

MILENA BELLONI
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Academic and Research positions

- Feb 2020 – Feb 2023 *University of Antwerp*
Department of Social and Political Sciences
FWO Post-Doctoral fellow
Research theme: Refugee migration; family reunification; moral economies; multi-sited ethnography
- Feb 2018 – Jan 2020 *University of Trento, Italy*
Department of Sociology
ERC *HOMinG* Project (P.I. Paolo Boccagni)
Post-doctoral researcher
Research theme: Home and migration; transnational refugee families; Eritrea; housing and remittances; homing and refugees in countries of arrival and origin; multi-sited ethnography
- Jan 2017 – Jan 2018 *University of Antwerp, Centre for Migration and Intercultural Studies*
Post-doctoral researcher
Research theme: The impact of European family reunification policies on refugees' integration pathways
- Sept 2016 – Jan 2017 *American Academy in Rome*
Post-doctoral Fellow- Modern Italian Studies
Research themes: Eritrean migration through and to Europe; The European “refugee crisis” and its implications
- Jun – Sep. 2016 *Women Empower the World Committee and ASPEN Institute, Italy*
Consultant - Co-authored a report with Dr. F. Pastore on gender and asylum flows in the Mediterranean
- Jan 2016 *GSDRC, University of Birmingham*
Consultant- Co-authored report on Eritrea for the EU Commission with Dr. Georgia Cole (RSC, Oxford)
- Sep – Dec 2015 *University of Trento*
Research Assistant - Project “International Students and their Home (s)” (PI: Prof. P. Boccagni)
- Oct 2012 *Institute for Social Research, Oslo*
Fieldwork assistant- Project *Migration Flows and Regulations* (PI: Dr. J.P. Brekke & Prof. G. Brochmann)

Education

- 2011 – 2015 *University of Trento, Italy*
D.Phil. Sociology and Social Research
Supervisors: Prof. G. Sciortino. Examiners: J. Carling, M. Collyer, N. Kleist and P. Boccagni

Thesis: *Cosmologies of Destinations: roots and routes of Eritrean migration towards Europe*

- 2008 – 2010 *University of Siena, Italy*
Masters of Research in Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology
Thesis: “The Care of the Other: Aboriginal Identities and Policies of Life in Australia”
- 2007 – 2008 *School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London*
Masters of Arts in Medical Anthropology
Thesis: “The Waste Land: Cancer Epidemic in the Provinces of Naples and Caserta and the political meaning of sickness”
- 2004 – 2007 *University of Siena, Italy*
Bachelor of Arts in Ethno-Anthropological studies.
Thesis: “Beyond the Anthropology of Emotions: a critical analysis”
Final mark: 110/110 cum laude

Exchange Programmes

- Université de Paris VII (Denis Diderot) (ERASMUS 2006-2007)
- Australian National University ANU, Canberra, Australia (Research Studentship 2009-2010)

Languages Italian (native), English (advanced), French (advanced), Spanish (basic), Tigrinya (basic)

Other employment, internships and volunteer work

- April 2017 – Present *Humain VZW*
Volunteer (Research and Monitoring Team)
Monitoring living conditions of transit migrants in the area of Dunkirk and Calais (Northern France); Identification of vulnerable cases to be referred to relevant humanitarian organizations
- Oct.-Dec. 2015 *Organization Mondo Aperto, La Spezia*
Linguistic and cultural Mediator in refugee reception centers
Cultural orientation for asylum seekers; conflict mediator between managers, social workers and asylum seekers.
- Jan. - April 2011 *Italian Embassy in Addis Ababa*
Intern for the Political Sector
Research on African Union and ECAS; meetings; preparation of background reports for the diplomatic team
- Sept.2009- Mar. 2011 *Difezi, Cultural Association*
Associate member
Organization of a concert by the reggae artist “Bibish Mola” to raise funds for the restoration of a primary school in Togo; Submission of proposals for further findings; communication with institutions, media and local civil society
- April – Sept.2010 *CGIL, Workers’ Union*
Intern
Facilitating migrants’ social integration, bureaucratic procedures for visa renewals and family reunification; assisting migrants’ in their relationships with the employers; providing legal guidance
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Grants, scholarships and awards

- FWO Postdoctoral fellowship for Social Sciences (2020-2023)
- IMISCOE Maria Baganha Doctoral Dissertation Award in Migration Studies (July 2016)
- University of Trento Doctoral Dissertation Award for the Doctoral School of Social Sciences (2015-2016 Prize)
- American Academy in Rome - Italian Fellowship in Modern Italian Studies (September 2016- January 2017)
- Doctoral Scholarship with the University of Trento (September 2011 to July 2015)
- Exchange Scholarship from the University of Siena for a 6 months at the Australian National University, Canberra

Publications

Monograph:

Belloni, Milena. (2019) *The big gamble: Eritreans migrating to Europe*. Berkeley: The University of California Press.

Articles in peer-reviewed academic journals :

Belloni M. (2019), *Family project or individual choice? Exploring migration of underage Eritreans*, Special issue of **the Journal of Migration and Ethnic Studies** on unaccompanied minors, edited by Lems A. and Strasse S.

Belloni, M. (2019) *When the phone stops ringing: on the meanings and causes of disruptions in transnational communication between Eritrean refugees and their families back home*, in **Global Networks**

Belloni, M. (2019) *Breaking free from tradition: young Eritrean women searching for geographic mobility in Migration Letters* (Special issue of edited by Sciortino g. and Cvajner M.)

Belloni M., S. Bruzzi and V. Fusari (2018), *Mobilità e relazioni affettive: uno sguardo interdisciplinare*. (Introduction to the Special Issue). **Studi Emigrazione**, 12.

Belloni M. and V. Fusari (2018), *L'amore ai tempi dell'esilio: prospettive sulla relazione di coppia nel contesto della migrazione forzata*. **Studi Emigrazione**, 12.

Belloni, M. (2018), *Refugees and citizens: understanding Eritrean refugees' ambivalence towards homeland politics*, in **International Journal of Comparative Sociology**.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0020715218760382>

Belloni, M. (2016). *Learning How to Squat: Cooperation and Conflict between Refugees and Natives in Rome*. **Journal of Refugee Studies**, 29 (4): 506-527. <https://academic.oup.com/jrs/article-abstract/29/4/506/2572053/Learning-How-to-Squat-Cooperation-and-Conflict>

Belloni M. (2016), "My uncle cannot say no if I reach Libya": Unpacking the social dynamics of border-crossing among Eritreans heading to Europe, **Human Geography**, 9 (2).
<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/webteam/gateway/file.php?name=hg-255-belloni.pdf&site=2>

Belloni, M. (2016), *Refugees as gamblers: Eritreans migrating through Italy*, **Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies**, 14 (1), 104-119.
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15562948.2015.1060375>

Belloni, M. (2016). "Solo di passaggio": l'Italia nelle rappresentazioni e nelle pratiche di mobilità dei giovani eritrei. **Mondi Migranti**, 2. DOI: 10.3280/MM2016-002013

Belloni, M & Pastore F. (2016), *Donne rifugiate: non solo vittime*. In **Aspenia** 75 (21), 180-190

Book chapters:

- Belloni, M & Boccagni, P. (forthcoming), Between old divides and new claims “interventions” from above and below in the refugee reception context of Italy, in Kyriakides C. and Torres R. *Borders of Mass Destruction: Racialisation, National Belonging and 'the Refugee'*. New York: Routledge.
- Ravn S., Mahieu, R., Belloni, M., Timmermann, C., (2019). Shaping the “Deserving Refugee”: Insights From a Local Reception Programme in Flanders, in Glorius B. and J. Doornik, *Geographies of Asylum in Europe and the Role of European Localities*. New York: Springer
- Belloni, M. (2018), Becoming unaccustomed to home: Narratives of young Eritreans about estrangement, belonging, and the desire to leave home. In Davis, K., Ghorashi, H., Smets, P., Eijberts, M., *Contested Belongings: Spaces, Practices, Biographies*. Bingley: Emerald book
- Belloni, M. (2018), ‘Italy is not safe...why don’t you move onwards?’: The influence of transnational communication, ties and kinship obligations on Eritrean refugees’ feeling of being stuck, in Tekle Woldemikael, *Postliberation Eritrea, 25th Anniversary: The Rise and Fall of an African Renaissance State*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press
- Belloni, M. (2018), A ‘Postcolonial’ Migration? An Analysis of Eritrean mobility pathways, in Brioni s. & Shimelis Gulema, *Colonial, Postcolonial and Transnational Encounters: Italy and the Horn of Africa*. London: Peter Lang
- Belloni, M., Pastore, F., Timmermann C. (2018). “Women in Mediterranean asylum flows: current scenarios and ways forward” in Van Praag, L., Timmermann, C. *Dynamic interplays between gender and migration*. Leuven University Press: Leuven
- Belloni, M. (2016), Quando migrare diventa la norma: pressioni sociali ed aspirazioni individuali nella migrazione forzata dall’Eritrea. in Ciabarra L. “I RIFUGIATI e L’EUROPA: Tra crisi internazionali e corridoi d’accesso”, Raffaello Cortina Eds (Milano) <http://www.raffaellocortina.it/i-rifugiati-e-l-europa>

Policy Reports:

- Belloni, M. Pastore, F. (2016, November) Addressing the Gender Dimension of contemporary asylum flows in the Mediterranean. Towards a more Gender-Sensitive Governance of International Protection as a Common Euro-Mediterranean Priority, Commissioned by Women Empower the World (Italy)
- Belloni, M. (2016, December), Relazioni in movimento: la pratica dello sport come mezzo di integrazione delle donne di origine immigrata in Trentino, with ATAS, UISP, University of Trento with the support of Province of Trento
<http://www.atas.tn.it/Warehouse/Archivio/Rapporto%20di%20ricerca%2021.12.2016.pdf>
- Belloni, M & Cole, G. (2016, February), Rapid fragility and migration assessment for Eritrea Commissioned by the EU Commission for GSDRC, University of Birmingham
http://www.gsdrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Fragility_Migration_Eritrea.pdf

Blog & newspaper articles:

- Belloni, M. (2019), When Migration Is Everywhere, But You Cannot See It: Methodological Reflections From Fieldwork In Eritrea. HOMING: The home and migration nexus
<https://homing.soc.unitn.it/2019/02/07/milena-belloni-when-migration-is-everywhere-but-you-cannot-see-it-methodological-reflections-from-fieldwork-in-eritrea/>
- Belloni, M. and A. Massa (2019), “What Is Your Address? Exploring The Gap Between Legal Residence, Social Rights And Informal Housing In Rome”, HOMING: The home and migration nexus
<https://homing.soc.unitn.it/2019/04/12/aurora-massa-and-milena-belloni-what-is-your-address-exploring-the-gap-between-legal-residence-social-rights-and-informal-housing-in-rome/>
- Belloni, M. and J. Jeffrey (May, 2019), Cycling heaven: The African capital with 'no traffic'. BBC AFRICA
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-47709673>

- Belloni, M. and J. Jeffrey (April, 2019), Is Eritrea coming in from the cold? BBC Global Business.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-47934398?intlink_from_url&fbclid=IwAR1ZtCTJzyZjkUwq52svdiiPzGNinPS0oa_r7VUUKXvvgwm6yNtIX-Wqu6E
- Belloni, M. and J. Jeffrey (April, 2019), Amid border wrangles, Eritreans wrestle with staying or going. The New Humanitarian. <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/feature/2019/04/30/amid-border-wrangles-eritreans-wrestle-staying-or-going?fbclid=IwAR1KYy8r727H0RytHSj5bcja2wIk-EcOqXCOMPRK6t7H9b4OoupaPbLZ6s>
- Belloni, M. (2016, May), Anything new under the sun? Analysing the shifting flow of Eritrean asylum seekers to Europe, Feature article in the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat
<http://regionalmms.org/index.php/research-publications/feature-articles/item/2-anything-new-under-the-sun-analysing-the-shifting-flow>
- Belloni, M. (2016, April), Crossing the border, blurring the boundaries: alternative views on human smuggling from the Horn of Africa, Feature article in Allegra Lab
<http://allegralaboratory.net/crossing-the-border-blurring-the-boundaries-alternative-views-on-human-smuggling-from-the-horn-of-africa-to-europe/>
- Belloni, M. (2014, November 30th), “Human smugglers: exploiters or pioneers of new underground railroad”, Article published in Al Jazeera America with James Jeffrey.
<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/11/30/human-smugglers-exploiters.html>
- Belloni, M. (2014, April 5th), “It's April, which means Eritrea's refugees are headed north ‘Wey keb wey geb! All or nothing!’ Article published in the Global Post
<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/africa/140403/its-april-which-means-eritreas-refugees-are-headed-north>
- Belloni, M. (2012, March), “Come ti smantello Addis Abeba” Article published in the magazine covering African societal challenges and politics, “Nigrizia”
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