

ELISA BIGNANTE



University of Turin - Department of "Cultures, Politics and Society"

Senior Lecturer

ACADEMIC CAREER

Elisa Bignante is senior lecturer in Political and Economic geography at the Department of Cultures, Politics and Society, University of Turin, Italy, where she teaches Applied Geography and Development Cooperation.

She has extensive experience in the use of visual research methods in fieldwork activities (and particularly in the use of photo elicitation, photo documentation, participatory video, photo-voice, video and photo diaries). She is particularly interested in using participatory visual methods and ethnographic research for community engagement in the definition of community owned solutions in the Global South. She has worked widely in Africa, particularly in Senegal, Burkina Faso and Tanzania, and in South America (Guyana) collaborating with institutions such as UNDP, IUCN and with several European and African research centres (CIDAR, GIRARDEL, CISAQ), Ngos, and civil society organisations.

Her research interests include emotional geographies and health geographies (with a particular focus on health marginalities and the interaction between western and traditional medicine), development studies and local development policies both in the North and in the Global South. She has been involved in several national and international projects (among them the ongoing COBRA project - "Local solutions for future challenges: Community Owned Best practice for sustainable Resource Adaptive management in the Guiana Shield, South America ", financed under the Seventh Framework programme) and has been elected visiting fellow at Royal Holloway, University of London in 2009-2010. She is member of the research and documentation centre EU-POLIS whose members are researchers and academics with topical interests in urban studies, political social and cultural geography and spatial planning.