

# Lidia Bonifati

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University of Antwerp  
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## Current Positions

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- Since Feb 2023: **Junior Researcher** – EURAC Institute for Comparative Federalism
- Since Dec 2019: **Affiliated Researcher** – Research Group on Government and Law, University of Antwerp
- Since Sept 2018: **Teaching Assistant of Comparative Constitutional Law** – Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna

## Education

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- 2019 – 2023      **Ph.D. in Legal Studies**  
University of Bologna and University of Antwerp (Joint Ph.D.)  
Research area: Comparative Constitutional Law.  
Title of Ph.D. thesis: “Comparative Constitutional Design for Divided Societies: A Model to Explain Constitutional Asymmetries”.  
Supervisors: Prof. Susanna Mancini, Prof. Patricia Popelier.  
Doctoral jury: Prof. Francesco Biagi, Prof. Diletta Tega, Prof. Cedric Jenart.
- 2016 – 2018      **Master’s degree in International Relations (cum laude)**  
University of Bologna – Department of Social and Political Sciences  
Title of Master’s thesis: “The Future of Power Sharing in European Multi-National States: The Cases of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Northern Ireland”.  
Supervisors: Prof. Susanna Mancini, Prof. Filippo Andreatta.
- 2013 – 2016      **Bachelor’s degree in Social, Political and International Sciences**  
University of Bologna – Department of Social and Political Sciences  
Title of Bachelor’s thesis: “La Corte Europea dei Diritti dell’Uomo Condanna la Bosnia-Erzegovina: Verso una Costituzione Non Discriminatoria?”  
Supervisor: Prof. Pieralberto Mengozzi.

## Research Interests

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Constitutional design for divided societies, minority rights, federalism and asymmetries in constitutional law, comparative research methodologies.

## Work Experience

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- Feb 2023 – present      **Junior Researcher**  
Institute for Comparative Federalism – EURAC Research, Bolzano/Bozen (Italy)  
Supervisor: Dr. Alice Valdesalici
- Dec 2019 – present      **Affiliated Researcher**  
Research Group on Government and Law – University of Antwerp, Antwerp (Belgium)  
Director: Prof. Patricia Popelier

- Sept 2018 – present **Teaching Assistant of Comparative Constitutional Law**  
Department of Legal Studies – University of Bologna, Bologna (Italy)  
Chair: Prof. Susanna Mancini
- Mar – May 2020 **Trainee**  
Venice Commission – Council of Europe, Strasbourg (France)  
Supervisor: Dr. Gaël Martin-Micallef
- Nov 2016 –  
Jun 2017 **Academic Tutor**  
School of Political Sciences – University of Bologna, Bologna (Italy)  
Coordinator: Prof. Daniela Giannetti
- Oct 2016 –  
May 2017 **Research Assistant**  
Center for Constitutional Studies and Democratic Development (CCSDD),  
Bologna (Italy)  
Director: Prof. Justin Orlando Frosini

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### Research Stays and Visits

- Sept – Oct 2022 **Visiting Scientist**  
Institute for Comparative Federalism – EURAC Research, Bolzano/Bozen (Italy)  
Supervisor: Prof. Francesco Palermo
- Feb – Apr 2022  
Mar – May 2021 **Visiting Joint Ph.D. Researcher**  
Research Group on Government and Law – University of Antwerp, Antwerp  
(Belgium)  
Supervisor: Prof. Patricia Popelier
- Sept 2021 –  
Jan 2022 **Visiting Ph.D. Student**  
Department of Law – European University Institute (EUI), Florence (Italy)  
Supervisor: Prof. Gábor Halmai
- Nov 2018 **Visiting Research Associate**  
School of Law – Queen’s University of Belfast, Belfast (UK)  
Supervisor: Prof. Christopher McCrudden

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### Publications

#### In English

##### *Articles*

- Bonifati, Lidia. 2023. “Constitutional Design and the Seeds of Degradation in Divided Societies: The Case of Bosnia-Herzegovina.” *European Constitutional Law Review* 19, no. 2 [forthcoming].
- Bonifati, Lidia. 2019. “The Impact of Brexit on the Constitutional Status of Northern Ireland”, *Percorsi Costituzionali* 2018, no. 1: 209-224.

##### *Book chapters*

- Bonifati, Lidia. 2022. “Constitutional Design v. Constitutional Degradation. Strengthening the Rule of Law in Bosnia-Herzegovina” in *Framing and Diagnosing Constitutional Degradation*, edited by Tania Groppi, Valentina Carlino, and Gianmaria Milani, 83-92. Consulta Online.

##### *Book reviews*

- Bonifati, Lidia. 2021. “Towards a Comprehensive Theory on Self-Determination? Some Remarks Starting from a Recent Book by Pau Bossacoma Busquets” *Osservatorio Costituzionale* 4: 1-27.

## In Italian

### Articles

- Bonifati, Lidia. 2020. “Molto Rumore Per Nulla? Dieci Anni Dalla Sentenza Sejdić-Finci” *Forum di Quaderni Costituzionali* 1: 60-70.
- Bonifati, Lidia. 2019. “Democrazie Consociative e Trattati di Pace: Un’Analisi Comparata di Bosnia-Erzegovina, Irlanda del Nord e Macedonia del Nord” *Federalismi* 18: 2-20.
- Bonifati, Lidia. 2019. “Il Parlamento Europeo: Dagli Stati ai Popoli?”, in “Il Divieto di Mandato Imperativo: Un Principio in Discussione” edited by Paolo Caretti, Massimo Morisi e Giovanni Tarli Barbieri, *Osservatorio sulle Fonti* 2: 174-188.

### Conferences and Seminars

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- “*Seeds of Degradation? The Role of Imposed Constitutional Design and International Presence in Bosnia-Herzegovina*”
  - o 11<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Association of Constitutional Law – IACL (University of Johannesburg, South Africa), December 5-9, 2022.
  - o 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International Society of Public Law – ICONS (University of Wrocław, Poland), July 4-6, 2022.
- “*The Role of Causality in Comparative Legal Research and the Use of Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)*” (with Alberto Nicotina, University of Antwerp)
  - o International Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (Netherlands Academy for Empirical Legal Studies, Amsterdam), September 1-2, 2022.
- “*Comparative Constitutional Design for Divided Societies: A Model to Explain Constitutional Asymmetries*”
  - o British Association of Comparative Law (BACL) Postgraduate Workshop (University of Kent), May 26-27, 2022.
  - o International Doctoral Seminar in Law IDSL 2020 (University of Ljubljana), September 10, 2020.
- “*Symmetry or Asymmetry, that is the Question. The Cases of Italy and Spain During the Pandemic*”
  - o 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference ICONS Italian Chapter (University of Bologna), September 16-17, 2022 (with Nicolò Paolo Alessi, University of Verona/Fribourg).
  - o XXVI<sup>o</sup> Biennial Colloquium of the Italian Association of Comparative Law “Comparative Law in Times of Emergencies” (University of Bologna), October 21-23, 2021.
- “*The Impact of European Integration and Disintegration of Power-Sharing Democracies*”
  - o The Dust of Time? Towards a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Constitutionalism (European University Institute), October 7-8, 2021.
- “*Constitutional Design v. Constitutional Degradation: Strengthening the Rule of Law in Bosnia-Herzegovina*”
  - o DIPEC Workshop “Framing and Diagnosing Constitutional Degradation: A Comparative Perspective” (University of Siena), June 22-23, 2021.
- “*Asymmetric Federalism and Divided Societies: A Synthesis Between Integration and Accommodation?*”
  - o Rijeka Doctoral Conference RIDOC 2020 (University of Rijeka), December 4, 2020.
- “*A Diachronic Comparison of Brexit: The Transformative Role of the Speaker of the House of Commons in Constitutional Distress*” (with Stefano Bargiacchi, University of Siena)
  - o Joint AIDC/YCC Young Scholars Conference “New Topics and Methods in Comparative Law Research” (University of Perugia), June 5-6, 2020.

### Teaching Experience

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- Lecture in English (2 hours) on “Federalismo Asimmetrico e Tutela delle Minoranze”
  - o Invited speaker in the course *Diritto Comparato dei Gruppi e delle Minoranze* (Prof. Elena Ferioli) – Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna (A.Y. 2022/2023).

- Lecture in English (2 hours) on “Constitutional Asymmetries in Multi-Tiered Systems: A Comparative Perspective”
  - o Invited speaker in the course *Comparative Federalism* (Prof. Patricia Popelier) – Faculty of Law, University of Antwerp (A.Y. 2021/2022).
- Lecture in English (2 hours) on “Consociational Democracies: A Comparative Analysis”
  - o Recurrent invited speaker in the course *Comparative Constitutionalism* (Prof. Susanna Mancini and Prof. Francesco Biagi) – Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna (A.Y. 2022/2023, 2021/2022, 2020/2021, 2019/2020, 2018/2019)
  - o Invited speaker in the course *Comparative Constitutional Law* (Prof. Enrico Campelli) – Department of Law, Economics, Politics and Modern Languages, LUMSA University (A.Y. 2022/2023).
- Lecture in English (2 hours) on “SOGI Refugees and International Protection: Peculiar Aspects and Legal Framework”
  - o Recurrent invited speaker in the course *Gender and the Law* (Prof. Susanna Mancini and Prof. Francesco Biagi) – Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna (A.Y. 2022/2023, 2021/2022, 2020/2021, 2019/2020, 2018/2019).
- Lecture in Italian (2 hours) on “Democrazie Consociative: Una Prospettiva Comparata”
  - o Recurrent invited speaker in the course *Diritto Pubblico Comparato* (prof. Susanna Mancini, Prof. Francesco Biagi, Prof. Elena Ferioli) – Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna (A.Y. 2022/2023, 2020/2021, 2019/2020, 2018/2019).
  - o Invited speaker in the course *Diritto Pubblico Comparato* (Prof. Nicolò Paolo Alessi) – Department of Economics and Political Sciences, University of Aosta Valley (A.Y. 2022/2023).
- Lecture in English (2 hours) on “Brexit and The Constitutional Status of Northern Ireland”
  - o Invited speaker in the course *Comparative Constitutionalism* (Prof. Susanna Mancini and Prof. Francesco Biagi) – Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna (A.Y. 2019/2020).
- Lecture in English (2 hours) on “Brexit and Parliamentary Procedures”
  - o Invited speaker in the course *Comparative Constitutionalism* (Prof. Susanna Mancini and Prof. Francesco Biagi) – Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna (A.Y. 2019/2020).
- Lecture in Italian (2 hours) on “Brexit e le Procedure Parlamentari nella Camera dei Comuni”
  - o Invited speaker in the course *Diritto Pubblico Comparato* (Prof. Susanna Mancini, Prof. Francesco Biagi, Prof. Elena Ferioli) – Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna (A.Y. 2019/2020).
- Lecture in Italian (2 hours) on “Il Divieto di Mandato Imperativo: Una Prospettiva Comparata”
  - o Invited speaker in the course *Diritto Parlamentare* (Prof. Tomaso Francesco Giupponi) – Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna (A.Y. 2019/2020).

## Trainings

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- **Webinar series “Democratic Constitution Making. Between Deliberative And Crowd-Sourced Forms of Constitutionalism”** – STALS – Sant’Anna Legal Studies (online, May 2023)
- **Workshop “ICONS Writing School”** – International Society of Public Law (online, February 2023)
- **Workshop “Social Science Methods for Legal Scholars”** – European Society of International Law and Geneva Graduate Institute (online, Oct – Nov 2022)
- **Winter School “Advanced Qualitative Comparative Analysis”** – European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) (online, 14-18 Feb 2022)

- Summer School “Qualitative Comparative Analysis” – European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) (online, 9-13 Aug 2021)
- Post-graduate Training Program “Territory and Institutions” – University of Rome Sapienza (online, Dec 2020 – Feb 2021)
- MOOC “Introduction to Qualitative Comparative Analysis” – University of Rotterdam (online, Dec 2020)
- MOOC “Federalism and Decentralization” – University of Leiden (online, Sept 2020)
- Winter School “Federalism and Language” – EURAC Institute for Comparative Federalism (Innsbruck/Bozen, 17-28 Feb 2020)
- Seminar in Parliamentary Studies and Research “Silvano Tosi” – University of Florence (Florence, Jan – May 2019)
- Summer School “Mediation Theory and Skills” – Central European University (Budapest, 2-6 July 2018)
- Advanced Diploma “European Affairs” – Italian Institute for International Political Studies (Milan, Mar 2017 - Mar 2018)
- Summer School “Fundamental Rights and EU Trade Agreements” – University of Bologna (Bertinoro, 25-30 June 2017)
- Summer School “European Union and Legal Reforms” – Center for Constitutional Studies and Democratic Development (Igaló, 11-15 July 2016)
- Study Visit “Sarajevo Study Trip” – Center for Constitutional Studies and Democratic Development (Sarajevo, 17-20 January 2016)

### Languages

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- Italian (mother tongue)
- English (C1)
- French (B2)

### Scholarships and Awards

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- **2021: Research grant** (3 months) financed by the BOF Fellowship for Joint PhDs of the University of Antwerp
- **2020: Research grant** (3 months) financed by the Program “Marco Polo” of the University of Bologna
- **2019: Ph.D. scholarship** (3 years) financed by the Project “Department of Excellence” of the Italian Ministry of Education

### Memberships

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- International Association of Constitutional Law – IACL (individual member; “New Frontiers of Federalism” Research Group)
- International Society of Public Law – ICONS (regular member; Italian Chapter)
- Associazione Italiana di Diritto Comparato – AIDC (member of the Young Comparatists Group)

## Editorial Activities

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- **From 2020 – Editorial Board Member – Sant’Anna Legal Studies (STALS)**  
Peer-reviewed and open access scientific journal based at the Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa (Italy) – ISSN: 1974-5656. Directors: Prof. Giuseppe Martinico, Prof. Giacomo Delledonne, Dr. Filippo Fontanelli.
- **From 2020 – External Reviewer** (European Journal of Legal Studies – EJLS): listed among the external reviewers of the researcher-led, peer-reviewed, and open access scientific journal based at the European University Institute, Florence (Italy) – ISSN: 1973-2937.

## Organized Conferences and Workshops

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- **Conference “Law and…”** AIDC Young Comparatists Group (Bocconi University, 5 December 2023, and University of Palermo, 22 March 2024) – Member of the scientific committee
- **Conference “The Future of the State”** 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference ICONS Italian Chapter (University of Bologna, 16-17 September 2022) – Member of the organizing committee
- **Conference “Sostenibilità e Innovazione: Prospettive di Diritto Comparato”** AIDC Young Comparatists Group (University of Salerno, 13 May 2022) – Member of the scientific committee
- **Seminar series “Migro perché sono”** University of Bologna (A.Y. 2014/2015 and 2015/2016) – Concept developer, organizer, and tutor

## Other Activities

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- **2021-2022 – Ph.D. Student Representative** (Ph.D. in Legal Studies, University of Bologna): preparation and collection of surveys on the educational activities of the Ph.D., liaison between Ph.D. students and the Ph.D. coordinator and faculty members, organization of Ph.D. students’ panels in various conferences (XXVI Biennial Colloquium of the Italian Association of Comparative Law; 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Italian Chapter of the International Society of Public Law).
- **2017-2021 – Member of the Editorial Team of Lo Spiegone** (online magazine on international politics): recurrent author for the Europe and Law desks (40+ articles published) on topics related to South-Eastern Europe politics, EU enlargement policy, comparative constitutional law, British and Northern-Irish politics. Positions held: Europe desk editor (2018-2019), Deputy Editor-in-Chief (2020), Head of Administration (2021).

## IT Skills

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- Proficient user of Microsoft Office Package (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook)
- Proficient user of Google Package (Gmail, Drive, Calendar, Meet, GSuite)
- Proficient user of co-working platforms (Slack, Microsoft Teams, Webex, Zoom)
- Intermediate user of R (especially “QCA” and “SetMethods” packages)

## References

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**Susanna Mancini** (Ph.D. Supervisor)

Full professor of Comparative Public Law  
University of Bologna  
Department of Legal Studies  
[susanna.mancini@unibo.it](mailto:susanna.mancini@unibo.it)

**Giuseppe Martinico** (STALS Director)

Full professor of Comparative Public Law  
Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies  
DIRPOLIS Institute  
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**Francesco Palermo** (Ph.D. Advisor)

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Federalism  
Full professor of Comparative Public Law  
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**Patricia Popelier** (Ph.D. Supervisor)

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