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Vera Lazzaretti

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Department of Anthropology (ECSH)



Contacts

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Curriculum

Vera Lazzaretti studied Philosophy and Cultural Anthropology in Italy and holds a Ph.D. in Indian and Tibetan Studies from the University of Turin (2013). Before joining CRIA, she worked at the University of Milan, the University of Oslo and the South Asia Institute at Heidelberg University. Vera's main field site is urban north India, and her research interests include the anthropology of space and place; religion and politics; contested heritage; securitisation and policing; inter-religious violence; religious offence; pilgrimage; Hindu nationalism; and ethnography.

Research Interests

anthropology of space and place; religion and politics; contested heritage; securitisation and policing; inter-religious violence; religious offence; pilgrimage; Hindu nationalism; and ethnography

Anthropology of space and place; religion and politics; contested heritage; securitisation and policing; inter-religious violence; religious offence; pilgrimage; Hindu nationalism; and ethnography.

Academic Qualifications

University/Institution	Type	Degree	Period
Università degli Studi di Torino	PhD	PhD in Euro-Asian Studies (section of Indology and Tibetan Studies)	2013

Delhi Central Hindi Directorate	Post-graduation	Hindi Certificate Diploma	2008
Università degli Studi di Milano	Licenciate	Scienze Filosofiche	2007

Teaching Activities

Teaching Year	Sem.	Course Name	Degree(s)	Coord.
2026/2027	1°	Methods in Anthropology: Research in Intangible Cultural Heritage	Doctorate Degree (PhD) in Anthropology: Politics and Displays of Culture and Museology;	No
2026/2027	1°	Anthropology and Developement	Master Degree in Development Studies;	No
2023/2024	2°	Regional Approaches in Anthropology		No

Supervisions

• Post-doc Supervisions

- Ongoing

	Student Name	Title/Topic	Language	Status	Institution
1	Gerusa Radicchi	ALIGHT - Antarctic Living Heritage Map - Programa Marie Curie MSCA PF 2023	Portuguese	Developing	Iscte

• M.Sc. Dissertations

- Concluded

	Student Name	Title/Topic	Language	Institution	Concluding Year
1	Isabell Gundersen	Between Expats and Migrants: Self-positioning, Privilege, and Belonging among International Residents in Lisbon	English	Iscte	2026

• M.Sc. Final Projects

- Concluded

	Student Name	Title/Topic	Language	Institution	Concluding Year
1	Silvia Decina	The production of the touristic space in contemporary Mouraria between global imaginaries and resistant narratives	Other Language	Università degli Studi di Torino	2025

Total Citations

Web of Science®	71
Scopus	55

Publications

- **Scientific Journals**

- Scientific journal paper

1	Lazzaretti, V. (2026). Security and heritage in the making of urban futures: A new research avenue. Ethnography, 27(3), 781?801. https://doi.org/10.1177/14661381241266918 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 4 - Times Cited Scopus: 4 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 7
2	Lazzaretti, V., Mapril, J. & Lourenço, I. (2026). Frictions, entanglements and reconfigurations: Religion and heritage in global South Asia. Religion, 56(3), 431?443. https://doi.org/10.1080/0048721X.2026.2644741
3	Lazzaretti, V. (2026). The afterlives of repatriation: Heritage, emancipation and violence in Hindu nationalist India. International Journal of Heritage Studies, 32(2), 189?214. https://doi.org/10.1080/13527258.2025.2496881 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 1
4	Lazzaretti, V. & Jacobsen, K. A. (2024). Jurisprudence and geography of Hindu majoritarianism: Thinking with the 2019 Ayodhya judgement. Contemporary South Asia, 32(1), 1?9. https://doi.org/10.1080/09584935.2023.2301545 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 10 - Times Cited Scopus: 8 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 11
5	Lazzaretti, V. (2024). Ayodhya 2.0 in Banaras? Judicial discourses and rituals of place in the making of Hindu majoritarianism. Contemporary South Asia, 32(1), 66?83. https://doi.org/10.1080/09584935.2023.2188173 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 7 - Times Cited Scopus: 7 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 11
6	Lazzaretti, V. (2021). New monuments for the new India: heritage-making in a 'timeless city'. International Journal of Heritage Studies,, 1?16. https://doi.org/10.1080/13527258.2021.1954055 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 20 - Times Cited Scopus: 23 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 26
7	Lazzaretti, V. (2021). Religious Offence Policed: Paradoxical Outcomes of Containment at the Centre of Banaras, and the 'Know-How' of Local Muslims. South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies, 44(3), 584?599. https://doi.org/10.1080/00856401.2021.1923760 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 10 - Times Cited Scopus: 8 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 11

8	Lazzaretti, V. (2020). The burden of security: Moral frictions and everyday policing in a contested religious compound. Journal of Extreme Anthropology, 4(1). https://doi.org/10.5617/jea.7526 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 9 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 13
9	Lazzaretti, V. (2019). Making the story new. Individuals, variations and embodiment in local urban pilgrimage. Rivista degli Studi Orientali, XCII(fasc. I-II), 165?182. - Times Cited Scopus: 4 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 6
10	Lazzaretti, V. (2016). Questioning Meaningful Layers of Locality in a Pan-Indian tirtha. Cracow Indological Studies, 18(18), 119?144. https://doi.org/10.12797/cis.18.2016.18.06 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 1 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 5
11	Lazzaretti, V. (2013). Banaras jyotirlingas: constitution and transformations of a transposed divine group and its pilgrimage. Kervan - International Journal of Afro-Asian Studies,(17). https://doi.org/10.13135/1825-263X/722 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 11
12	Lazzaretti, V. (2013). Constructing the eternal city of light through history and society: evolution of the image of Kashi in the Eighteenth-Twentieth century picture maps. Cracow Indological Studies, 14(1).

- Scientific journal editor

1	Lazzaretti, V., Mapril, J. & Lourenço, Inês (2026). Religion. Taylor & Francis.
2	Lazzaretti, V. & Jacobsen, K.A. (2024). Contemporary South Asia. Taylor and Francis.
3	Lazzaretti, V. & Frøystad, Kathinka (2021). South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies. Taylor and Francis.

- Editorial

1	Lazzaretti, V., Mapril, J. & Lourenço, I. (2026). Introduction: Heritage and religion in South Asia and its diasporas. Religion, 56(3), 425?430. https://doi.org/10.1080/0048721X.2026.2644742
2	Frøystad, Kathinka & Lazzaretti, V. (2021). Introduction: Containing Religious Offence beyond the Courts. South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies,, 1?12. https://doi.org/10.1080/00856401.2021.1923449 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 2 - Times Cited Scopus: 1 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 3

- Review article

1	Lazzaretti, V. (2018). Banaras Reconstructed: Architecture and Sacred Space in a Hindu Holy City. South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies, 41(3).
2	Lazzaretti, V. (2013). Banaras. Urban forms and cultural histories. Kervan, International Journal of Afro-Asian Studies, 16.

• Books and Book Chapters

- Book author

1	Lazzaretti, V. (2025). Here and Elsewhere: Transposed Deities, Substitute Pilgrimages and Geographic Imagination in North India. Heidelberg Asian Studies Publishing. https://doi.org/10.11588/hasp.1528
2	Lazzaretti, V. (2018). Qui e altrove. Divinità trasposte, pellegrinaggi sostitutivi e immaginazione geografica nell'India del Nord ('Here and elsewhere. Transposed deities, substitute pilgrimages and geographic imagination in north India'). Biblioteca di Studi Antropologici, Edizioni Unicopli..
3	Lazzaretti, V. (2016). Varanasi. Unicopli. - Times Cited Google Scholar: 1

- Book editor

1	Lazzaretti, V. & Frøystad, Kathinka (2022). Beyond Courtrooms and Street Violence Rethinking Religious Offence and Its Containment. - Times Cited Google Scholar: 1

- Book chapter

1	Lazzaretti, V. (2025). Paix et insécurité à Bénarès : Les effets paradoxaux du maintien de lordre dans les lieux de culte interreligieux. In Julien Jugand et Tiziana Leucci (Ed.), Mémoire de Bénarès : Territoires, religiosités, controverses (pp. 159?182). EHESS. Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales.
2	Frøystad, K. & Lazzaretti, V. (2022). Rethinking religious offence and its containment: towards a new research agenda. In Vera Lazzaretti, Kathinka Frøystad (Ed.), Beyond courtrooms and street violence: Rethinking religious offence and its containment (pp. 1?12). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7357638
3	Lazzaretti, V. (2022). "We know how to behave and that's why we feel safe": Peace and insecurity in Banaras. In Vera Lazzaretti, Kathinka Frøystad (Ed.), Beyond courtrooms and street violence: Rethinking religious offence and its containment (pp. 87?102). Routledge.
4	Lazzaretti, V. (2021). The boundary within: Demolitions, dream projects and the negotiation of Hinduness in Banaras. Spaces of Religion in Urban South Asia. Routledge. - Times Cited Web of Science®: 7 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 16
5	Lazzaretti, V. (2020). Water and conflicts around religious heritage: Oscillations between centre and periphery?. Split Waters. Framing conflicts around water and their narration. Routledge. - Times Cited Google Scholar: 3
6	Lazzaretti, V. (2020). Sacred wells of Banaras. Sacred Waters (pp. 159?167). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003010142-18 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 3
7	Lazzaretti, V. (2017). Jnanavapi tra etnografia e storia: note di una ricerca su un pozzo sacro al centro dei pellegrinaggi locali di Varanasi. Anantaratnaprabhava. Studi in onore di Giuliano Boccali. Ledizioni.

8	Lazzaretti, V. (2017). Waterscapes in transition: past and present reshape of sacred water places in Banaras. In Baghel, Ravi and Stepan, Lea (Ed.), Water, Knowledge and the Environment in Asia. Routledge. - Times Cited Google Scholar: 10
9	Lazzaretti, V. (2015). Tradition versus urban public bureaucracy? Reshaping pilgrimage routes and religious heritage around contested places. Religion and Urbanism. Routledge. - Times Cited Google Scholar: 14
10	Lazzaretti, V. (2013). Repetition and adaptation: narrative style of the Kashikedaramahatmya. Stylistic devices in Indian literature and art. Quaderni di Acme.

• Other Publications

- Recensions in journals

1	Lazzaretti, V. (2023). Review of Composing Violence: The Limits of Exposure and the Making of Minorities (2023) by Moyukh Chatterjee. Religion and Society, 14(1). https://doi.org/10.3167/arrs.2023.140115

- Other publications

1	Lazzaretti, V. (2025). Who is afraid of free-living dogs?. Unruly Dialogues,. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17266347.
2	Lazzaretti, V. (2020). Paradoxes of Heritage. Chopra, R. (ed.), Ways of Worship. Delhi: Penguin Random House India [a photographic book],.
3	Lazzaretti, V. (2020). New Monuments for a New India? Reconfiguration of Heritage Regimes in Hindu nationalist India. CATSarena, newsletter of the Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies, Heidelberg University,.

• Conferences/Workshops and Talks

- Talk

1	Lazzaretti, V. (2025). Silence, self-censorship and compromise as ordinary violence: An ethnographic portrait of a Muslim businessmen in the Hindu pilgrim economy. 28th Conference of the European Association of South Asian Studies,.
2	Lazzaretti, V., Soares, P., Mapril, J, & Blanes, R. (2024). NaMouraria: Heritage-Making, (In)securities and Urban Imaginaries in Lisbon’s Historic Centre. Workshop ‘Gentrification, heritage and diversity in the city’,.
3	Lazzaretti, V. (2024). Of Goddesses and Mosques: Heritage, Repatriation and Violence in Hindu Nationalist India. Visualizing Ancient Histories Symposium, organised by the PURANA Project (ERC, 101054849),.
4	Lazzaretti, V. (2024). The Afterlife of Repatriation: Heritage and Violence in Hindu nationalist India. Curso por estudantes do mestrado da Universidade de Zürich: 'Cultural Heritage, Identities, and Religion in a Postcolonial World',.
5	Lazzaretti, V. (2024). The Kashi Vishvanath Dham in Banaras: A tale of contorted heritage-making and insecurities in new India. ‘Religious Foundations – Recent Research on the Built Environment in South Asia ’,.

6	Lazzaretti, V. & Frøystad (2024). New Books Network Podcast on Indian Religions on 'Beyond Courtrooms and Street Violence Rethinking Religious Offence and Its Containment' (ROUTLEDGE 2022) with the editors Vera Lazzaretti and Kathinka Frøystad hosted by Raj Balkaran. New Books Network Podcast,. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10491948
7	Lazzaretti, V. (2023). Security, heritage and future-making: Exploring the nexus through ethnographic insights from urban north India. 27th ECSAS European Conference for South Asian Studies,.
8	Lazzaretti, V. (2022). Liberators and encroachers: Banaras and the shifting meanings of heritage in new India. Decolonisation seminar series of the international project 'Heritage as Placemaking: The Politics of Solidarity and Erasure in South Asia',.
9	Lazzaretti, V. (2022). The unperceived mosque: Heritage paradoxes and (in)security in Banaras. WebiNAR organised by Network for the Anthropology of Religion,.
10	Lazzaretti, V. (2022). Heritage unbounded: Destruction, construction and the ill-logics of heritage in Hindu nationalist India. 8th Congress of the Portuguese Anthropological Association,.
11	Lazzaretti, V. (2022). “Introduction to the panel 'Religion, heritage and the "post-secular age": Insights from Asia and the Middle East”. 34th Deutsche Orientalistentag (DOT),.
12	Lazzaretti, V. (2021). Keynote address: The shadow of Ayodhya in Banaras: Reflections around disruption and its reverberations. Heidelberg Indology Doctoral Symposium,.

Research Projects

Project Title	Role in Project	Partners	Period
Antarctic Living Heritage	Principal Researcher	CRIA-Iscte - Leader	2024 - 2026
Na Mouraria: Heritage-making, (in)securities and urban imaginaries in Lisbon’s historic centre	Principal Researcher	CRIA-Iscte	2023 - 2024
Security and heritage: alignments and interactions of two global leitmotivs	Global Coordinator	CRIA-Iscte - Leader	2021 - 2027

Professional Associations

Association of Critical Heritage Studies (Since 2019)
European Association of Social Anthropologists (Since 2015)
European Association of South Asian Studies (Since 2014)

Organization/Coordination of Events

Type of Organization/Coordination	Event Title	Organizer	Year
Coordination of scientific event (with scientific committee) outside of ISCTE-IUL	Panel Convenor (with Daniela Bevilacqua) Unpacking Santana Dharma: Genealogies and Potentialities of a Pliable Concept	ECSAS 2025 - University of Heidelberg	2025
Coordination of scientific event (with scientific committee) at ISCTE-IUL	South Asian Studies Circle's PhD students and Young Researchers Workshop	CEAS - Centre for Research in Anthropology	2024
Coordination of scientific event (with scientific committee) at ISCTE-IUL	Seminário CEAS Heritage preservation or religious majoritarianism? Placemaking and Affect in Janakpurdham, Nepal	Centre for Research in Anthropology (CRIA)	2024
Coordination of scientific event (with scientific committee) at ISCTE-IUL	Seminário CEAS 'Sacred Heritage': The Nation and Other Communities in Pakistan's Sufi Shrines	Centre for Research in Anthropology (CRIA)	2024
Coordination of scientific event (with scientific committee) outside of ISCTE-IUL	Organiser of the panel "Security and heritage Security and heritage in the making of urban futures: Insights from South Asia and its diasporas" at the European Conference of South Asian Studies, Turin, 26-29 July 2023.	ECSAS-University of Turin	2023
Coordination of scientific event (with scientific committee) at ISCTE-IUL	Heritage and Religion in South Asia and its Diasporas: Frictions, Entanglements and Reconfigurations	Centre for Research in Anthropology (CRIA)	2023
Coordination of scientific event (with scientific committee) at ISCTE-IUL	Heritage and Religion in South Asia and its Diasporas: Goa—Architectural After/Life	Centre for Research in Anthropology (CRIA)	2023
Member of free course/summer school's organizing committee	Lived Sanskrit Cultures in Varanasi	University of Heidelberg and University of Würzburg	Since 2022
Member of non-scientific event's organizing committee	Organisation of the panel 'Religion, heritage and the "post-secular age": Insights from Asia and the Middle East" at the 34th Deutsche Orientalistentag (DOT).		2022
Coordination of scientific event (with scientific committee) outside of ISCTE-IUL	Asian Religions and the Politics of Heritage	Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies—University of Heidelberg	2021
Member of scientific event's organizing committee	Writing Workshop of the 'Indian Cosmopolitan Alternatives' research group		2019
Member of scientific event's organizing committee	International Workshop on Containment of Religious Offence		2018
Member of scientific event's organizing committee	Organisation of the panel 'Spatial and Visual Dimensions of Pilgrimage in South Asia' at the ECSAS 24th Conference of the European Association of South Asian Studies, together with Prof. Jörg Gengnagel		2016
Member of non-scientific event's organizing committee	Organisation of the panel "Spatial and Visual Dimensions of Pilgrimage in South Asia" at the ECSAS 24th—Conference of the European Association of South Asian Studies—together with Prof. Jörg Gengnagel		2016

Diffusion Activities

Activity Type	Event Title	Activity Description	Year
Talk/Conference in public diffusion event	New Books Network Podcast on Indian Religions on 'Beyond Courtrooms and Street Violence Rethinking Religious Offence and Its Containment' (ROUTLEDGE 2022) with the editors Vera Lazzaretti and Kathinka Frøystad hosted by Raj Balkaran		2024