

Curriculum vitae

Personal data

PhD (Dr. rer. soc.) Ruth Sapelza M. A.

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Professional and Voluntary Experience

- Since 15 July 2024** Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Competence Centre for Social Work and Social Policy, Brixen (South Tyrol / Italy): **Research Associate / Postdoc.**
- 04/2021-06/2024** Ruhr-Universität Bochum (Germany), Faculty of Law, Chair of Criminology and Police Science: **Lecturer and module coordinator.**
- Since 09/2015** Maternity leave and family time.
- 07/2012-06/2015** Ruhr-Universität Bochum (Germany), Faculty of Law:
- **Research Associate** at the Chair of Criminology, Criminal Policy and Police Science.
 - **Administrative Director** of the blended learning Master's programs "Criminology and Police Science" and "Criminal Justice, Governance and Police Science".
- 10/2007-06/2012** **Provincial Administration** of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano (South Tyrol / Italy), Public Service Employee:
- Administrative Inspector in the Department of Education, Office for Master Crafts Training;
 - Employment placement officer at the Employment Centre Bruneck;
 - Administrative officer in the Department Directorate of the Provincial Councillor for German and Ladin Vocational Education, Educational Funding and University;
 - Substitute teacher at primary and lower secondary schools.
- 2006/2007** Internships in the following fields:
- Project work: Design and implementation of violence prevention projects at local schools in cooperation with youth services and municipalities (South Tyrol / Italy) (01-04/2007),
 - Intern at the Central Office for Legal Affairs of the Provincial Administration of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano (09-12/2006),
 - Intern at the Criminological Research Unit of the Lower Saxony State Criminal Police Office, Hanover (02-07/2006).

Voluntary Work: 10/2022-4/2025: Member of the Executive Board (Human Resources) of the lunchtime childcare association of Gertrud Bäumer Primary School e. V., Munich (Germany).

School and University Education

06/2013-06/2017	Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Faculty of Social Sciences, Bochum (Germany): Doctoral studies Dissertation: Human Trafficking – Women as Offenders. Access Mechanisms, Roles and Judicial Handling. A Qualitative Analysis of Criminal Case Files. Degree awarded: magna cum laude .
01/2009-05/2011	Ruhr University Bochum (Germany), Faculty of Law: Blended-learning Master's program: Master in Criminology and Police Science (M.A.) Final grade: 1.3 (very good), awarded the Bochum Criminological Studies Prize.
04/2000-06/2005	Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (Germany): Degree programme: Diploma in Sociology. Specialisations: Sociology of Social Inequality, Social Psychology (second subject), Criminology (third subject). Final grade: 2.09.
1994-1999	Bruneck (South Tyrol / Italy): Secondary school leaving examination (Matura/Abitur) at a science-oriented secondary school (Realgymnasium).

Teaching and Further Academic Activities:

Teaching Activities:

- **2021-2024:** Ruhr-Universität Bochum (Germany), Faculty of Law, Chair of Criminology and Police Science: Lecturer and module coordinator in the degree program *Criminology, Criminalistics and Police Science*, course: *Police Science and Prevention*.
- **2014-2015:** Ruhr-Universität Bochum (Germany), Faculty of Social Sciences: Social Sciences, advanced studies, module *Interdisciplinary Research Areas of Criminology*.
- **2013-2014:** Ruhr-Universität Bochum (Germany), Faculty of Law: *Criminal Justice, Governance and Police Science. Academic Reading and Writing*.
- **2013-2024:** Ruhr-Universität Bochum (Germany), Faculty of Law, Chair of Criminology and Police Science: Supervisor and reviewer of Master's theses.

Member of the German Sociological Association (DGS) – DGS Section "Social Problems and Social Control".

Collaboration in the South Tyrol Poverty Network, representative of unibz in the network and in the "Strategy and Planning" working group.

Co-PI of the following research projects:

Reconstruction of societal debates in post-pandemic times in South Tyrol (2024-2026, Competence Centre of Social Work and Social Policy, unibz).

Symposiums, continuing education and training courses

- Abstract accepted at the CIRSS 2026 conference in Catania: Online Debate Dynamics in Post-Pandemic Northern Italy: Polarization, Deliberation, and Political Responsiveness. <https://www.sociss.it>
- Poster presentation: Annual Conference 2025 of the Network for Reconstructive Social Work (NWRSA) – The Social Responsibility of Social Work Research, Nuremberg (Germany). 7/8 March 2025, topic: Reconstructive analysis of societal debate dynamics in post-pandemic South Tyrol / Italy.
- Organization and Moderation of the Workshop “Social policy decisions and social realities.” At the Symposium of the Competence Centre Brixen, unibz: Professional conference 2026 “*Social-Work and Power*”.
- Organization of the Workshop “*Socio-educational support: strategies and perspectives for child well-being in cases of high parental conflict.*” At the Symposium of the Competence Centre Brixen, unibz: Professional conference 2025 “*Social-Pedagogical Family Support*”.
- Paper Presentation: Northern German Criminological Discussion Group 2014 (Bielefeld, Germany): Human Trafficking and Women as (Co-)Offenders.
- Participation in conferences and academic exhibitions (various online conferences since 2021), including; European Social Work Research Association (ESWRA) Seminar *Social Work, Crime and Criminal Justice* SIG (2025); 14th European Conference for Social Work Research, Munich, Germany (2025); German Association for Juvenile Courts and Juvenile Court Assistance, Nuremberg, Germany (2014); German Security Conference, Berlin, Germany (2013); German Congress on Crime Prevention, Bielefeld, Germany (2013); Critical Police Research Conference, Frankfurt, Germany (2013); European Society of Criminology (ESC), Bilbao, Spain (2012).

Publications:

- Tedeschi, E., Sapelza, R., Loch, U. (in review). Determinanti della povertà in Alto Adige: un approccio multidimensionale. In *Politiche sociali* (submitted 5.2025; ANVUR A Journal).
- Sapelza, R. (2025). Gendered Justice and Symbolic Power: A Qualitative Analysis of the criminal law assessment practice of human trafficking in German criminal proceedings. In *AG ABOUT GENDER, International Journal of Gender Studies*, 14(28), 247-266. (published: 2026-02-12; ANVUR A Journal).
- Sapelza, R. (2017). *Menschenhandel – Frauen als Täterinnen. Eine qualitative Analyse von Strafverfahrensakten*. Band 9 Polizieren. Polizei, Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft. Frankfurt/Main: Verlag für Polizeiwissenschaften. ISBN 978-3-86676-526-9.
- Sapelza, R. (2015). Frauenbonus? Frauenmalus? Der Gender-Gap und der Umgang strafrechtlicher Kontrollinstanzen mit abweichendem Verhalten von Mädchen und Frauen. In Schmidt, B. & Feltes, T. (Hrsg.). *Policing Diversity. Über den Umgang mit gesellschaftlicher Vielfalt innerhalb und außerhalb der Polizei*. (Bd. 8) (pp. 69-103). Frankfurt/Main: Verlag für Polizeiwissenschaft. ISBN 978-3-86676-426-2.

- Feltes, T., Fischer, Th. & Sappelza, R. (2013). Die Bochumer Masterstudiengänge "Kriminologie und Polizeiwissenschaft" und "Criminal Justice, Governance und Police Science". In *Monatsschrift für Kriminologie und Strafrechtsreform*, 96 (2/3), 252-261.
- Sappelza, R. (2011). *Zwischen Geschlechterstereotypen und Tabubruch. Sexueller Missbrauch von Mädchen und Jungen durch Frauen*. Felix-Verlag. Online-Publikation. ISBN 978-3-86293-039-5.

Reviews (Published in the Police Science Newsletter of the RUB):

- Jukschat, N., Leimbach, K., Neubert C. (Hrsg.) (2022). *Qualitative Kriminologie, quo vadis? Stand, Herausforderungen und Perspektiven qualitativer Forschung in der Kriminologie*. Weinheim: Beltz Juventa.
- Roth, J. (2013). *Spinnennetz der Macht. Wie die politische und wirtschaftliche Elite unser Land zerstört*. Berlin: Econ.
- Rönicke, M. (2013). *Die Multikausalität moderner Sklaverei. Ein theoretischer und empirischer Diskurs anhand ausgewählter Fallbeispiele*. Neuss, Beate (Hrsg.). Chemnitzer Schriften zur europäischen und internationalen Politik, Band 4, Hamburg.
- Horlacher, C. (2007). *Auskunftserlangung mittels Folter*. Schriftenreihe: Strafrecht in Forschung und Praxis, Band 110, Hamburg.
- Stein, A. (20007). *Das Verbot der Folter im internationalen und nationalen Recht. Unter Betrachtung seiner Durchsetzungsinstrumente und seines absoluten Charakters*. Schriftenreihe: Studien zum Völker- und Europarecht, Band 40, Hamburg.

Peer reviewer for: Austrian Yearbook for Social Work (Österreichisches Jahrbuch für Soziale Arbeit) (2025)

Press review:

- Interview for RAI Buongiorno regione: "La povertà? Un problema anche per la democrazia." (16.10.2025).
- Interview for "Alto Adige Innovazione": La povertà in Alto Adige e i rischi per la democrazia. Lo studio di Ulrike Loch (unibz). Approfondimento di Caterina Longo (02.04.2025).
- Interview ff: "Menschen lieben Krimis" Die Olinger Kriminologin Ruth Sappelza über Max Leitner, den Zuspruch in der Bevölkerung und die Wirkung von Haftstrafen (2024).
- Interview Stol+: Kriminologin aus Olang: Warum harte Strafen kaum abschrecken. (2022).
- Interview on the topic of surveillance cameras in Bolzano for „südtirol1“ und „Radio Tirol“ (2017).
- Interview ff: Auf der Spur (2017).
- Interview Tageszeitung: Die Kriminologin. (2017).

Language skills

- German: first language,
- Italian: C1,
- English: B2.

Ruth Sappelza, 24.3.2026