alpine grassland connections*

Swiss National Fund – Autonomous Province of Bolzano

Free University of Bolzano-Bozen

2025 Lecturer in Anthropology of Intercultural Processes

Bachelor in Communication Sciences and Culture, Free University of Bolzano-Bozen

2023 Lecturer in Cultural Anthropology

Master in Musicology, Free University of Bolzano-Bozen

2022 Post-doctoral research fellow

Project: *BIOMen - Biodiversity in national parks: linking scientific data with human perceptions.*

Autonomous Province of Bolzano / Free University of Bolzano-Bozen

2021 Post-doctoral research fellow

ELSI Group – Ethical, legal and social implications in biomedical research.

Institute for Biomedicine at Eurac Research, Bolzano, Italy

2021 Research assignment

Project VaLP – Evaluations of transmedia and post-publishing approaches for the development of LP magazine.

Faculty for Design and Arts, Free University of Bolzano, Italy

2020 Research assignment

Project RiDeST – People in Transition

Faculty for Design and Arts, Free University of Bolzano, Italy

2020/21 Teacher for German language

Don Bosco Public Comprehensive School Institute, Bolzano, Italy

2018/19 Administrative Officer

Office of the vice-mayor and city councillor for spatial planning, Municipality of Bolzano, Italy

2016 Occasional research assignment

Interview transcriptions

Faculty for Design and Arts, Free University of Bolzano, Italy

2015/16 Assistant lecturer and researcher

Chair of social anthropology, University of Salento, Italy

2012/13 Research assistant

Institute of Anthropology, University of Leipzig, Germany

2011 Curatorial Assistant (Exhibitions)

Collaborative Research Centre SFB586 "Difference and Integration"

Universities Leipzig and Halle Wittenberg, Germany

Museum of Ethnology, Hamburg (now MARKK – Museum am Rothenbaum – Cultures and Arts of the World)

2010 Consultant – Best-Practice Documentation

NGO "Comunità Volontari per il Mondo", Amhara Region, Ethiopia

Memberships and appointments

Member of the External Advisory Board, Malinowski Forum for Ethnography and Anthropology (since 2026)

Permanent Member, Mediterranean Liminalities Research Lab, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Cologne (since 2026)

Full Member, International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF) (since 2025)

Member of the Board of Trustees, Stiftung Südtiroler Sparkasse (South Tyrolean Sparkasse Foundation) (since 2024)

Full Member, European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) (since 2024)

Full Member, Swiss Anthropological Association (SAA) (since 2024)

Full Member, Sortengarten Südtirol E.O. (since 2024)

President and Artistic Co-Director, Südtirol Jazzfestival Alto Adige, Italy (since 2022; member since 2004)

President, Anthropological Association South Tyrol (2020–2025; Board Member since 2015)

Member, Commission for Folklore and Heritage Conservation, Cultural Centers and Interdisciplinary Activities, Cultural Advisory Committee of the Province of Bolzano (Kommission für Heimatpflege, Volkskunde, Kulturhäuser und spartenübergreifende Tätigkeiten im Kulturbeirat des Landes Südtirol), Italy (2020–2024)

Member, Cultural Advisory Board, Waaghaus Cultural Center, Bolzano, Italy (since 2020)

Reviewer, ZfE/JSCA (Zeitschrift für Ethnologie/Journal of Social and Cultural Anthropology), DGSKA Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kultur- und Sozialanthropologie, Germany (2020)

Editorial Board Member, DADA – Rivista di antropologia post-globale (peer-reviewed scientific journal for the humanities), Italy (since 2014)

Full member, Alpenverein Südtirol (since 1994)

**Research and
fieldwork experience
in Alpine and
international contexts**

2023-2025 / 7-month itinerant ethnographic research on transhumant pastoralism and Alpine grassland management in Northeastern Italy (Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Trentino).

Project: Global Pastures – Ethnographic explorations of Alpine grassland connections

2022 / 7-months stationary ethnographic fieldwork at Stelvio National Park (Trentino) and Asinara National Park (Sardinia), Italy, focusing on human–environment relations and nature conservation practices.

Project: BIOMen - Biodiversity in national parks: linking scientific data with human perceptions

2021 / 3-month qualitative study with stakeholders, in collaboration with the Province of Bolzano Press Agency, on the province's official print magazine

Project: VaLP – Evaluations of transmedia and post-publishing approaches for the development of LP magazine

2020-21 / 3-months qualitative research within the social services of Bolzano and their partners and stakeholders, Italy

Project: RiDeST – I go over myself – Investigation on the design of a social service for people in transition

2016-17

1-year stationary ethnographic fieldwork in the Rif mountains (Morocco) on the relations between mountains and sea; local economies; migration flows; effects of climate change; regional socio-political transformations.

PhD Project at the Universities of Cologne (GER) and Salento (ITA)

2013-14 / 3-months multi-sited and itinerant ethnographic fieldwork in Solu-Khumbu / Mt. Everest Region (Nepal) on the perceptions and representations of mountains and bodies among mountain dwellers, hikers, and mountaineers.

PhD Project at the University of Leipzig (GER)

2011-12 / 10-months stationary ethnographic fieldwork in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) on trance rituals and aesthetics, religious networks and institutions in Afro-Brazilian religions, especially the Macumba cult.

MA studies research at University of Leipzig / State University of Rio de Janeiro

**Selected lectures and
conference talks at
universities and
international venues**

2025 Contract lectureship *"Anthropology of intercultural processes"*
BA in Communication Sciences and Culture; Free University of Bolzano-Bozen, Italy

2025, 3 June: Paper presentation *"Nomadic paths through unstable landscapes: ethnographic insights into wayfinding, narratives and the landscape perception of nomadic multi-species herds in Northeast Italy"* at SIEF 2025 "Unwriting", Aberdeen, Scotland

2024/25 Lecture series *"Natureculture? About social relationships between humans, animals, and plants. An anthropological perspective"*

Studium Generale; Free University of Bolzano-Bozen, Italy

2024, 17 September: Paper presentation *"From prison island to National Park: history, ecology, human-more-than-human relations on the Asinara in Northwestern Sardinia"*. Symposium *"Rethinking damaged land with Coral Gardens"*, Malinowski Forum for Ethnography and Anthropology, Bolzano-Bozen, Italy

2024, 23-26 July: Panel convenor P095 *"Reworlding anthropology in mountain ecologies: redefining human-other-than-human relationships and environmental challenges."* [Environmental Anthropology Network], EASA 2024 *"Doing and Undoing with Anthropology"*, Barcelona, Spain

2024, 7 June: Paper presentation *"Between exploited plains and 'wildening' mountains: ethnographic insights into the uncertain world of nomadic herds in Northeast Italy"* at SAA annual meeting *"Towards an Anthropology for troubled times"*, Lucerne, Switzerland

2023 Contract lectureship *"Cultural Anthropology"*
MA in Musicology; Free University of Bolzano-Bozen, Italy

2018 Lecture assistance *"Research methodologies in anthropology: field research, interview methods, participant observation, audio-visual data collection, ethnography"*
MA in Sociology (post-graduate); Chair of social anthropology.
University of Salento, Italy

Publications & Outreach

Monography:
Festini Cucco, Stefan. (2025). *Rifian Society, Culture and Politics in Mediterranean Morocco*. Routledge. 304 Pages, 103 B/W Illustrations
ISBN 978-1-032-67927-3

Journal articles, essays, and photographic essays in peer-reviewed academic journals, exhibition catalogs, and edited volumes.

Numerous radio and television features and interviews in local media in South Tyrol and in the international culture media.

Experience in stage announcements, opening remarks, and event/panel moderation.

Languages

German – native / bilingual
Italian – native / bilingual
English – fluent

Portuguese – advanced
Spanish – advanced
French – intermediate

Computer skills

Microsoft 365; macOS; Google Workspace; Zotero; NVivo;
Zoom/Meet/Teams; Lime Survey; Google Forms; Mailchimp; Adobe
professional