

Scientific Curriculum

Veronica Lo Presti

Personal Information

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Current and Previous positions

Veronica Lo Presti is Associate Professor in General Sociology (GSPS/5A – EX SPS/07) at the Department of Communication and Social Research (CoRiS), Sapienza University of Rome, since 2022. Previously, she was Junior Assistant Professor (RTD-A) on the research topic *Theory and Evaluative Research applied to Social, Communication and Educational Policies* (2017-2022), Research Fellow (GSPS-06/A – EX SPS/08) on the research topic *Digital skills and Social capital* (2013-2016), Research Fellow (GSPS/5A – EX SPS/07) on the research topic *Evaluation of Municipal social services in the Municipality of Rome* (2005-2007) at the same department. She obtained the National Scientific Qualification for Full Professor in 2023.

She is member of the Teaching and Learning Center Sapienza (TLC-S) Research and Service Center, which aims to enhance the expertise of Sapienza's academic staff through training and research activities focused on innovative teaching and pedagogy.

She is member of the Teaching College Board for the PhD in Communication, Marketing and Social Research (Sapienza University of Rome), where she is also Coordinator for Social Sciences Methodology.

She currently carries out study and research activities, mainly in the thematic area of innovation in teaching, with particular attention to the evaluation of the impact of digital technologies in training processes and the role of communication in dialogic dynamics between teachers and students.

Prizes and awards

2011 - Best Paper Award for Best non-RIV Essay awarded by the Italian Evaluation Association (AIV) for the article “*The evaluation of social secretariat services in the Municipalities of Rome. Practical usefulness of field observation*”, published in the Rivista Trimestrale di Scienze dell'Amministrazione, no. 4/2010 (FrancoAngeli).

Visiting academic positions

Visiting Professor at the University of Bucharest (UB Learning Center), Bucharest, Romania (September 11–18, 2022). Lecture topics: Digital competence models, Digital Education, Innovative teaching, and Evaluation tools for students and teachers.

Teaching mobility assignment within the ERASMUS+ e-BELONG 2020 at the University of Bucharest (Romania) in 2022.

Teaching activities and PhD supervision

She teaches at Sapienza University of Rome, where she delivers courses in Design and Evaluation for Social Innovation: Evaluative Research Lab, Data Analysis for Communication and Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Cooperation Initiatives.

Since 2001, she carries out extensive teaching, training and doctoral supervision activities in the fields of social research methodology, evaluation studies, digital competencies and communication studies, social and educational policies at several Italian universities and higher education institutions, including Sapienza University of Rome, University of L'Aquila, University of Pisa and University of Genoa.

Her teaching activity has included undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral and executive education courses, with continuous responsibility for modules on: evaluation research, social research methodology, social impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation of public policies, data analysis, organizational systems and didactic innovation.

She has contributed to doctoral programs through the coordination of Advanced Seminars, Summer schools, BIP and Workshops on evaluation theory and methodology, including activities organized in collaboration with the Italian Evaluation Association (AIV), CIVIS Europe's Civis University Alliance and International scholars.

During the period 2020-2022, she has been Scientific Director of the Advanced Professional Course in Social Design and Territorial Management at the Department of Communication and Social Research, Sapienza University of Rome.

National and international collaborations and networks that contribute to enhancing the scientific quality and feasibility of the proposal

Since 2000, she has coordinated numerous national and international research projects in the fields of social research methodology, evaluation studies, educational policies, digital literacy and social innovation, in collaboration with Universities, public institutions (MIUR, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Agency for Territorial Cohesion), third-sector organizations and international academic networks.

She has participated in national and european research networks on digital education and evaluative methodologies, including Erasmus+ projects such as *Uptake ICT2life-cycle (Digital Literacy and inclusion to learners with disadvantaged background)*, *ADVICE – Advancing Digital Competences in Higher Education* (in collaboration with Collegium Civitas – Poland), *e-BELONG Sense of Belonging in Online Learning Environments* (in collaboration with University of Bucarest Learning Center) and *Virtual Auditorium* and *Digital Bridges* at the Sapienza University of Rome.

These projects involved collaborations with institutions such as the University of Bucharest, Collegium Civitas, University of Primorska, Aix-Marseille University, University of Witwatersrand

and the Free University of Berlin
She has also contributed to national research networks promoted by the Italian Evaluation Association (AIV) and interdisciplinary university collaborations concerning evaluation studies, digital skills, social innovation and educational policies. Her collaboration within the PRIN 2017 research project *Evaluating the school-work alternance: a longitudinal study in Italian upper secondary schools*, coordinated by INVALSI (with the University of Genoa and University of Milano-Bicocca), strengthened her expertise in longitudinal and evidence-based evaluation research applied to educational policies. These collaborations have consolidated an interdisciplinary research profile focused on Evaluation Methodologies, Evaluation of Didactic Innovation and Digital Transformation Processes.

Other work experience (e.g. consultancy if any)

She was awarded a Research fellowship (2007-2008) within the SFERA project in the Unit for the Evaluation of Public Investments (UVAL) at the Department for Development and Cohesion Policies (Italian Ministry of Economic Development). The project focused on supporting the activities of the National Evaluation System for regional policy. She worked as an Evaluation Research Consultant (2011-2013) at Fondazione Labos, contributing to research and evaluation activities in the field of educational and social policies. Since 2013, she has been a Co-founder and Expert member in Evaluation Research at DIGIZEN, an academic spin-off of Sapienza (University of Rome).

In 2014, she served as an Evaluation Research Consultant for the ANAC-ISTAT survey on the Quality of Information disseminated by Public Administrations, promoted by the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) and the National Council for Economics and Labour (CNEL).

She worked as an Education Expert (2014-2017) supporting the “Technical Committee for Inner Areas” promoted by the Italian Ministry of Education and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

She was a Member of the Team of Experts in Territorial Policy and School System Evaluation in the Inner Areas (2021-2022 Invitalia).

Roles and responsibilities

- Administrative role and position responsibility

Since 2019, she is member of the Teaching College Board for the PhD in Communication, Marketing and Social Research, Sapienza University of Rome, where she is also Coordinator for Social Sciences Methodology.

Since 2013, she is Permanent Member of the Scientific Team of the “MediaMonitor Minori” Observatory at the Department of Communication and Social Research, Sapienza University of Rome.

Member of the Department Library Committee and of the Sapienza *MOOC Team* at Sapienza University of Rome (2016-2019). Member of the 24-CFU Faculty Committee (2017-2019).

Member of the Review Group of the Degree Programme in Communication, Evaluation and Social Research for Organizations (2018-2020).

In 2019, she was member of the Coordination Group for the ANVUR Evaluation Visit at the Department of Communication and Social Research, Sapienza University of Rome.

Member of the Faculty Joint Committee of Professor and Student Representatives, Faculty of Political Science, Sociology and Communication, Sapienza University of Rome (2019-2023).

Member of the Faculty Strategic Planning Committee (2019-2022) at Sapienza University of Rome.

She was member of the Faculty Orientation Committee. In this role, she contributed to the “Porte Aperte alla Sapienza” orientation event, presenting the educational offer of the Department of Communication and the Interdepartmental area of Cooperation Studies, during the official Faculty conference held on 15 July 2020.

Since 2021, she is member of the Academic Board of the Second-level interuniversity Master’s programme METARS – Methodology and Advanced Techniques for Social Research, and since 2023 Member of its Scientific Committee.

She is member of the Focus Group supporting the Impact Evaluation of Third Mission initiatives at Sapienza University of Rome, since 2024.

- Scientific organisations/Coordination of academic activities

She coordinates and participates in scientific activities at the intersection of social research, evaluative methodology, impact evaluation, innovative teaching and digital transformation.

Her research leadership includes PI roles in the evaluation research programme *Evaluation of the social impact generated by the activities of Fondazione con il Sud in three territories*, projects *NEST* and “*Tornasole 2*” (Con I Bambini Impresa Sociale). She was Scientific Coordinator of the University Research Project “*Social impact evaluation of distance learning after the Covid-19 emergency*” (Sapienza, University of Rome) and of the ERASMUS+ *ADVANCE – Advancing Digital Competence in Higher Education*, in partnership with Collegium Civitas. She is scientific coordinator of CIVIS Seed Funding Project *INWELL – African-European collaboration research activities* for the CIVIS Europe’s Civic University Alliance.

She has organised seminars, workshops and methodological training on research evaluation, educational quality and didactic innovation, social impact of distance learning and life-skills.

Her coordination experience is particularly relevant for the PRIN unit contribution on Approaches, Tools and Methods for Evaluation of digital teaching quality in the school and educational relationships within digital learning spaces.

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Editorial activity

She has consolidated editorial and peer-review experience in journals and series of sociology, methodology and evaluation, including *Sociologia e ricerca sociale*, *Welfare ed Ergonomia*, *Sociologia Italiana* - AIS Journal Sociology, *Rivista delle Politiche Sociali*, *Qtimes*, *INVALSI Book Series* (FrancoAngeli).

Since 2012, she is on the Editorial Board of the *Rassegna Italiana di Valutazione* (RIV), journal and since 2020, she is on the Editorial Scientific Committee of the *Rassegna Italiana di Valutazione* (RIV).

Since 2021, Member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Sociologia e Ricerca Sociale*.

Since 2023, Member of the Editorial Scientific Committee of the FrancoAngeli book series *Inferenze/Evidenze* (FrancoAngeli).

Membership of scientific societies

She was member and Secretary of the AIS (Italian Sociological Association) Working Group on “Evaluation and Research” within Area 14 (2014-2015)

She was member of the Working Group on “Participation and Accountability” of Open Government Partnership Italy under the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (2016-2017).

Since 2020, Coordinator of the AIV (Italian Association Evaluation) Thematic Group “Communication, Evaluation and Digital Literacy”.

She was National Secretary of the Italian Evaluation Association (AIV), 2017-2020.

Since 2024, member of the Research Committee "Logic and Methodology in Sociology" of the International Sociological Association (ISA).