
Early Career Research Grant

Travelling Europe(s) Rethinking Europeanisation through tourism mobilities performances

The grant is embedded in a 2-year research project entitled “Travelling Europe(s): rethinking Europeanisation through tourism mobilities performances”, funded by the Department of Historical and Geographic Sciences and the Ancient World ([DiSSGeA](#)) at the University of Padova.

The research project deals with the enactment of geographical imaginaries of Europe and the EU in the context of tourism, with a specific focus on how Europe is imagined, encountered, and enacted as a ‘tourist Other’ by non-European tourists. The project aims to develop research at the crossroads of **cultural geography** and **political geography**, and invites interdisciplinary perspectives mingling Tourism Studies, Everyday Geopolitics and European Studies.

The salary is **€1,425** per month, after-tax, and will be based at DiSSGeA.

The grant holder will be expected to move to Padova, where they will be able to work with the research project supervisor but will also have the opportunity to spend considerable time elsewhere for visiting research stays or fieldwork. The grant includes insurance coverage for accidents and civil liability in accordance with the conditions stated in the policies taken out by the University of Padova. Travel and conference expenses will have to be negotiated with the project supervisor and will adhere to the rules of the University of Padova in terms of travel and conference trips.

The grant holder is expected to start working **no later than** the end of December 2022.

The position is open to applicants with a PhD. Applicants with a Master’s degree may also apply, provided that they have scientific or professional experience consistent with the research project announced, and that this is attested to by scientific publications.

The grant is open to researchers working in the areas of Human Geography, Anthropology, History, Sociology and/or the interdisciplinary fields of Tourism Studies, Mobilities studies and European Studies. Applicants should however be interested in **ethnographically** exploring the political and cultural dimensions of the making of Europe at the intersections where tourism performances enact and challenge established forms of European geographical imagination, with the specific aim of foregrounding other views of Europe expanding beyond the continent. The project will be motivated by a commitment to situated knowledge production but will engage in a trans-scalar and pluriversal debate.

The grant is open to motivated early career researchers from around the world, dedicated to

high-quality scholarship, who will be supported in the development of their intellectual and career goals.

Researchers will be able to develop their research under the auspices of the [Centre for Advanced Studies in Mobility & Humanities](#), which will allow for meaningful exchange and knowledge production thanks to our network of partner institutions (e.g. Centre for Southeast European Studies at the University of Graz and the Australian Mobilities Research Network), and other institutions linked to the University of Padua, through a variety of [agreements and programmes](#)

Candidates will be selected based on their scholarly degrees and achievements. The application will include a full CV, a publications list, the pdf of the publications selected for evaluation, a motivation letter, plus an oral interview. The interview will take place online.

All the details concerning the contractual framework, the eligibility criteria and the application procedure are stated in the selection announcement.

Detailed prospectus

The central objective of the project is to understand how the new cultural and political geographies of Europe are being enacted through tourism's multiple performances (embodied, digital, visual). In particular, the research project is interested in juxtaposing internal Europeanization processes with external perspectives, namely how Europe is imagined, encountered, and enacted as a 'tourist Other' by non-European tourists. The ambition of examining 'travelling Europe(s)' will help us understand how the multiplicity of geographical imaginaries of Europe and the EU are being generated, and with what consequences, on the grounds of tourism. To address the intertwining of tourist and travelling practices and spatial imaginations, this research programme will engage with ethnographic methods focussing on the performative assemblages of bodies, objects, and media, through which 'travelling Europe(s)' are encountered, enacted, reproduced, and challenged by tourist mobilities.

Keywords

Tourist performances; geographical imaginations; everyday geopolitics; Europeanization; Europe-as-an-other; ethnography; creative methodologies.

Main activities

The research programme will be developed across two main research lines to be addressed by the grant holder during a 24-month period involving:

- 1) An analysis of how Europeanisation is enacted as a European and EU inner project through ordinary tourism place performances (1st year);
- 2) Juxtaposing the internal project of Europeanization with external points of view; namely how Europe is imagined, encountered, enacted, reproduced and challenged as a 'tourist Other' by non-European tourists (2nd year).

Methodology

From the methodological perspective, the first line of research will transition from narratives of tourism and Europeanization to performances using ethnographic methods influenced by mobile methodologies. Mobile fieldwork will therefore be established, engaging with the corporeal travel of people, the physical movement of objects, as well as the assembly and (re)configuration of digital and physical infrastructure as a component of place-making. The grant holder will identify, in close partnership with the research grant supervisor, the best area(s) in which to conduct the ethnographic fieldwork.

The second line of research, which focusses only on the specific performances enacted by those who encounter Europe as a 'tourist' Other, will integrate the previous fieldwork with more innovative and co-creative methodologies to question the representations and practices of tourist Europe as seen by subjects who do not identify as Europeans. In fact, the aim of this line of research is both to enlarge out understanding of Europeanisation as it is encountered and questioned from the outside, and to provide a less Eurocentric understanding of tourism, approaching a call to 'decolonialise' tourism research.

Expected output (by the end of the 24-month research period)

- Preparation of two articles in international peer-reviewed journals by the end of the research project;
- Organisation of a one-day colloquium on the theme of tourism mobilities and Europeanisation hosted by the MoHu centre;
- Organisation of a workshop with partners that could function as an exploratory work for the design of a summer school on the theme of tourism mobilities and everyday geopolitics;
- Presentations at three international conferences, including a panel session organized by the grant holder with the research grant supervisor;
- Submission of an edited publication on the topics developed in the research project;
- Set up of a blog to share research steps (supported by the Digital Laboratory for Mobility Research at DiSSGeA);
- Submission of four short dissemination articles to magazines or think-tanks, bringing together academics, policy makers and journalists, and addressing the wider public interest; and
- Map the possibilities for future developments of the research, considering DiSSGeA as host institution.

The workflow will be negotiated with the research grant supervisor.

Required profile

The research programme requires the recruitment of one research fellow grant ('assegno di ricerca') holder, according to Italian Law 240/2010) for 24 months.

The candidate is expected to make a distinct contribution to the programme and to the research team; therefore s/he will be able to undertake a diverse set of research tasks, including:

- Literature and documents reviews;
- Engage with national and international scientific debates;
- Conduct ethnographic fieldwork;
- Conduct qualitative and co-creative research;
- Conduct qualitative data analysis;
- Deliver research and teaching workshops;
- Organise scientific events;
- Co-author and lead on paper writing; and
- Write short dissemination articles.

The candidate will be working at the cutting edge of Social Sciences & Humanities research on tourism mobilities and cultural and political geographies, and so will be willing to engage with tourism and everyday geopolitics concerning the topic of Europeanization.

The candidate will have excellent English knowledge (equivalent to C1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) and will also have mastery of a second language currently used in a non-European country. Knowing Italian may be useful facilitating full participation in the DiSSGeA and Unipd life, but is not compulsory.

The role requires the ability to work effectively, both independently and as part of a team.

Benefits and career profile

This project involves a considerable investment of time, energy, and resources, and also requires diverse field trips and medium-long visiting stays at partner institutions. The candidate and the research grant supervisor will develop as a team, with the objective that the project will provide a host of engaging and unique opportunities. The project will therefore support the candidate in building a research career along the themes addressed in the project. The ideal candidate is an early career researcher looking to develop their own research agenda, with a growing record of accomplishment in research fieldwork and publication, as well as excellent personal and project management skills.

Research grant supervisor

[Chiara Rabbiosi](#) is Associate Professor in Economic and Political Geography at the University of Padova. Her research interests address the social and spatial dimensions of mobilities,

including tourism mobilities, cultural heritage and place branding. At the University of Padova she is an active member of the MoHu and MobiLab centres at the DiSSGeA, and she teaches on the Masters in Local Development and in Mobility Studies. She is currently working on tourist spatial imaginations of Europe, and how Europeanisation is created through experiences of tourist mobilities, and on the transit of tourism (including walking and multi-modal transport), aimed at understanding tourist transportation in an embodied and performative way. She has also recently explored walking and video-making as teaching methods, and is currently considering these experiences as mobilities pedagogies. Chiara likes to alternate her scientific writing between Italian and English. She has published in diverse international academic journals including *Annals of Tourism Research*; *Tourist Studies*; *Cultural Geographies*; *Gender, Place and Culture*; *Journal of Consumer Culture*.

<https://talentgate.academia.edu/ChiaraRabbiosi>