

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

**Research Assistant** **IRIS Centre, Leeds Trinity University** **1/4- 30/8/2022**

I researched using interactive storytelling, documentary, and visual ethnography as a methodology of research for a social and environmental study of Leeds. The project aims to use Korsakow and Stornaway as interactive platforms to share the study.

**Lecturer in Media and Religious Studies** **Leeds Trinity University** **1/9/2019 - 30/3/2022**

Description: I delivered and designed courses across two different departments (Media and Film Studies and Philosophy, Religion, and Ethics Studies), supervised BA dissertations, and covered the position of Research Coordinator at the IRIS Centre, where I coordinated research, annual conferences and seminars. I also researched the employment of documentary, interactive storytelling and visual ethnography as a research methodology. I also supervised BA dissertations in Film and Media studies course.

- PER4025 “Representing Religion”
- TRS4012 “Living Religions”
- TRS5742 “Rite, Rituals, and Religious Quest”
- TRS5022 “Religion and politics”
- HUM3003 “Introduction to the Image”
- MFC4023 “Core Production Skills - Documentary”
- MFC4073 “Aesthetic of the Image”
- MCF6092 “Contemporary Cultural Issues”
- BA Dissertation Degrees in Film and Media Studies, School of Arts and Communication, Media and Film Culture

**Lecturer in Religious Studies** **St John University, York** **1/1/2017- 30/6/2019**

- IRS004 “Introduction to Asian Religions”
- BA Degrees in Theology and Religious Studies, School of Humanities, Religion and Philosophy,

**Teaching Experience** **Leeds Trinity University, Leeds** **1/1- 30/5/2018**

- MFC5032 (seminars): Researching Film, Media, and Culture; Mapping the Media Landscape.

## EDUCATION

**PhD in Media and Anthro. of Religion** **University of Leeds, Leeds** **21/10/2020**

The PhD research was an interdisciplinary and practice-based study of a small group of female Japanese mediums – Itako - combining multimodal, critical theory, documentary, and visual ethnographic methods. As part of my PhD, I have also produced a documentary (now touring festivals). I was also the Research Coordinator of the iRIS Research Centre at Leeds Trinity University. I also speak Japanese (N3 level). For the documentary <https://vimeo.com/435013437>(PSW: 8618). Grade: Awarded with minor corrections

**PGCE & PGCHE** **Leeds Trinity University, Leeds** **01/12/2018**

I completed the training in December 2018, obtaining the professional qualification for teaching in higher education. My interests focused on the flipped classroom approach and methodologies that stress peer-to-peer learning and student-led classes. Grade: Awarded

**Documentary Diploma****London Film Academy, London (UK)****30/08/2012**

Full-time course on documentary language, theory, and production with a particular focus on researching and developing documentary projects, managing and scheduling teams and production paperwork, camera operating, lighting, sound recording, editing, colour correction. Grade: Merit

**MA Environment, Politics, and Globalisation****King's College London****01/05/2009**

A Master's degree in environmental politics and globalisation. Courses analysed different aspects, including environmental justice, sustainability, and resource management. Courses: Globalisation and society, environmental politics, water management, the geopolitics of natural resources, and social research methodologies. Dissertation: The Political Relevance of Eco-communities for Policy-making Authorities. Grade: Passed

**BA Oriental Languages and Civilisations****Ca' Foscari, U. of Venice****25/10/2005**

Hindi/Urdu/Japanese Languages and Literature, Philosophy and Religions of India/Japan, History of Theatre of Japan, Visual Anthropology, Spanish & French. *Dissertation*: In-depth analysis of Bihar's environmental and political situation and the Indian subcontinent. In addition, I translated the posthumous collection of Phanishwar Nath 'Renu's short stories *Rindjal Dhanjal* from Hindi to Italian. **Erasmus** Interchange Programme in 2002-2003 at Cartuja, University of Granada, Spain. Grade: 106/110

**PROFESSIONAL/ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- The Role of Internal Examiner, course attended at the University of Leeds in January 2021
- Effective Post Graduate Research Supervision, course attended at the University of Leeds in March 2021
- Research Coordinator of International Research Centre for Interactive Storytelling at Leeds Trinity University 2021

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:**

My research interests include Asian Studies (Japan and India), Asian Languages, Religious Studies, Environmental and Globalisations Studies, and Postcolonial Studies.

**Methodological approach:** My methodological approach combines visual ethnographic theories, multimodal approaches, and documentary theories. In particular, I am interested in combining ethnographic and interactive storytelling theories to analyse social phenomena. Recently, I have been collaborating with the International Research Centre for Interactive Storytelling on a study of the city of Leeds and its socio-economic distribution based on mobility using the methodology mentioned above. For this reason, another field of interest developed include digital and deep mapping as a narration form of anthropological phenomena.

In my research approach, I also use digital ethnography - a member of LSE Digital Ethnography Collective - to highlight other socio-economic and political aspects of people's lives shared in the digital realm.

Other projects I have collaborated on:

<i>Isualas de s'isula</i> , Borracha la Vida Film and Regione Sardegna, Italy	Ethnographic documentary on the fishery in the southwest part of the island	March 2018 - Nov 2019
<i>Alan Davie, Terry Frost and Trevor Bell through the eyes of the Muse</i> , Kotori Studio and IRIS	Ethnographic film directed and researched by Ilaria Vecchi and supported by IRIS Centre and Kotori Studio on Leeds painters and the relationship with Sylvia Thompson	March 2019 -present
<i>Once the Sea Was Covered With Water</i> , Borracha la Vida Film and Dr Orsini (Ghent University)	Ethnographic documentary on fishery on the edge of Europe	Feb 2014 - Feb 2016
<i>E20 Village</i> , The Building Exploratory	Ethnographic documentary on the new E20 postcode area developing in London as part of post-2012 Olympics Game redevelopment.	Nov 2014 - Jan 2015

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Fellow of the Higher Education Academy 12/2019.
- British Association for the Study of Religion Research Bursary 2018 => £2000
- The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation award for research and documentary for PhD research in Japan 12/2015 => £ 3000
- Creative Europe for Lampedusa in Festival (film festival) 2014 edition => €4000

## PUBLICATIONS (<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0811-1456>)

### Articles

- Odorico, S. Vecchi, I. 2022. An Interactive Territorial Study on Urban Spaces - Case Study Leeds. *IFM Journal*. (forthcoming in Summer 2023)
- Vecchi, I. 2022. In Conversation with the Dead: Virtual Reality and Internet Mediated Relationships in Contemporary Korea and Japan. *Journal of British Association for the Study of Religions* (forthcoming September 2023).
- Vecchi, I. 2022. Critical Visual Religion Approach: When Ethnographic Filmmaking Blends with the Critical Approach to Religion, a Japanese Case Study. Special Issue “Critical Approaches to Religion in Japan: Case Studies and Re-descriptions”, *Religions* 13(3), pp.255.
- Lai, G., Kultima, A., Khosmood, F., Pirker, J., Fowler, A., Vecchi, I., Latham, W., Fol Leymarie, F. 2021. Two Decades of Game Jams. In ICGJ '21: International Conference on Game Jams, Hackathons and Game Creation Events, August 03, 2021, Online. ACM: New York.
- Vecchi, I. 2020. The Relevance of Fitzgerald’s Critical Approach to the Study of Religion in Asia. *Implicit Religion*, vol. 22, pp. 429-438.
- Vecchi, I. 2019. Itako on the Screen: The Use of Visual Ethnography for Understanding How These Japanese Shamans Adapting to Social Change. *Journal of British Association for the Study of Religions*, vol. 21, pp. 76-91.
- Vecchi, I. 2018. Cinema and Development in West Africa: Film as a Vehicle for Liberation, James E. Genova (2013). *Crossing: Journal of Migration and Culture*, vol. 9, pp. 292-293.
- Vecchi, I. 2016. The Experience of The Askavusa Association: Migration Struggle with Cultural Activities. *Crossing: Journal of Migration and Culture*, vol.7, pp.165-179.
- Orsini, G and Vecchi, I. 2014. Lampedusa: A Cruel and Corrupt System, *Discover Society*, May 2016.
- Vecchi, I. 2011. The Arab Spring Bloggers Come Together (Minus the Palestinians). *The New Internationalist*, November 2011.
- Vecchi, I. 2011. Askavusa, Fortress Europe's Achilles Heel. *The New Internationalist*, N. 445, pp.56-57.

### Practice

- Odorico, S. Vecchi, I. 2022. An Interactive Territorial Study on Urban Spaces - Interactive documentary on Leeds. *IFM Journal*. (forthcoming in September 2023)
- Vecchi, I. Tohoku Monogatari. [Online] <https://vimeo.com/435013437>(PSW: 8618)
  - Moscow International Festival of Visual Anthropology “Mediating Camera”, Moscow, May 2021
  - Etnoff, Skopje, October 2021
  - Exeter Doc Fest, Colchester, November 2021
  - Kratovo International Festival of Ethnographic Documentary, North Macedonia, October 2022
- Vecchi, I., Sergi, D. 2018. Nativity scene in Naples. The Presepe: Making Religion (Italy). [Online] Horniman Museum, London. Project part of the Making Religion. [Last accessed, September 2020]. Available from: <https://vimeo.com/280233864>
- Vecchi, I., Sergi, D. 2018. Sardinian Costumes: Mamuthones (Italy). [Online]. Horniman Museum, London. Project part of the Mediterranean Culture Display. [Last accessed, September 2020]. Available from: <https://vimeo.com/277471967>

## INVITED LECTURES

- *Interactividad y Media*, Universidad de las Ciencias Informaticas, Cuba, 20/01/2017

- *Migration, Asylum and Detention in Lampedusa*, University of Manchester, 04/07/2016
- *Lampedusa Between Shipwreck and Tourism*, SOAS University London, 28/11/2015.
- *Storytelling on and about Lampedusa*, Platforma Conference, De Montfort University Leicester, 05/11/2015.
- *Lampedusa the Barbican of Fortress Europe*, Queen Mary University London, 10/06/2015.
- *Migratory Space, Memories, and Aesthetics*, University College London, 07/10/ 2014.

## CONFERENCES

- Interactive Film and Media Conference 2022 (IFM22) Virtual Conference, June 2022: An Interactive Territorial Study on Urban Spaces - Case Study Leeds.
- British Association for the Study of Religions Annual Conference, Edinburgh (UK), September 2021: In Conversation with the Dead: Virtual Reality and Internet Mediated Relationships in Contemporary Korea and Japan.
- Lomonosov Moscow State University, Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, IX Moscow International Forum of Visual Anthropology “Mediating Camera”, May 2021: Tohoku Monogatari screening and discussion.
- Journalism and Media Week, Leeds Trinity University, November 2021: An Interactive territorial Study on Leeds. An interactive and visual ethnographic study on Leeds.
- i-Docs 2020, Bristol, UK. I presented the first part of the visual ethnographic and interactive project I conducted on Leeds and its urban social and geographic fabric with IRIS. A workshop followed the presentation on film interactivity as a research methodology.
- British Association for the Study of Religions Annual Conference (**Conference Organiser**), Leeds (UK) September 2019: Itako, a Tohoku Monogatari: presentation of my visual ethnographic research with the Itako of Japan.
- Asia on the Move Annual Conference (NIAS), Tromsø (NO), November 2018: The Itako – “blind” female shamans – a vanishing tradition: how are these mediums adapting to modern Japan?
- American Anthropological Association Annual Conference, San Jose, CA, November 2018: Itako – the blind female mediums of Japan – a visual ethnographic approach in studying the adapting tradition.
- British Association for the Study of Religions Annual Conference, Belfast (IR), September 2018: Itako on the screen: the use of visual ethnography for understanding how blind female Japanese shamans are adapting to modern Japan.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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|--|----------------|
| • American Anthropological Association           | 2018 - present |
| • MeCCSA   | 2018 - present |
| • Society for Visual Anthropology                | 2018 - present |
| • British Association for the Study of Religions | 2018 - present |
| • International Visual Sociology Association     | 2019 - present |
| • European Association of Social Anthropologists | 2020 - present |

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Producer/Director** **Terra Firma Docs, London** 09/2012- 06/2016

I was the founder of Terra Firma Docs, producer, director, and editor of films and documentaries on ethnographic, social and political issues. I co-produced feature-length documentaries with the Company and worked for third parties: *Dungyu* on Tibetan migrants in India’s Dharamshala area and *Once the Sea was Covered with Water* (Borracha la Vida). My documentaries participated at the **International CICI Film, Short on Work Film Festival**, and I have exhibited at the **Deutsches Hygiene Museum Dresden** with *Lampedusa Keeps Its Memory*.

**Production Manager Lampedusa in Festival** **Lampedusa, Italy** 02/2011- 10/2014

I managed the film festival production, coordinated the various teams, liaised with technicians, and service, managed the artistic programme, bookings, and arranged venues, and helped artists with rehearsals/setting up

their performance. Managing the communication, networking, and relationships with international partners and guests: writing press releases, speaking to newspapers and broadcasting outlets and representing the organisation on various occasions. Film archive curator: digitalising, copying and archiving videos and photos for the LIF archive.

**Filmmaking Tutor Assistant** **Inna Vision Film School, London** 06/2013 - 06/2014

I assisted tutors in delivering film courses to adults with lived experiences of mental health problems. My work included: teaching camera techniques, foundation elements of production, and editing tools. Producing, filming and editing with some students an advert for Mind.

**Video/Photo Journalist** 03/2011 - 07/2013

I was based in Lampedusa following migration movements from North Africa toward Europe via Italy for various broadcasting networks, magazines/newspapers, and radio shows. Publications include The New Internationalist Magazine, Rai News, HDNet, Zat TV, and private film production companies.

### **Other Professional Experience**

**Climate & Energy Campaigner** **Greenpeace, Bangalore (India)** 01/2010-01/2011

I worked as part of the Greenpeace Climate&Energy Team, carrying out research, interviews, writing reports, and campaign planning for the annual Coal and Renewable Energy campaign. Also, as part of the Bihar project, I lobbied politicians during Bihar's election period to change/improve their renewable energy policy.

### **EXPERTISE AND SKILLS**

#### Camera:

- Canon C100/300/500/5D MarkII-IV
  - Kodak Pixpro SP 360/Samsung Gear360
- Software: FinalCut Pro 7/X, Adobe Suite Premier Pro, Da Vinci Resolve, Audition.
- Photoshop (basic)
  - Microsoft/Macintosh

#### Attention to detail

- Researching
- Budgeting
- Teamwork
- Motivating leader

Languages: Italian (Native), English (C2), Spanish(C2), Japanese (B2), Hindi (B1), Urdu(B1), French (A2), Danish (A2).