



Valentina Asnaghi

Nationality: Italian **Date of birth**

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Work: University of Genoa - DISTAV Corso Europa, 26, 16132 Genoa (Italy)

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Genoa - DISTAV – Genoa, Italy

City: Genoa | **Country:** Italy

Researcher (RTD-B) in Ecology (SSD BIO/07 - GSD 05/BIOS-05 - ECOLOGIA)

[01/03/2023 – Current]

Main research fields: study of the structure, dynamics and functioning of benthic ecosystems, in the scenario of human induces local (coastal urbanization, habitat fragmentation) and global changes (global warming, ocean acidification); conservation and restoration of priority species (*i.e.* macroalgal forest of the genus *Cystoseira sensu lato*, the molluscs *Patella ferruginea* and *Pinna nobilis*; the sea urchin *Paracentrotus lividus*); blue and circular economy involving macroalgae and marine invertebrates in virtuous circuits in order to transform wastes in resources; proliferation of the toxic benthic microalga *Ostreopsis ovata* and its bloom dynamics in temperate areas, investigated both in an ecological, eco-toxicological, management and modellistic approach.

Main activities: planning and management of experimental activities within European projects; data processing and analysis; dissemination, writing of scientific reports and papers; teaching class of Quantitative Ecology (6 CFU) and Restoration Ecology (2 CFU) for student of the master's degree in Marine Biology and Ecology and class of Marine Biodiversity Management (5 CFU) for Environmental Engineering; bachelor, master and PhD students tutoring.

University of Genoa - DISTAV – Genoa, Italy

City: Genoa | **Country:** Italy

Researcher (RTD-A) in Ecology (SSD BIO/07)

[30/12/2019 – 28/02/2023]

Main activities: planning and management of experimental activities within European projects; data processing and analysis; dissemination, writing of scientific reports and papers; teaching (class of Quantitative Ecology (6CFU) and Restoration Ecology (2CFU) for student of the master's degree in Marine Biology and Ecology); students tutoring.

University of Genoa - DISTAV – Genoa, Italy

City: Genoa | **Country:** Italy

Post-doctoral fellow

[31/12/2011 – 25/12/2018]

Research titles: "Biodiversity and connectivity in the resilience of marine benthic communities" - "Restoration of *Patella ferruginea* populations in Ligurian Marine Protected Areas" - "Conservation and restoration of priority species threatened by anthropogenic action within Natura 2000 sites and Marine Protected Areas: the gastropod mollusc *Patella ferruginea* and the structuring macroalgae of the genus *Cystoseira*".

Main activities: planning and organization of experimental activities within European projects; data processing and analysis; dissemination, writing of scientific reports and articles.

ARPA Lombardia – Milan, Italy

City: Milan | **Country:** Italy

Biologist technician

[26/12/2018 – 29/12/2019]

Main activities: technical evaluations, monitoring and controls at U.O. Sustainable Uses of Waters regarding the use of surface waters in order to guarantee the health of the ecosystems, the respect of the minimum vital flow and ecological quality for a sustainable use of natural resources.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

European PhD in Environmental Science – Marine Science

University of Genoa (Italy) in co-direction with University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis (France) [31/12/2008 – 14/03/2012]

Address: Corso Europa, 26, 16132 Genoa (Italy)

Master of Science in Biology (Bioecological curriculum)

University of Milano Bicocca [2004 – 2007]

First level Master: "Scientific Representative of Nature. Marine environments: Mediterranean and tropics"

University of Milano Bicocca [31/12/2004 – 30/12/2005]

Professional qualification in Biology – State Examinations

University of Milan [2006]

HONOURS AND AWARDS

[2018] Ministry of University and Research

National qualification to academic professorship in Ecology (Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale a professore di II fascia in Ecologia)

[2013] FNRS (Fonds De La Recherche Scientifique)

Fellowship as visiting researcher at Brussels University

[2011] Franco-Italian University

Fellowship for PhD students, "Bando Vinci 2010"

[2009] MAREVIVO Onlus

Grant "Mare Vivo – 10 anni AMP Portofino" for valuable Master thesis

TEACHING & TUTORING ACTIVITIES

[2022 – Current]

Lecturer of “Marine Biodiversity Management” for Master students in Environmental Engineering - University of Genoa/ DISTAV (Italy)

PhD school in Marine Science and Technology - University of Genoa (Italy)

[2019 – Current]

Lecturer of “Quantitative Ecology” for Master students in Marine biology and ecology - University of Genoa/ DISTAV (Italy)

University of Genoa/ DISTAV, University of Milano and University of Milano – Bicocca (Italy)

[2019 – Current]

Lecturer of the course “Basics of applied statistics and probability” for PhD students in Science & Technology for Earth and Environment - University of Genoa (Italy)

Seminar on “Marine restoration” and “Marine coastal ecosystem”

[2020 – Current]

Lecturer of “Restoration Ecology” for Master students in Marine biology and ecology - University of Genoa/ DISTAV (Italy)

IMC, International Marine Center (Torregrande, Oristano, Italy)

[2019 – Current]

Tutor of two PhD students

“Analysis of environmental data” (with the use of the software R) for Bachelor, Master and PhD students in Biology and Environmental science - University of Genoa/ DISTAV (Italy)

[2008 – 2021]

Tutor of more than 30 students for internships and bachelor/master thesis in the framework of marine ecology

[2017 – 2019]

Invited lecturer for the class “Communities and Ecosystems” for Master students – University of Milan (Italy)

[2016]

Lecturer Workshop “Exploration and data analysis with R”

[2012 – 2018]

Teaching assistant

NETWORKS AND MEMBERSHIPS

[2012 – Current]

Member of the Italian Society of Ecology – SitE

[2014 – Current]

Member of the Italian Society of Marine Biology - SIBM

[2014 – Current]

Member of the phycological group of the Italian Society of Botany - SBI

[2013 – Current]

Collaboration with the Regional Environmental Agency (ARPAL) and the enterprises, DHL and OnAir on modelling toxic microalgal blooms along the Ligurian coast

[2013 – Current]

Partecipazione to the working group “Management of the coastal zone – Ostreopsis issue” al (Gestione Integrata della Zona Costiera, Problematica Ostreopsis) in the framework of the RAMOGE Agreement (Italy, France, Principality of Monaco)

RESEARCH ABROAD

[2017]

Leibniz-Forschungsinstitut für Molekulare Pharmakologie im Forschungsverbund (FMP) - Berlin (Germany)

One month at FMP collaborating with Dr. Martin Neuwander in the framework of the project “Seaweeds for Human and Environmental health (SHE)”

[2012]

Marine Biology Lab of Brussels University, Belgium

One month working on biomechanical properties of sea urchin in collaboration with the group of Prof. Philippe Dubois

[2011]

NIWA – Hamilton (New Zealand)

One month at NIWA facilities collaborating with the research group of Prof. Simon Thrush in the framework of BIOCONNECTENCE project

[2010]

Observatoire Océanologique de Villefranche-sur-Mer (CNRS - Université Pierre et Marie Curie), France

10 months collaborating with the research group of Prof. Jean-Pierre Gattuso on ocean acidification experimtns

PROJECTS

[2020 – Current]

LIFE PINNA - Conservation and re-stocking of the Pinna nobilis in the western Mediterranean and Adriatic sea

funded by LIFE Programme (LIFE20 NAT/IT/001122)

[2022 – Current]

REEForest LIFE - Restoration of Cystoseira macroalgal FORESTs to enhance biodiversity along Mediterranean rocky REEFs

LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-NATURE Proposal number: 101074309

[2023 – Current]

NOVAFOODIES - Demonstration of innovative functional food production systems based on a sustainable value chain of marine and freshwater raw materials for conscientious European consumers (Project Number: 101084180)

funded by HORIZON-CL6-2022-FARM2FORK

[2023 – Current]

Under-Pressure - Sea urchins Under human-driven environmental Pressure

PRIN: PROGETTI DI RICERCA DI RILEVANTE INTERESSE NAZIONALE – Bando 2022

Prot. 20225A57FM

[2023 – Current]

OCEAN CITIZEN - Marine forest coastal restoration: an underwater gardening socio-ecological plan (Project Number: 101093910)

funded by HORIZON-MISS-2021-OCEAN-02

[2024 – Current]

Liguria Tourism - Regional Development of Western Liguria

funded by the European Union through DG reform

[03/10/2021 – Current]

SEAWHEAT - "Tomorrow's wheat of the sea: Ulva, a model for innovative mariculture "

funded by EU COST (CA20106)

[2019 – 2024]

BRITES - "BRITEs- Byproduct Recycling: Innovative TEchnology from the Sea"

PRIN: PROGETTI DI RICERCA DI RILEVANTE INTERESSE NAZIONALE – Bando 2017

Prot. 2017FNZPNN

[2016 – 2021]

ROC-POP-LIFE, "Promoting biodiversity enhancement by Restoration Of Cystoseira POPulations"

funded by LIFE Programme (LIFE16 NAT/IT/000816)

[2015 – 2020]

RE-LIFE - "Re-establishment of the Ribbed Limpet (Patella ferruginea) in Ligurian MPAs by Restocking and Controlled Reproduction"

funded by LIFE Programme (LIFE15 NAT/IT/000771)

[31/05/2021 – 29/11/2021]

Blu di Genova

funded by Fondazione Carige, in the framework of the project "Genova Blue District" - Blue New Deal between volunteering and innovation of Genoa Municipality

[2013 – 2016]

ACAB - "Effects of acidification on Antarctic benthos"

funded by PNRA (2013/AZ1.03)

[2013 – 2015]

IMPAQUA - "Platform for monitoring and forecasting aquatic impacts"

funded by Regione Liguria (POR)

[2013 – 2015]

RESURCH - "Research & technological development to improve economic profitability and environmental Sustainability of sea Urchin farming"

funded by FP7- SME-2013-1

[2012 – 2015]

OVmeter – “Ostreopsis ovata meter”

funded by Regione Liguria on European funds (PAR-FAS 2007-2013)

[2011 – 2016]

CoCoNET – “Towards COast to COast NETWORKS of marine protected areas (from the shore to the high and deep sea), coupled with sea-based wind energy potential”

FP7- OCEAN.2011-4

[2007 – 2012]

EPOCA – “European Project on Ocean Acidification”

funded by EU FP7 Programme

[2007 – 2010]

BIOCONNECTENCE

funded by FP7-Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowship (Prof. Simon Thrush)

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

[2016] Florence, Italy

Invited speaker at BioDiv conference- “Biodiversity and urbanization: the big challenge”

[03/06/2013 – 05/06/2013] Plymouth, UK

Invitation to the Workshop “Ocean acidification and key marine photosynthesisers (marine algae and seagrasses)” organised by Marine Biological Association,

[29/08/2016 – 01/09/2016] Milan, Italy

Organization of the “Biodiversity and ecological functioning” session at SiTE-UZI-SIB conference

Rome, September 2015; Trieste, June 2016; Palermo, May 2017; Genova, May 2018

Organization of the annual SiTE-AIOL Meeting for PhD students in ecology and aquatic systems

Participation as speaker at more than 30 congresses/conferences

National (e.g., Congresses of the Italian Society of Ecology, Congresses of the Italian Society of Marine Biology) and international scientific conferences (e.g., International Temperate Reef Symposium, World Conference on Marine Biodiversity, International Echinoderm Conference, International Symposium on the Ocean in a High-CO2 World)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): Italian

Other language(s):

English

LISTENING B2 **READING** C1 **WRITING** B2

SPOKEN PRODUCTION C1 **SPOKEN INTERACTION** B2

French

LISTENING B1 **READING** B1 **WRITING** A2

SPOKEN PRODUCTION A2 **SPOKEN INTERACTION** B1

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

SKILLS

Microsoft Teams / Software R / PRIMER-e / Google tools (Gmail Drive Google forms etc) / Microsoft Office: proficient user of Word, Excel and Powerpoint / Experience in video conferencing (Zoom, Skype)

DRIVING LICENCE

Driving Licence: B

PUBLICATIONS

I am the author of 51 publications on ISI peer-reviewed journals. Overall, my publications got 2060 citations and my h-index is 26 (Scopus, 22/06/25)

MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Project leader of the project UNDER PRESSURE - Sea urchins Under human-driven environmental Pressure (Project Number: 20225A57FM)

2023-2025

funded by PRIN 2022

Project leader of the project "RESTART - RESToration of marine forest on ARTificial reefs"

2022-2024

funded by the European Union - NextGeneration EU

Principal investigator for the University of Genoa of the project REEForest - Restoration of Cystoseira macroalgal FORESTs to enhance biodiversity along Mediterranean rocky REEFs (Project Number: LIFE21 NAT/IT/101074309)

2022-2026

funded by LIFE programme

Task leader in the context of the Spoke 2 of the National Biodiversity Future Center

2022-2025

funded from the European Union – NextGenerationEU through the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), Mission 4 Component 2 Investment 1.4 (CN00000033)

Project leader of the project "Seaweeds for Human and Environmental health (SHE)" N. 4995

2019

funded by EMBRIC Programme

Co-coordinator (for CoNISMa) and WP leader of the project M3-HABs "Risk Monitoring, Modeling and Mitigation of Benthic Harmful Algal Blooms along Mediterranean coasts"

2014-2015

funded by ENPI-CBCMED Programme