

Joseph John Viscomi Jr. / Curriculum Vitae

Department of History, Classics and Archaeology

Birkbeck, University of London

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EDUCATION

- 2021 Fellow, Higher Education Academy, UK.
- 2016 Ph.D. Anthropology and History, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- 2007 M.A. Anthropology and Sociology, The American University in Cairo, Egypt.
- 2005 B.S. Anthropology and Cultural History, Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- Present* Lecturer (assistant professor) in European History, Department of History, Classics and Archaeology, Birkbeck, University of London
- 2017-2021 Affiliated Researcher, *Crosslocations: Rethinking relative location in the Mediterranean* (ERC Advanced Grant No.694482, University of Helsinki)
- 2017-2018 Faculty Fellow, Center for European and Mediterranean Studies, NYU
- 2017 (spring) Lecturer: Dept. of Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- 2016 (autumn) Lecturer: Program in International and Comparative Studies & Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, UM, Ann Arbor

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, and AWARDS

- 2022 Engaged Faculty Research Fellowship, OSUN (\$9000)
- 2020 Experimental Humanities Collaborative Network (teaching dev., £500)
- 2019 ERC/University of Helsinki research grant (£75,000 -- *declined*)
- 2019 SSHP Research Funding, Birkbeck, University of London (£2000)
- 2019 Cesare Barbieri Research Grant in Modern Italian History (\$3750)
- 2017 Junior Research Fellowship, Durham University, UK (*declined*)
- 2015-2016 Fellow in Contemporary History, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa (€22000)
- 2015-2016 Mellon-Council for European Studies Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$25000)
- 2014-2015 Rome Prize in Modern Italian Studies, American Academy in Rome (\$29000)
- 2014-2015 Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Michigan (\$14000)
- 2013-2014 Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies Graduate Student Fellow, UM (\$7000)
- 2012-2013 Rackham Humanities Research Fellowship, UM (\$18160)
- 2012 (summer) Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, UM (\$4000)
- 2011-2012 Fulbright IIE, Italy (attached to Università degli studi di Bergamo) (€13800)
- 2011-2012 Rackham International Research Award, UM (\$4500)
- 2010 Jean Monnet Graduate Fellowship, Center for European Studies, UM (\$5000)
- 2009-2010 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) for Arabic
- 2009 (summer) International Institute Individual Fellowship, UM (\$3000)
- 2008-2009 Regents Fellowship, Rackham Graduate School, UM
- 2006-2007 American University in Cairo Merit Fellowship
- 2005-2006 American University in Cairo University Fellowship

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Mediterranean Futures: Temporality and the Politics of Migration between Italy and Egypt
(Under Review with Cambridge University Press).

Edited collection:

With Carl Rommel, [Locating the Mediterranean: Connections and Separations across Space and Time](#) (Helsinki University Press, 2022).

Peer-reviewed Articles & Book Chapters:

With Carl Rommel, "Introduction : Locating the Mediterranean," in C. Rommel and J. Viscomi (eds), *Locating the Mediterranean: Connections and Separations across Space and Time* (Helsinki University Press, 2022): 1-30.

"1874 : La diplomatie migratoire italienne en Égypte," *Diasporas: Circulations, migrations, histoire*, 40. Forthcoming, Special issue to mark 20th anniversary of journal. (1700 words).

"In the Shadow of the State: Italian strategies of distance in Egypt after 1945," *Diasporas: Circulations, migrations, histoire*. Forthcoming. (10,000 words).

With Annalaura Turiano, "Delegazione apostolica, internati italiani e carità transnazionale in Egitto (1939-1945)," *Les Mélanges de l'École française de Rome – Italie et Méditerranée modernes et contemporaines (MEFRIM)*, special issue edited by M. Levant and N. Valbousquet on 'Humanitaire, Église et diplomatie religieuse : Renouveau historiographique et enjeux des archives Pie XII.' Forthcoming. (10,000 words).

"Leaving Egypt: Rethinking 1956 through Italian departures," in Barbara Curli (ed), *Italy and the Suez Canal, from the Mid-nineteenth Century to the Cold War: A Mediterranean History* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022).

["Pontremoli's Cry: Personhood, scale, and history in the Eastern Mediterranean," *History & Anthropology*, 31, 1 \(2020\): 43-65.](#) (10,000 words)

*Awarded 'Article of Month' for March 2021 by [The Mediterranean Seminar](#).

* Republished in Naor Ben-Yehoyada and Paul Silverstein (eds), *The Mediterranean Redux: Ethnography, Theory, Politics* (Routledge, 2022).

["Mediterranean Futures: Historical Time and the Departure of Italians from Egypt, 1919-1937," *The Journal of Modern History*, 91 \(June 2019\): 341-379.](#) (18,788 words).

"Un'integrazione fallita? La partenza degli italiani dall'Egitto nel secondo dopoguerra," *Archivio storico dell'emigrazione italiana*, 14 (2018): 83-95. (7,500 words).

With Annalaura Turiano, ["From immigrants to emigrants: Salesian education and the failed integration of Italians in Egypt, 1937-1960," *Modern Italy*, 23, 1 \(2018\): 1-17.](#) (8,000 words).

Book reviews:

2022 Review of Claudio Fogu, *The Fishing Net and the Spider Web: Mediterranean Imaginaries and the Making of Italians* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020), *The Mediterranean Seminar Book Reviews* (forthcoming).

2022 Review of Angelos Dalachanis, *The Greek Exodus from Egypt: Diaspora Politics and Emigration, 1937-1962* (NY: Berghahn, 2017) and Alexander Kitroeff, *The Greeks and the Making of Modern Egypt* (Cairo: AUC Press, 2019), *Historiein*. 21, 1 (forthcoming).

- 2021 “On Perspective and Possibility in Mediterranean History,” Roundtable discussion of K. Zanou, *Transnational Patriotism in the Mediterranean, 1800-1850* (Oxford, 2018), *The Historical Journal*.
- 2020 Review of Andrea Giardina (ed), *Storia mondiale dell’Italia* (Laterza, 2018), *Annali Rec. Online*, III, 1.
- 2019 Review of Teresa Fiore, *Pre-Occupied Spaces: Remapping Italy's Transnational Migrations and Colonial Legacies* (Fordham, 2017), H-Italy, H-Net Reviews.
- 2017 Review of Odile Moreau & Stuart Schaar (eds), *Subversives and Mavericks in the Muslim Mediterranean: A Subaltern History* (Austin, 2016). *Mediterranean Review*, 10, 1.

Other publications:

[“Burning landscapes in Calabria.”](#) blog entry for [Emptiness](#) ERC-funded project.

“Between Italy and Egypt: Migrating Histories and Political Genealogies,” *Cairo Papers in Social Science*, 35, 2 (2019). (6,000 words).

“A Tale of Two States: On Italo-Egyptian Political ‘Friendship’,” *Perspectives on Europe*, 46 (2016): 57-62.

“The Farthest Place: Social Boundaries in an Egyptian Desert Community,” *Cairo Papers in Social Science*, 30, 2 (2010).

In Progress:

Book: *Depopulating Calabria: Environmental Histories of Migration* (for OUP)

Book: *Departures: Migration, Family, and the Myth of Progress*.

Edited volume: *Oxford Handbook of Modern Mediterranean History* (edited with Manuel Borutta, Malte Fuhrmann, Nora Lafi, & Esther Moller)

Article: “Archives of Depopulation,” (in preparation for *Quaderni Storici*)

Article: “Beyond nostalgia: Remembering political membership in the Mediterranean,” (in preparation for *History and Memory*)

PANELS, ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS, & CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

- 2022 Roundtable organiser, “Italian colonialism and decolonisation: Where are we today?” **IHR Modern Italian History Seminar, London.**
- 2022 Panel organiser, “Depopulating Landscapes: Migration, Environment and Modernity in Mediterranean Europe,” European Society for Environmental History Annual Conference. **University of Bristol.**
- 2021 Roundtable organiser, “Ernesto de Martino, Decolonisation, and Translation.” **ASMI/Italian Institute of Culture London.**
- 2021 Roundtable organiser, “Decolonising archives, decolonising history: A roundtable conversation.” **Birkbeck/AUC/Pretoria. Online.**
- 2020 Conference co-organiser (with Fernanda Gallo), *Italian Mediterranean(s), 1800-present*, annual conference of the Association for the Study of Modern Italy (**ASMI**), **London.**

- 2020 [accepted, conference cancelled due to covid-19], Organizer, “Depopulating Landscapes: Migration, Environment, and Modernity in Mediterranean Europe,” **27th International Conference of Europeanists**, CES, Iceland.
- 2019 Event organiser, “Retracing Mediterranean Locations.” Conversation with Sarah Green (University of Helsinki). **Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities**, London.
- 2018 Panel organiser, "Locating the Mediterranean: Connections and Separations across Space and Time," **European Association of Social Anthropology** annual conference, Stockholm.
- 2017 Conference co-organiser (with Larry Wolff), *Crisis of Mediterranean Migration conference*. NYU.
- 2015 Panel Organiser, “Negotiating Community.” **2015 Social Science History Conference**.

INVITED TALKS

- 2023 “Temporality and Departure in the Mediterranean,” Cambridge Modern European Research Seminar. **Pembroke College, University of Cambridge**. (planned for February).
- 2022 “Mediterranean Futures?” and “Environment/s,” *Modern Mediterranean: Dynamics of a World Region* (meeting of DFG Research Network), **Berlin**. (planned for October).
- 2022 “Landscapes of Migration in the Mediterranean.” Humanities Society at Wolfson College, **University of Cambridge, UK**. (planned for November).
- 2022 Discussion of two recent publications by Vito Teti (with Vito Teti and Silvana Iannelli). **Biblioteca calabrese**. Soriano Calabro, Vibo Valentia.
- 2021 “Migrazioni, incendi e la politica dello spopolamento [Migrations, fires, and the politics of depopulation],” with Vito Teti (Università della Calabria), **San Nicola da Crissa, Calabria**.
- 2021 “Weaponizing the Past: A conversation on Race, Religion, Migration and the Rise of the Far Right in the Contemporary Mediterranean,” with Alejandro García Sanjuán (University of Huelva), Mediterranean Displacements Project, **Rutgers University-Newark**.
- 2021 Workshop on *Diffracting the Mediterranean: Rethinking infrastructural relations beyond human scale*. **Orient Institute Beirut, Lebanon**.
- 2021 Roundtable on *Diversity and Decolonization in Italian Studies*. Hosted by **Dartmouth College, Brigham Young University, University of British Columbia, and Stony Brook University**.
- 2020 “Decolonising Community: Extraterritoriality, Historical Time, and the Departure of Italians from Egypt,” Mediterranean Displacements Project, **Rutgers University – Newark**.
- 2020 (postponed) “The Horizon of Departure: Uncertainty in the Postwar Mediterranean,” The Modern Mediterranean Seminar, **University of Konstanz, Germany**.
- 2020 (postponed) “Migrating Histories: Political Claims North and South of the Mediterranean” and “Narratives of Migration: Politics, Strategies, Experiences,” *Migrations in the Mediterranean: Analysing Human Mobility Trends to Inform Innovative Policy Development*, **EUI**.
- 2019 Discussion of *Transnational Patriotism in the Mediterranean* (Konstantina Zanou, OUP Press), **Institute of Historical Research, London**.

- 2019 “Disentangling the Mediterranean? Decolonisation and the Departure of Italians from Egypt,” Rethinking Modern Europe Seminar, **Institute of Historical Research, London.**
- 2019 “Between Italy and Egypt: Decolonising the Mediterranean,” Migration and the European City, **Italian-German Historical Institute, Trento.**
- 2019 Discussion of *Re-Mapping Centre and Periphery: Asymmetrical Encounters in European and Global Contexts* (UCL Press, 2019), **Institute of Advanced Study, UCL.**
- 2019 "The Geopolitics of Uncertainty: Italy and Egypt from 1943-1953," **SOAS Middle East Seminar.**
- 2018 Roundtable discussion of *Storia mondiale dell'Italia* (with Maria Pia Donato, Serena Ferrente, and Giorgio Riello), **Institute of Historical Research, London.**
- 2018 “Italian North Africa: Migrants, Empire, and Nation” and “Calabria Abandoned,” *Italian Diaspora Studies workshop*, Università di Calabria, Cosenza. [lectures for Italian Diaspora Studies Summer Seminar].
- 2018 *An Alexandrian Quartet*, **Museum of Art and Design, NY** (organized by American Academy in Rome; with André Aciman, Craig Dykers and Elaine Molinar).
- 2017 “Criminals, migrants, and spies in the mid-twentieth century Italian Mediterranean,” **The Italian and Mediterranean Colloquium, Columbia University.**
- 2017 “Studying the Modern Mediterranean,” **World History and Literature Workshop, UM.**
- 2017 “Migrating Histories: Political Genealogies of Italy and Egypt,” International Migration in the Mediterranean Basin in the Second Decade of the 21st Century, 24th Annual Symposium: Cairo Papers in Social Science, **American University in Cairo.**
- 2015 Discussant, **A World in Flux. Studying Migration, Refugees, and Settlement Regimes from the Middle East and Beyond** (MUBIT Doctoral Seminar). Basel, Switzerland.
- 2014 *Mediterraneanist Roundtable*, **American Anthropology Association Annual Conference.**
- 2014 *An Alexandria Quartet at the American Academy in Rome.* With André Aciman (CUNY), Craig Dykers and Elaine Molinar (Snøhetta). **American Academy in Rome.**
- 2013 “Traces of the Past: italiani d’Egitto in the twentieth-century Mediterranean,” **L’Atelier d’Alexandrie, Alexandria, Egypt.**
- 2012 “Gli italiani d’Egitto, dal 1947 fino ad oggi,” with Professor Marta Petricioli (Università di Firenze). **Transiti, Memorie, Sguardi sull’Africa Mediterranea, La Sapienza, Roma.**

CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PAPERS

- 2022 “Archives and material histories of depopulation in Southern Italy,” **European Association of Social Anthropology** annual conference, Belfast (planned for July).
- 2019 "Between Italy and Egypt: Decolonising the Mediterranean, 1946-1961," **Italy and the Suez Canal. A global history, from the mid-19th century to the present**, Torino.

- 2016 “Mediterranean Returns: Remembering the Departure of Italians from Egypt,” Panel: Toward an Anthropology of Return (Mikaela Rogozen-Soltar & Charles McDonald). **Annual Meeting of the American Anthropology Association**, Minneapolis.
- 2016 “The Politics of Confinement: The Internment of Italian Civilians in Fayed (Egypt) during the Second World War,” **Italy’s Decade of War in International Perspective**. UK. (accepted).
- 2016 “Making the Modern Mediterranean: Political ‘Friendship’ and the Italians of Egypt,” **Transnational Italies: Mobility, Subjectivities and Modern Italian Cultures**. Rome.
- 2016 “Time Machine: History of the Present in the Italian Elderly Home of Alexandria, Egypt,” **23rd International Conference of Europeanists, Philadelphia**.
- 2015 With Annalaura Turiano, “From Immigrants to Emigrants: Educating the Italian Diaspora in Egypt (1937-1960),” **Educating Italy (1796-1968 ca): Local, national and global perspectives**. Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Modern Italy. London.
- 2015 “Fuori tempo/Out of time: Anticipation and the Departure of Italians from Egypt,” **1st International Conference on Anticipation**.
- 2015 “Il Grido di Pontremoli: a microhistory of an Italian Jew in the Eastern Mediterranean,” **Italian Jews in Context: Relations, Exchanges, Networks, CUNY/Columbia University**.
- 2013 “Remembering Alexandria: italiani d’Egitto, Repatriation, and Disaccord with the Past,” **Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference**. New Orleans, LA.
- 2013 “Pragmatic Cosmopolitanism: the Dispersion and Repatriation of Italians from Alexandria, Egypt,” **Le(s) Cosmopolitisme(s) dans l’Égypte moderne et contemporaine: pour une approche historique d’un objet polémique**. Aix-Marseille Université.
- 2011 Discussant for “movement” panel at **Mediterranean Topographies: Comparative and Interdisciplinary Approaches to Mediterranean Studies**. University of Michigan.
- 2010 “Memory, Narrative, and Emigration in an Egyptian Village,” **Michigan Social Theory Conference, University of Michigan**.
- 2010 “Overlapping Mediterraneans: The Sea Imagined and the Sea Traveled,” **17th International Conference of Europeanists, Montreal**.

RESEARCH NETWORK PARTICIPATION (invited)

1922 project, **École française d’Athenes** (led by Angelos Dalachanis, CNRS Paris & Alex Rappas, Koç University, Istanbul)

GlobalMed. The Mediterranean and the World from Prehistory until Today: Interdisciplinary and international approaches. **Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l’Homme, Aix-Marseille Université**.

TEACHING

Dept. of History, Classics and Archaeology at Birkbeck, University of London:

Archives and Memory [MA]

The Modern Mediterranean: From Colonial Sea to Environmental Crisis [MA]

Decolonising History / Histories of Decolonisation [MA, with H. Sapire]
European History Seminar [MA]
Italy and the 'New' European Right since 1945 [MA]
Italy and the World: Conflict and the Incomplete Nation, 1815-present [BA]
A Continent on the Move: Migration in Europe, 1919-2019 [MA]
Approaching the Past [BA teaching & module coordinator 2019-2020]
The Contemporary World [BA lecturing & module coordinator 2019-20, 2020-21]
Crossing Borders: Passports, Bodies and the State, 1600 to today [BA, with K. Hill & J. Reinisch]
European Crises in the Mediterranean 1880s-present [MA]

Teaching Outreach

Haringey Sixth Form College. Class sessions on 'histories of decolonisation.' (Feb 2022)
Event organiser for secondary school teachers and students on 'archives and decolonisation.' Organised in collaboration with the Raphael Samuel History Centre. (March 2022)

As Faculty Fellow/Assistant Professor at **New York University:**

Refugees and Displacement in Postwar Europe (Graduate seminar) [Spring 2017]
Democracy, Dictatorship, and Civil War in Southern Europe (Undergraduate) [Spring 2018]
The Modern Mediterranean: A History of the Present (Graduate seminar) [Fall 2017]

As Lecturer at **University of Michigan, Ann Arbor:**

Living the Middle East: Historical Anthropology of the Middle East and North Africa.
Crossing Borders in the Middle East and Beyond.

PhD SUPERVISION

Supervisor for Alia Alsager, Birkbeck [History]
Co-supervisor for Jane Hibbert-Nicolov, Birkbeck [History]
Co-supervisor for Luke Spiropoulos, Birkbeck [History]
Exams committee / external committee member for Olga Verlatto, NYU [History]

Viva evaluation for **UCL** (Nov 2021).

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Reviewed for: *Cultural and Social History*, *Contemporanea*, *Journal of Contemporary History*, *Contemporary European History*, *Mediterranean Historical Review*, *Italian American Review*; *History & Anthropology*; *Anthropology Forum*; *Comparative Studies of Society and History*; *Modern Italy*; *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie sociale*; *Social Science & Missions*; *California Italian Studies*; Palgrave Macmillan (books); I.B. Taurus/Bloomsbury (books); University of California Press (books).

2019-2020 Book Review Editor, *Modern Italy*.
2015 Editorial and Translation Workshop, Rackham Graduate School, UM.
2012 Copy Editor, Takaful conference publication. John D. Gerhart Center, AUC.
2006 Copy Editor, Ibrahim Elnur, *Contested Sudan: The Political Economy of War and Reconstruction* (Routledge, 2008).

SERVICE and ADMIN ROLES

Present External examiner, MA History, Royal Holloway, UoLondon
Present Birkbeck director, Raphael Samuel History Centre
2020-Present Programme director of MA in European History, HCA, Birkbeck.
2021-Present BA admissions, HCA, Birkbeck

2019-Present Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities, HCA rep., Birkbeck
 2019-Present Lead on Mediterranean Studies Working Group, HCA, Birkbeck.
 2018-Present Research Degrees Committee, HCA, Birkbeck.

2020-Present Executive Committee (elected Jan. 2020), Assoc. for the Study of Modern Italy
 2019-Present Convening Committee (from Jan. 2019), Modern Italy Seminar, IHR, London.

2016-2017 Advisory Board Member (ERC Advanced Grant No.694482, University of Helsinki).
 2014 Organizer, *Time and Temporality* workshop, American Academy in Rome.
 2010 Co-organizer, Anthro-History Symposium, 2010.
 2008-2009 Research Assistant, *Arab Families Working Group*. Supervisor: Nadine Naber. UM.
 2008 Cofounder, *Mediterranean Topographies*, reading group on Mediterranean Studies, UM.
 2008 Research Assistant, *Gender and Region Project*. Supervisors: Hanan Sabea and Martina Reiker. Institute for Gender and Women's Studies, AUC.
 2006-2008 Research Assistant, *Community Based Water Management*, Abu Minqar (Egypt). IDRC.
 2006 Cofounder, the Graduate Student Anthropology Group at the AUC.
 2005-2006 Anthropology/Sociology Department Assistant, AUC.

LANGUAGES

English: native
 Italian: fluent
 Arabic, Mod. Standard (reading): adv. proficiency
 Egyptian Arabic (spoken): adv. proficiency
 French: reading proficiency
 Spanish: reading and speaking proficiency

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association; Assoc. for the Study of Modern Italy; European Assoc. of Social Anthropologists; Mediterranean Studies Association; Royal Historical Society (UK); SISSCO; Society for Italian Historical Studies.