

CURRICULUM VITAE

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Elena Mucciarelli

LANGUAGES

Italian: mother tongue

English, French, German, Spanish: Fluent

Malayalam, Kannada: Fluent

Vedic, Sanskrit: Fluent Reading, Writing

Latin, Ancient Greek: Fluent Reading

EDUCATION

2014 Dr. Phil. degree in Cultural Studies, University of Tübingen

Concentrations: Indology, Vedic Ritual, Advisors: Prof. Klaus Butzenberger.

2011 Ph.D., Bi-nationally Supervised Doctoral thesis (“co-tutelle de thèse”), *Studi Euro-Asiatici*, University of Turin – *Cultural Studies*, University of Tübingen.

Dissertation: *Changes in the semantics between the Ṛgveda Saṃhitā and the Brāhmaṇas*, Advisors: Prof. Giuliano Boccali, Prof. Klaus Butzenberger.

2007 Italian 5 years "laurea" degree (B.A. + M.A.), Classical Literature, University of Milan,

Thesis “Una radice indoeuropea del desiderio nella *Ṛgvedasaṃhitā*”, Advisor: Prof. Cinzia Pieruccini.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2020-2021 BA course “Concepts and Methods in the Study of Religion”, Faculty of Theology and Religion Studies, University of Groningen.

BA/MA course “Hinduism”, Faculty of Theology and Religion Studies, University of Groningen.

- 2020-2021 BA-MA course "Translation techniques", Dept. of Asian Studies, Romance Studies, Comparative Religion, History and Comparative Literature, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- 2019-2020 Lecture "Localisation of ritual practices: cases from South India" Dept. of Asian Studies, Master in Yoga Studies, University of Venetia.
- 2018-2019 MA-BA course "Gods on stage: Indian Theatre and Ritual Traditions" Dept. of Theatre Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- MA-PhD course "Kannada I; Kannada Readings" Dept. of Asian Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- 2016-2017 BA course "Malayalam for Beginners" Dept. of Indology, University of Tübingen.
- 2014-2015 Intensive Course "Malayalam for Beginners" Dept. of Indology, University of Tübingen.
- 2010-2013 BA-MA courses "La tradizione culturale nell'India moderna: tra rito e teatro". Final part of the course was a *Student Excursion* to Mumbai and Karnataka; "India: epos e sacrificio: l'evoluzione della tradizione rituale"; "India: religione e arte: la ritualità antica indiana" Libera Università di Lingue e Comunicazione (IULM), Milano.
- 2011-2012 Seminar "Ispirazione nella cultura indiana, con particolare riferimento al periodo vedico" Doctoral School *Studi Euro-Asiatici: Indologia, Linguistica, Onomastica*, Università degli Studi di Torino.
- 2010-2012 MA courses "Lingua e cultura vedica"; "La figura della donna nel periodo vedico" Dept. of Glottologia e Orientalistica, Università degli Studi di Milano.
- 2010-2012 MA Seminars "La dea e il femminile nell'India antica e moderna"; " Il femminile in India" Dept. Scienze Politiche e Sociali, Università degli Studi di Pavia.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2020-present Assistant Professor for Hinduism in the Sanskrit Tradition, Dept. of Comparative Study of Religion, Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Groningen

2018 -present Fellow, *NEEM - The New Ecology of Expressive Modes in Early-Modern South India*, ERC-funded project, PI David Shulman, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (<https://neemerc.huji.ac.il>).

2017-2020 Research Fellow, *The Martin Buber Society of Fellows in the Humanities and Social Sciences*.

2016-2018 Research Assistant, *Das Hermann-Gundert Portal: Digitalisierung und Erschließung des Nachlasses von Hermann Gundert (Handschriften, Drucke) sowie ergänzender Werke aus seinem Umfeld an der Universitätsbibliothek Tübingen*, DFG, University of Tübingen.

2016-2017 Junior Researcher, *Farbpräferenzen – ein interdisziplinäres Forschungsvorhaben zum Verhältnis von Farbwahrnehmung und visueller Kultur*, Exploration Fund, PIs Susanne Marschall and Annette Werner, University of Tübingen.

2013-2015 Post-doctoral Researcher, *Kudiyattam: Living Sanskrit Theater in Kerala Tradition*, funded by German-Israel Foundation, PIs Heike Oberlin, University of Tübingen and David Shulman, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

2012-2013 Post-doctoral Fellow, *Traces of an Heterodox Concept of Kingship in Ancient, Medieval and Modern India*" (U.E./RAS), University of Cagliari.

2013 Adjunct Fellow, *Sanskrit Manuscript Project, Faculty of Asia and Middle Eastern Studies*, Cambridge <http://sanskrit.lib.cam.ac.uk>.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIP

- 2018 Workshop grant, *IX Coffee Break Conference: Center and Peripheries? A Summer School on European Renaissance & Asian Renascences* Eberhard Karl Universität Tübingen, 9-11 April (DFG, ZUK 63), 10.680€.
- 2017-2020 Research Fellowship, *The Martin Buber Society of Fellows in the Humanities and Social Sciences*, 28.000€ per year for 4 years.
- 2017 Workshop grant, *Indology Nowadays: A Summerschool on the Legacy of Paul Thieme*, Eberhard Karl Universität Tübingen, 20-22 February (DFG, ZUK 63), 9.850€.
- 2015 Workshop grant, *Paper and Pixel II, International Summer School on Digital Humanities in Indology*, Eberhard Karl Universität Tübingen, 16-22 December (DFG, ZUK 63), 10.000€.
- 2014-2015 Principal investigator, *Kings of the Wild: The Re-Use of Local and Vedic Elements in the Legitimation Process of Medieval Karnataka* (DFG, ZUK 63), 31.440€.
<http://www.indologie-carnatica.uni-tuebingen.de/omeka/neatline/fullscreen/epigraphia-carnatica-map>.
- 2013-2014 Principal Investigator, *Epigraphia Carnatica Digitization Project* at Tübingen University Library (<http://www.uni-Tuebingen.de/en/35650>).
- 2008-2010 Fellowship, *Grant Mobility Program*, University of Milan, 13.000€ per year.

ORGANIZATION OF ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

- 2019 Round Table “Kūṭiyāṭṭam”, *The 17th World Sanskrit Conference*, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, 12 July.
- 2018 Summer School (in collaboration with Cristina Bignami), *IX Coffee Break Conference: Center and Peripheries? A Summer School on European Renaissance & Asian Renascences*, Eberhard Karl Universität Tübingen, 9-11 April.
- 2017 Summer School (in collaboration with Frank Koehler and Renate Soehne Thieme), *Indology Nowadays: A Summerschool on the Legacy of Paul Thieme* Eberhard Karl

Universität Tübingen, 20-22 February.

2015 Summer School (in collaboration with Heike Oberlin) *Paper and Pixel II, International Summer School on Digital Humanities in Indology* Eberhard Karl Universität Tübingen, 16-22 December.

2015 International Conference (in collaboration with Hemdat Salay), *Mantrāṅkam and Anguliyankam: Masterpieces of Kutiyattam*, Thrissur, 9-11 January.

2014 Summer School (in collaboration with Heike Oberlin) *Paper and Pixel, International Summer School on Digital Humanities in Indology* Eberhard Karl Universität Tübingen, 22-27 July.

2014 Conference Panel, “Untying the Knot: Tracing Local Elements within Cultural Phenomena in South Asia”, *The 5th Coffee Break Conference: Space, Culture, Language and Politics in South Asia: Common Patterns and Local Distinctions*, Università “La Sapienza” Roma, 21-24 May.

2012 Conference (in collaboration with Cristina Bignami), *The 3rd Coffee Break Conference: The Study of Asia: Between Antiquity and Modernity*, Università degli Studi di Cagliari, 13-15 June.

2010 International Conference, *Stylistic Devices in Indian Literature and Art* Gargnano, Università degli Studi di Milano 16-18 September.

2010 Conference (in collaboration with Cristina Bignami, Daniele Cuneo, Camillo Formigatti, Elisa Freschi Artemio Keidan) *The 1st Coffee Break Conference: The Study of Asia: between Antiquity and Modernity*, and coordinator of the panel: *Earliest texts. How to interpret them* Università “La Sapienza” Roma - Museo Nazionale d’Arte Orientale ‘Giuseppe Tucci’, 10-12 June.

INVITED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 Discussant in "Religious Healing and Sacred Health Curing", film presentation "Chidra" by Dr. Arik Moran (University of Haifa) and Nadav Harel. In *Webinar Online Documentary Film Program and Debate* organized by Dr. P. Khosronejad, Western Sydney University, 05 September https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/religion_and_society/events.
- 2020 "Old Wine in a New Bootle: A Travelling Sacrifice from South India". International Workshop *On Sacrifice*, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, 02 January.
- 2019 "Between Textualities: Early Yakṣagāna Texts from Literary Composition to Performative Corpus". Conference *ERC-NEEM Sense, Tone, and Topics in Early-Modern South Indian Prabandhas and Padams*, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 26 June.
- "Ritual on Stage: The Case Study of Tēvāram in Kūṭiyāṭṭam." In *International Seminar on Festivals in Indian Literature, Arts and Rituals*, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady. 05 February.
- 2018 "Centre and Peripheries through Temples and Inscriptions in Medieval Karnataka." In *The 17th World Sanskrit Conference*, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, 13 July.
- "The Importance of Choosing a Good Nickname: Construction of Dynastic Identity in Medieval South India." In *The 14th biennial Conference of Asian Studies in Israel*, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 24 May.
- "The Epic Narrative and the Poet's Inscription in the Temple of Amṛteśvara: Looking for Traces of Re-naissances in the 12th/13th Century Karnataka." In *Center and Peripheries? A Summer School on European Renaissance & Asian Renascences*, Eberhard Karls Universität, Tübingen, 11 April.
- 2016 "The Gundert Legacy: A Digitization Project of South Indian Texts and Manuscripts at the University Library Tübingen." In the workshop *Current Trends and Ongoing Projects*

in Computational Linguistics and Digital Humanities, University of Würzburg, 17 November.

"Colors of India: The Role of Color in Indian Texts." In the International Conference: *Color in Mind: from Perception to Art*, Eberhard Karls Universität, Tübingen, 22 September.

"Mutual Influences of Theater and Ritual: The Case of Mantrāṅkam." In *Evolving Textuality: Sacred Writing Through the Ages*", Hebrew University, Jerusalem, 16 June.

"A Stage in a Temple and a Temple in a Stage (II)." In *Evolving Textuality: Sacred Writing Through the Ages*", Hebrew University, Jerusalem, 14 June.

2015 "Digital Humanities: Infrastructures and Opportunities for the Indology." In *Paper and Pixel II, International Summer School on Digital Humanities in Indology*, Eberhard Karl Universität Tübingen, 17 December.

"Einführung in Kūṭiyāṭṭam: *Toraṇayuddham* und *Pūtanāmokṣa*, zwei Solos des Sanskrittheaters aus Kerala." As part of the event *Kutiyattam: Theater und Musik aus Kerala* organized by the Völkerkundemuseum, Zürich, 26 July.

"Waters as Creative Power in Indian Culture." Lecture in the *Studium Generale: Wasser - Quelle von Macht und Bedeutung* at the Eberhard Karls Universität, Tübingen, 08 July.

"Mapping the Epigraphia Carnatica – For a New Approach to Epigraphic and Artistic sources." In the *16th World Sanskrit Conference*, Bangkok, 30 June.

"Plucking Different Flowers: Veda and Sanskrit Theatre in Kerala: a Bidirectional Influence?" In the *16th World Sanskrit Conference*, Bangkok, 29 June.

"Veda and Kutiyattam with Special Focus on Tevaram and the Mad Puja Performed in Mantrankam." In *Anguliyankam and Mantrankam: Masterpieces of Kutiyattam*, Thrissur, 10 January.

2014 "Plucking the Flowers: Re-use in Kerala Theatrical Tradition?" In *The First Conference of European Association for Asian Art and Archeology*, Palacký University Olomouc, 26 September.

"The Epigraphia Carnatica – “Recourse” Pool for Historians: A Digitization Project of the University Library of Tübingen" In *Paper and Pixel, International Summer School on Digital Humanities in Indology*, Eberhard Karl Universität Tübingen, 24 July.

"Rituals: Praiṣārtha, Tēvaram." In *Kudiyattam: Living Sanskrit Theater in Kerala Tradition*, University of Tübingen, 15 June.

(with F. Köhler) "Dirghatamas: Personality, Speech and Enigma." In *VI International Vedic Workshop*, Calicut, 07 January.

2013 "Dīkṣā and Puṣpappāṭu: Possible Similarities or Proximities?" In *Kūṭiyāṭṭam Workshop*, Hebrew University Jerusalem, 25 November.

"The Steadiness of a Non-Steady Place: Re-adaptation of the Imagery of the Chariot." In the *XXXII Deutsche Orientalistentag (DOT)* at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, 24 September.

"Kings of the Wild: Legitimation of Sovereignty." In *Legitimation und Legitimität – Theoretische Reflexion und empirische Bestandsaufnahme*, at the Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, 04 July.

"Lost Speech: The Poetry of *Sattrins*." In *The broken World of Sovereignty in India and beyond* at the Università degli Studi di Cagliari, 27 June.

"From Ritual to Devotion: Heterodox Elements of Sovereignty in the Vedic Period." In *Nature in Literature, Art, Myth and Ritual* at the Charles University Prague, 31 May.

2012 "Quotations in Vedic Literature: Is the Changing of a Mantra a Stylistic Device or the Degeneration of a "Beautiful Mind"?" In *Quotations and re-use of texts in Sanskrit śāstras*, Coffee Break Meeting, at Università "La Sapienza" Roma, 21 December.

"Goddesses and Fertility in the Vedic Period: Looking for Stratifications." In *The Study of Asia between Antiquity and Modernity*, 2nd Coffee Break Conference, at the Università degli Studi di Cagliari, 13 June.

"Tracce di Rappresentazione Femminile I: La Donna nella Cultura Vedica." In *L'India fra storia, arte e letteratura* organized by Centro per gli Studi di Politica Estera e Opinione Pubblica at the Università degli Studi di Milano, 02 March.

2011 "The *Ṛgvedasamhitā*: How to Interpret it. Different Approaches to a Liminal Text." In *EOS 700. Congreso Internacional VII Centenario de los Estudios Orientales en Salamanca-España* at the Universidad de Salamanca, 28 September.

2010 "Il Desiderio nella Filosofia e nelle Letterature dell'India." In *Lecture at the Dipartimento di Studi letterari, filologici e linguistici* at the Università degli Studi di Milano, 06 May.

"How to Tell the Presence of the Gods: A Ṛgvedic Technique." In *Narrative Techniques in Indian Literature and Arts* at the University of Calicut, 08 January.

2009 "L'Immagine del Cavallo in Dīrghatamas." In *Quattordicesimo Convegno nazionale di Studi Sanscriti* (AISS), Napoli, 25 September.

"Non-Realistic Image of the Animal in the *Ṛgvedasamhitā*: A Glance into the Hymns of Dīrghatamas (RV 1.140-164)." In *Nature in Literature, Art, Myths and Ritual* at the Charles University Prague, 05 June.

FIELD WORK

2020 digital audio and video documentation of *torram* songs and Uccabali-Teyyam possession ritual (Kannur, Kerala); interviews with Uccabali-Teyyam participants (Kannur and

- Payyannur, Kerala); Close critical reading of textual sources assisted by cross-consultation (EFEO, Pondicherry), 15 February-15 March.
- 2019 participant observation of and interviews on domestic ritual practices - *tēvāram* in the Nampūtīri community (Eddappal, Koilandi, Venmani, Kerala); video documentation of Teyyam possession rituals (Kannur, Kerala), 2 February-6 March.
- 2018 practical and theoretical study of domestic worship rituals - *tēvāram* in the temple theatre tradition of Kūṭiyāṭṭam at Nepathya Centre for Excellence (Moozhikkulam, Kerala), 8 September-10 October.
- 2017 participant observation and video documentation of Sanskrit temple theatre of Kerala - Kūṭiyāṭṭam at Nepathya Centre for Excellence (Moozhikkulam, Kerala), 15 December-8 January.
- 2016 participant observation and video documentation of Sanskrit temple theatre of Kerala - Kūṭiyāṭṭam at Nepathya Centre for Excellence (Moozhikkulam, Kerala), 5 August-16 September.
- 2014- 2015 digital audio and video documentation on village festivals (Hassan district), study of Kannada language (Mysore, Karnataka), 10 November-8 February.
- 2013 participant observation and video documentation of Sanskrit temple theatre of Kerala - Kūṭiyāṭṭam at Nepathya Centre for Excellence (Moozhikkulam, Kerala), 5 August-9 September.
- 2012 participant observation and video documentation of Sanskrit temple theatre of Kerala - Kūṭiyāṭṭam at Nepathya Centre for Excellence (Moozhikkulam, Kerala), 26 July- 29 August.
- 2011 documentation and study of temple chariot festival in Belur (Karnataka); photo-documentation of Hoysala temples and inscriptions, 1 March-7 April.

ORGANIZATION OF PUBLIC EVENTS AND CULTURAL DISSEMINATION

2019 Interview at *Radio UNAM*, as part of the program "Islas Resonantes": *Sonido ritual*.

Aired 02.04.2019

2017 European tournée of the Nepathya (Kūṭiyāṭṭam theatre company), performances and workshops,

cultural centres *Jardin d'Alice* and *Mandapa* (Paris); *Linden Museum* (Stuttgart); *Tübingen University* (under the auspices Munich Indian Consulate); *Sudhaus e.V. Tübingen*; *University of Zurich*; *Volkerkundemuseum* (under the auspices of *URPP Asia and Europe*, Zurich); *LongLake Festival* (Lugano); *Teatro Tascabile di Bergamo*.

2015 European tournée of Nepathya (Kūṭiyāṭṭam theatre company), performances and workshops,

Salzburg Festspeiele; *Tübingen University* (under the auspices of Munich Indian Consulate); *Sudhaus e.V. Tübingen*; *Theater am Faden* (Stuttgart); *University of Zurich*; *Volkerkundemuseum* (under the auspices of *URPP Asia and Europe*, Zurich); *Museo delle Culture* (Milan).

2013 Student excursion to India (Mumbai and Karnataka) as part of the course held at Libera Università di Lingue e Comunicazione, Milano

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2020-present Associazione Italiana Studi Sanscriti (AISS)

2019-present European Association for South Asian Studies (EASAS)

2017-present Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft (DMG), Sektion

Indologie

2015-present Deutsche Gesellschaft für Asienkunde (DGA).

International Association of Sanskrit Studies (IASS).