

VITTORIA FEOLA

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Current position

Associate Professor, Early Modern History, DiSSGeA, University of Padova, Italy.

Biography

I teach Early Modern History at the University of Padova, Italy. I earned my PhD in History from Cambridge University (2005). Previously I was Wiener-Anspach and Francqui Post-doctoral Fellow at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (2003-2008). In 2009 I joined the Medical University of Vienna on a Lise Meitner Senior Postdoc, where I became Lektorin in Early Modern History of Medicine. In 2014 I won a Gerda Henkel Stipendium at the University of Oxford, where I was Senior Visiting Research Associate at MEHRC until June 2017. Meanwhile I had joined the University of Padova in 2015 through a collaborative project on the Bartolomeo Gamba collection, which I set up with seed funding from the Mellon Foundation. I was Visiting Research Scholar at the Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art, Paris (2006); Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute of English Studies, University of London (2008); Visiting Fellow at the University of California, Rome Center (2014), Guest Professor at the Pontifical University St. Thomas, Rome (2014-2015). I have given invited lectures at Yale, Stanford, Toronto, Oxford, and Cambridge, in addition to several other European and American universities.

Research Awards and Prizes

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| 2023 | Erasmus+ Grant , 2200 EUR for a week's teaching stay at the University of Granada, Spain. |
| 2023 | Book Publication Grant , 2250 EUR from DiSSGeA for my forthcoming book <i>Martyrdom, intelligence, and national identity in Anglo-Spanish relations, 1550-1598</i> (Milan: FrancoAngeli, 2025). |
| 2022 | MINI SID Seed Funding , 7000 EUR, DiSSGeA, University of Padua, for my research project "Spies or heretics? Religion and intelligence in the state building process of Elizabethan England". |
| 2020 | Book Publication Grant , 3000 EUR, from the Excellence Award Mobility & Humanities, DiSSGeA, for my <i>Mobilità confessionale, costituzione e tolleranza. Lo spazio transatlantico inglese in età moderna</i> (Milan: FrancoAngeli, 2021) |
| 2017 | COST STSM Award for the organisation of a collaborative exhibition on the Bartolomeo Gamba Project based at the Bassano del Grappa Municipal Library with support from the Austrian National Library in Vienna, 2000 EUR. |
| 2015 | Gerda Henkel Co-Funding Grant for the Bartolomeo Gamba Project, 15,500 EUR. |
| 2015 | Vienna City Council Prize « Successful Conference Organiser » , in recognition of the importance of Scientiae Vienna 2014. |
| 2014 | Gerda Henkel Stipendium tenable at Oxford University. |

2014	Urania Trust Book Publication Grant for my edited volume <i>Antiquarianism and Science in Early Modern Urban Networks</i> (Paris : STP Blanchard, 2014) 1000 EUR.
2014	COST STSM Award for my Bartolomeo Gamba Project, a collaborative undertaking between the Universities of Oxford, Padua, the National Library of Austria, and the Bassano City Library, 2000 EUR.
2014	Medical University of Vienna Research Contract for the Bartolomeo Gamba Project, 12,000 EUR.
2014	Mellon Foundation, Cultures of Knowledge, Oxford University , £500 seed funding for the Bartolomeo Gamba Project.
2013	FWF Einzelprojekt P 26815-G18 , awarded but not funded due to federal budget cuts, 335,000 EUR for Vienna in the Republic of Letters, 1680-1740.
2011-2013	FWF Lise Meitner Senior Postdoctoral Research Fellowship.
2006-2007	Fondation Francqui Postdoctoral Research Fellowship.
2003-2005	Fondation Wiener-Anspach Predoctoral Research Fellowship.
2000-2003	Cambridge European Trust, Domestic Research Studentship covering my University and College fees.
1999-2003	Cambridge European Trust Award , partial maintenance grant.
2002	British Federation of Women Graduates Research Award £2,000.
2000-2003	2 Lightfoot Fund Research Grants , Cambridge University.
2002	New Hall Research Grant , £1,000.
2001	History Faculty, Cambridge, Research Grant.
2000	Cambridge European Trust Prize. Elected Fellow of the Cambridge European Society.

Professional Memberships

2024-	Centro per la storia delle polizie e del controllo del territorio (Cepoc), Università di Padova.
2022-	Centro Interuniversitario di Studi di Storia della Riforma protestante e dei movimenti religiosi – Network for Reformation and Religious History (ReRhis).
2022-	Renaissance Society of America member.
2021	New Hall/Murray Edwards College Representative for Italy and for 1999.
2020-	Interdepartmental Centre for the History of Medicine , University of Padova, Board Member.
2019-	Cambridge University Alumnae Mentor.
2018-	European Academy for Standardisation member, euras.org.
2017-20	President of the Executive Committee, Scientiae , scientiae.co.uk
2011-	Cambridge Centre for Material Texts.
2005-	Mensa, UK.
2002-2008	Cambridge Historical Society.
2001-2003	President of the Cambridge Association of University Women.

International Research Cooperation

2025-2028	Member of the project Del Mediterráneo al Atlántico. Circulación de agentes, discursos y prácticas de intermediación en la monarquía hispánica (siglos XVI-XVIII) , PID2023-149854NB-I00, funded by the Agencia Estatal de Ciencia e Investigación, Gobierno de España, based at the
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University of Granada.

- 2021-2023 Member of the project **L'Église: un dictionnaire critique** organised by Dominique Iogna-Prat, Alain Rauwel, Frédéric Gabriel at EHESS, EPHE, CNRS, Paris and ENS, Lyon, <https://univ-droit.fr/actualites-de-la-recherche/manifestations/20292-l-eglise-un-dictionnaire-critique>.
- 2014-2017 P.I. of the **Bartolomeo Gamba Project**, a DH project based at Cultures of Knowledge, Oxford University, the DiSSGeA, University of Padova, the Biblioteca Museo Civico, Bassano, the Biblioteca Bertoliana, Vicenza, and the Austrian National Library.
- 2014-2017 Affiliated to the **COST programme Reassembling the Republic of Letters**, www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/isch/Actions/IS1310
- 2011-2013 Affiliated to **EnBach** with a project on Drug-making in early modern Vienna.
- 2007-2013 Member of the **Oxford University Press** research group working towards the publication of the History of Oxford University Press.
- 2004-2010 Member of the French **CNRS** research group 'Savoirs locaux, réseaux scientifiques et capitales de science. Une étude comparée de Paris et Londres depuis le XVIIe jusqu'au XIXe siècle' coordinated by Stéphane Vandamme, then at Sciences-Po, Paris.

Scientific Journal and Book Editorship

- Director, *Florence Outside Florence Book Series*, Edifir (2024-)
- Editor, *Scientiae Book Series*, Amsterdam University Press (2018-).
- Guest Editor of monographic issue, *Society and Politics*, due in 2025.
- Editor, *History of Medicine Book Series*, L'Erma di Bretschneider (2017-).
- Editor, *History of British and Irish Philosophy, 1500-1800. Texts and Studies Book Series*, Mantua, Universitas Studiorum (2019-).
- Guest Editor of monographic issue, *Nuncius. Journal of the Material and Visual History of Science* (2016).
- Associate Editor, *The International Journal of the Book* (2012).

Peer Reviewing

- *Oxford University Press*, book proposals.
- *Common Ground Research Networks Journals*, articles.
- *HOPOS: The Journal of the International Society for the History and Philosophy of Science*, articles.
- *Rivista Storica Italiana*, articles.
- *Perspectives on Science*, articles.
- *The International Journal of the Book*, articles.
- *The Journal of the History of Biology*, articles.
- *Sciences et Techniques en Perspective*, articles.
- *Journal of Mediterranean Studies*, articles.
- *RIDE A Review Journal for Scholarly Digital Editions and Resources*, digital resources reviews.
- *SYNERGHEION, Rivista internazionale di studi greci. Lingue, Culture, Società*,

articles.

International Project Evaluation

- European Union, evaluation and selection of COST Action research proposals in the Open Calls 2019, 2021, 2023, 2024.
- European Union, ERC Consolidator and ERC Advanced Grant Evaluator, 2022, 2023, 2024.
- Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic, research proposal evaluator.
- Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain, UNA4CAREER proposal evaluator.

Select Publications

Books

- *Martyrdom, intelligence, and national identity in Anglo-Spanish relations, 1550-1598* (Milan: FrancoAngeli, 2025) - forthcoming.
- *Mobilità, costituzione e tolleranza nello spazio transatlantico inglese in età moderna* (Milan: Franco Angeli, 2021).
- Editor: *Early Modern Universities and the Scientiae* (Milan: Franco Angeli, 2020).
- *Elias Ashmole. The Quartercentenary Biography* (Rome: L'Erma di Bretschneider, 2017).
- Editor: *Antiquarianism and Science in Early Modern Urban Networks* (Paris: Blanchard, 2014).
- *Elias Ashmole and the Uses of Antiquity* (Paris: Blanchard, 2012).
- *Origini e sviluppi della Massoneria in età moderna* (Foggia: Bastogi, 1999).

Articles in peer-reviewed journals

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| 2025 | ‘The uses of martyrdom works in Philip II's Spain and among Elizabethan English catholics with special reference to their Roman beatification cause’, <i>Religion and Politics</i> , monographic issue titled <i>Interactions and Boundaries</i> , edited by L. Gianfrancesco and Daniele Santarelli, forthcoming. |
| 2025 | ‘Jesuit intelligence about Elizabethan England’, <i>Society and Politics</i> , monographic issue titled <i>Intelligence and Historiography</i> , edited by V. Feola and A. Savio, forthcoming. |
| 2024 | ‘Autobiografia, cattolicesimo e sovranità: il caso di Elias Ashmole (1617-1692)’, <i>Civiltà e Religioni</i> , n. 10, pp. 73-101. |
| 2021 | ‘Alchemy, medicine, and religion in Elias Ashmole's <i>Theatrum Chemicum Britannicum</i> : an unproblematic <i>ménage à trois</i> ’, <i>Civiltà e Religioni</i> VII: 87-122. |
| 2019 | ‘Talismans as automata. Jacques Gaffarel’s <i>Curiositez</i> and the mechanisation of nature in seventeenth-century France’, <i>Society and Politics</i> 13/2 (26): 61-86. |
| 2019 | ‘Early Modern Violence and Religion’, <i>The Sixteenth Century Journal</i> 50 |

- (2019): 62-68.
- 2019 'Agner Arber, historian of botany and Darwinian sceptic', *The British Journal for the History of Science* 52/3 (2019): 515-523.
- 2016 'Aspects of the Production and Circulation of Early Modern *Scientiae* : Religion, Natural Philosophy, Secrecy, and Openness', *Nuncius* 31 (2016) : 1-9.
- 2016 'Paris, Rome, Venice, and Vienna in Peter Lambeck's Network', *Nuncius* 31 (2016) : 107-128.
- 2015 'Prince Eugene of Savoy's Library. A preliminary assessment', *Rivista Storica Italiana* vol. CXXVI No. III (2015) : 742-787.
- 2012 'Elias Ashmole's collections and views about John Dee', *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part A* (3): 530-538.
- 2005 'The rediscovered library of Elias Ashmole', *Bibliotheca* 1 (2005): 259-278.

Essays in books

- 2025 'Scientific cosmopolitanism in the making. How Florentine republicans, religious exiles, and Padua University alumni contributed to the rise of an early cosmopolitan mindset in sixteenth-century Europe', in D. McOmish, M. Cosci, P. Omodeo (eds.), *Scientific Cosmopolitanism in the University Culture of Early Modern Padua* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), forthcoming.
- 2025 'The uses of German Mystical Texts in Elias Ashmole's Collections and Milieu: The Languages of Enthusiasm in Interregnum England', in Daniel J. Tolan, W.J.T. Kirby, and Douglas Hedley (eds.), *The Reception of German Mysticism in Early Modern England* (Leiden: Brill), forthcoming.
- 2023 'Rome Babylone', in *Dictionnaire de l'Église*, a cura di D. Iogna, F. Gabriel (Paris: Presses Universitaires de France).
- 2023 'La Papauté', *Dictionnaire de l'Église*, a cura di D. Iogna, F. Gabriel (Paris: Presses Universitaires de France).
- 2023 'Communication and religious mobility. A European intelligence network, 1560-1590', in *Reimagining Mobilities across the Humanities*, Vol. 1: *Theories, Methods, and Ideas*, edited by L. Biasiori, F. Mazzini, C. Rabbiosi (London: Routledge), DOI: 10.4324/9781003278672-21
- 2022 'La rivoluzione medica padovana', in G. Silvano, (ed.), *L'arte medica. La scuola padovana e la medicina in Europa e nel mondo* (Rome: Donzelli), pp. 21-28.
- 2022 'Trasmissione e diffusione del sapere medico', in G. Silvano, (ed.), *L'arte medica. La scuola padovana e la medicina in Europa e nel mondo* (Rome: Donzelli), pp. 317-330.
- 2022 'The protection of cathedrals as a means to reject confessional politics in early modern England', in Multiple Authors, *El mundo de las Catedrales. Pasado, presente y futuro. Congreso Internacional VIII Centenario Catedral de Burgos*. ISBN: 978-84-09-41429-1, available online at <https://www.congresointernacionaldecatedrales.com/> <https://www.ubu.es/> <https://www.teologiaburgos.org/>

- 2021 'La cura dei bambini nell'Europa moderna attraverso le collezioni librerie dell'Università di Padova', in F. Zacchello, G. Perilongo, G. Silvano (eds.), *La pediatria a Padova. Una storia secolare* (Rome: Laterza), pp. 56-72.
- 2020 'Riforme mediche di ispirazione patavina nella Vienna del secondo seicento', in F. Bianchi and G. Silvano (eds.), *Saggi di storia della salute. Medicina, ospedali e cura fra Medioevo ed età contemporanea* (Milan: FrancoAngeli), pp. 77-89.
- 2020 'Paduan alumni and University reforms in Austria', in V. Feola (ed.), *Early Modern Universities and the Sciences* (Milan: FrancoAngeli), pp. 167-175.
- 2018 'Astrology and Politics', in W. Burns (ed.), *Astrology through History. Interpreting the Stars from Ancient Mesopotamia to the Present* (Santa Barbara, Ca., ABC Clio Greenwood), pp. 269-273.
- 2018 'Elias Ashmole', in W. Burns (ed.), *Astrology through History. Interpreting the Stars from Ancient Mesopotamia to the Present* (Santa Barbara, Ca., ABC Clio Greenwood), pp. 34-37.
- 2018 'Antiquarian Medical Books in the 1650s', in F. Zampieri, G. Thiene, *History of medicine and pathology for the 500 years from Andreas Vesalius, 1514-1564* (Padua, CLEUP), pp. 191-211.
- 2016 'The uses of the Ancients and the Moderns: the Oxford publishing programme of ancient science, ca. 1660-1710', in P. Bullard, A. Tadié (eds.), *Ancients and Moderns in Early Modern Europe. Comparative Perspectives* (Oxford, Voltaire Foundation, Oxford University Press) pp. 19-35.
- 2013 'The Learned Press: Law', in I. Gadd (ed.), *The History of Oxford University Press, 1550-1789* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), pp. 468-477.
- 2013 Co-authored with Scott Mandelbrote, 'The Learned press: Geography, Science, and Mathematics', in I. Gadd (ed.), *The History of Oxford University Press, 1550-1789* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), pp. 317-357.
- 2011 'Botanical, Heraldic and Historical Exchanges Concerning Lillies: The Background of Jean-Jacques Chifflet's *Lilium Francicum* (1658)' in S. Dupré, C. Lüthy (eds.), *Silent Messengers. The Circulation of Material Objects of Knowledge in the Early Modern Low Countries* (Berlin: LIT), pp. 13-42.
- 2009 'Elias Ashmole's *Theatrum Chemicum Britannicum* (1652): Renaissance Medievalism and the relation antiquarianism-science' in K. Eisenbichler (ed.), *Renaissance Medievalism* (Toronto: Toronto University Press), pp 78-99.

Book reviews

- 2024 Frederick E. Smith, *Transnational Catholicism in Tudor England. Mobility, Exile, and Counter-Reformation, 1530-1580*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022, *The Sixteenth Century Journal*, pp. 483-485.
- 2024 Tessa Whitehouse and N. H. Keeble (eds.). *Textual Transformations. Purposing and Repurposing Books from Richard Baxter to Samuel Taylor Coleridge*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019, *The Sixteenth Century Journal*, pp. 954-956.
- 2021 Alexander Wragge-Morley, *Aesthetic Science. Representing Nature in the*

- Royal Society of London, 1650-1720. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2020, *Journal of British Studies* 60 (4), 981-3.
- 2018 Sarah R. Kyle, *Medicine and Humanism in Late Medieval Italy: The Carrara Herbal in Padua*. Abingdon and New York: Routledge, 2017, *The British Journal for the History of Science*, 51(1), 157-8.
- 2016 M. Hunter, *Boyle Studies: Aspects of the Life and Thought of Robert Boyle (1627–91)*. Ashgate, 2015. in *The Sixteenth Century Journal* 46(3): 1020-21
- 2014 G. Mahlberg, D. Wiemann (eds.), *European Contexts for English Republicanism*, in *The Sixteenth Century Journal* 45 (4) : 1024-5.
- 2014 C. Bowden (ed.), *The English Convents in Exile, 1600-1800. Communities, Culture and Identity*, in *The Sixteenth Century Journal* 45 (4) : 1020-2.
- 2014 B. Wooding, *John Lowin and the English Theatre, 1603-1647 : Acting and Cultural Politics on the Jacobean and Caroline Stage*, in *The Sixteenth Century Journal* 45 (3) : 711-12.
- 2014 G. Warkentin, J.L. Black, W.R. Bowen (eds.) *The Library of the Sidneys of Penshurst Place Circa 1665*, in *The Sixteenth Century Journal* 45 (3) : 837-8.
- 2013 S. Trigg, *Shame and Honor. A Vulgar History of the Order of the Garter*, in *The Sixteenth Century Journal* 44 (3) : 913-14.
- 2013 J. Spurr (ed.), *Anthony Ashley Cooper, First Earl of Shaftesbury 1621-1683*, in *The Sixteenth Century Journal* 44(1): 136-7.
- 2012 H. Gerber, *State and Society in the Ottoman Empire*, in *The Sixteenth Century Journal* 43(4): 1127-8.
- 2012 A. Yamada, *Secrets of the printed page*, in: *The Sixteenth Century Journal* 43(1): 146.
- 2012 Review of digital resource, Howard Hotson, *Cultures of Knowledge: An Intellectual geography of the Seventeenth-Century Republic of Letters*, Oxford University, in *Reviews in History*, University of London, URL://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/review/1316; ISSN 1749-8155.
- 2011 A. Cunningham, *The Anatomist Anatomis'd: An Experimental Discipline in Enlightenment Europe*, in: *The Sixteenth Century Journal* 42(3): 783.
- 2009 A. Hessayon, “‘Gold tried in the fire’. The prophet TheauraJohn Tany and the English revolution (London, 2007)”, *The Sixteenth Century Journal* (40):451-3.
- 2009 G. Maxwell-Stuart, “The Chemical Choir. A History of Alchemy” (London, 2008), *Reviews In History*. <http://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/review/788>.

Select Invited Lectures

- 24 May 2024 Universidad Complutense de Madrid, The Religion in Society Common Ground Yearly Conference, ‘Heretics, spies, or just useful idiots? Confessional mobility in Anglo-Spanish relations, 1570-90’.
- 24 May 2023 McGill University, Montréal (Canada), German mysticism in seventeenth-

- century England International Conference, 'German mystical texts in Elias Ashmole's collections: the French connection'.
- 11 November 2022 Needham Research Institute, University of Cambridge, 'Some challenges in teaching early modern Chinese history'.
- 12 July 2022 Centre for the Study of Medicine and the Body in the Renaissance, Pisa, 'Intelligence and medicine in Francesco Pucci's network. Digging deep into John Dee's spying and scrying'.
- 23 April 2021 University of Urbino, 'The English transmutation of Padua University physicians into alchemists'.
- 23 January 2017 Voltaire Foundation, Oxford University, Besterman lecture on 'Redefining Enlightenment: Eugene of Savoy's test case against the radical Enlightenment'.
- 8 December 2012 Stanford University 'The role of the Imperial Library, Vienna, in the Republic of Letters through the case study of Peter Lambeck's papers'.
- 28 November 2007 Institut des Hautes Etudes de Belgique, Brussels, 'Networks of antiquaries and amateur scientists between England, France, and the Spanish Netherlands in the mid-seventeenth century' (public lecture).
- 13 December 2006 Goldsmiths, University of London, 'Antiquarian medical books in the 1650s'.
- 7 February 2006 Museum for the History of Science, Oxford, 'New light on Elias Ashmole' (public lecture).
- 28 April 2005 Yale University, Faculty of Oriental Studies, 'The importance of Orientalism in the antiquarian and scientific pursuits of Elias Ashmole and his milieu'.

Exhibition Organisation

- 2017 The Bartolomeo Gamba Project, Biblioteca Museo Civico, Bassano del Grappa.

Conference organisation

- 2022 **Liaison Officer for Europe**, Scientiae: Disciplines of Knowing in the Early Modern Worlds, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.
- 2017 **Liason Officer** for Scientiae: Disciplines of Knowing in the Early Modern Worlds, Padua.
- 2014 **Convenor**, Scientiae: Disciplines of Knowing in the Early Modern Worlds, Vienna, scientiae.co.uk/?page_id=32. Co-operating partners are the Medical University of Vienna and the University of Vienna.
- 2007 **Convenor**, 'Political and scientific networks among towns in England, France and the Southern Low Countries, ca. 1580-1700', Université libre de Bruxelles.
<http://homepages.ulb.ac.be/~vfeola/programme.pdf>.

Select Media coverage

- 2022 **Live TV commentator, TV7 Match, Queen Elizabeth II, the British Empire and its colonies**, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tmcbhk8WHM>
- 2021 **Interview, Istituto Liberale, Winston Churchill: liberale o conservatore?**, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4DIpvdxpKQ>
- 2021 **Science History Institute, Philadelphia Lightning Talk, Falloppia and Padua.**
- 2021 **Rai Cultura Documentary on Parmigianino.**
- 2020 **Interview, Feminine Leadership, www.dire.it/07-06-2020/470125-binetti-la-leadership-femminile/**
- 2020 **Interview, Bo Live, L'Inghilterra e il suo burrascoso rapporto con l'Europa**, <https://ilbolive.unipd.it/it/news/inghilterra-brexiteuropa-storia>
- 2019 **Interview, Bo Live, "Medicina a Padova nei secoli: Adrian van den Spiegel, autore di bestseller"**, <https://ilbolive.unipd.it/index.php/it/news/medicina-padova-nei-secoli-adrian-van-den-spiegel>
- 2017 **5-episode documentary and interview in English and German on « Peter Lambeck. A European career»**, https://lisa.gerda-henkel-stiftung.de/eine_europaeische_karriere_paris?nav_id=6176
- 2012 **Live Oxford University Talk, 'The Viennese Imperial Library in the Republic of Letters, particularly in the period 1630-80'**, vimeo.com/35263146.
- 2011 **Interview to Der Standard, 'Der Social Networker im Dienste des Kaisers'** : www.derstandard.at/1318726180324
- Several **press releases** about my research project on Peter Lambeck, among which:
- www.myscience.de/news/.../social_networking_bei_den_habsburgern
 - www.science20.com/news.../how_they_networked_1600s-83659
 - www.global-letter.com/suche-8.html?st=3...Networking.