

Curriculum Vitae

Personal information

<i>Name and surname</i>	Elisa Bignante
<i>Date and place of birth</i>	January 19 th , 1978, Torino (Italy)
<i>Work</i>	Department of Cultures, Politics and Society, University of Torino, Italy (Lungo Dora Siena 100, 10153, Torino (Italy))
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<i>Nationality</i>	Italian

Current working position

Senior lecturer, *Political and Economic Geography*, Department of Cultures, Politics and Society, University of Torino, Italy.

Current teaching position

- Postgraduate degree course *Geografia applicata e cooperazione allo sviluppo*, [Applied Geography and Development Cooperation] University of Torino, Department of Cultures, Politics and Society, 2009-ongoing.

Studies

- PhD in *Spatial Planning and Local Development*, May 2006, Dipartimento Interateneo Territorio (DiTer), Polytechnic and University of Turin.
- *Degree in Economics*, July 2002, Faculty of Economics, University of Turin.

Research interests

Elisa Bignante works in the field of visual culture and social and cultural geography. She is particularly interested in issues of social inequalities and marginalities, social empowerment, health and wellbeing, therapeutic landscapes, sustainability and local development in the Global South, international aid, decentralized cooperation, local development policies, indigenous knowledge, natural resource management and environmental sustainability. She has particular in-depth experience in the field of visual methods and has extensive experience in the use of participatory research methods in fieldwork activities (especially participatory video and photography). Her particular strengths are in using participatory visual methods and ethnographic research for community engagement in the definition of community owned solutions.

She has worked widely in Sub-Saharan Africa (especially in Senegal, Burkina Faso Tanzania) and in South America (Guyana and Brazil) coordinating several international research projects and carrying on ethnographic research and fieldwork collaborating with institutions such as UNDP, IUCN and with several European and African research centres (CIDAR, GIRARDEL, CISA), Ngos, and civil society organisations.

Key skills

- Over 15 years' experience as coordinator of a range of multidisciplinary projects in Sub Saharan Africa, Latin America and Europe.

- Expertise in the use of participatory visual methods for community engagement
- Trainer and facilitator on social data collection techniques
- Author and co-author of peer-reviewed articles, books and reports on participatory visual methods, natural resource management, development aid, local development
- Over 10 years teaching experience, from undergraduate to doctoral level
- Organizer of a range of symposium/sessions at international conferences/workshops
- Refereeing for various academic journals
- Fluent in Italian, English and French, basic Portuguese

Fellowships and recent projects

Fellowships

- Academic visitor, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK (September 2009 – March 2010)

Recent international projects

- 2011-2015. FP7-ENV-2011, European Commission Seventh Framework Programme [Community based management of environmental challenges] *Local solutions for future challenges: Community Owned Best practice for sustainable Resource Adaptive management in the Guiana Shield, South America*, 2011-2014.
- 2009-2010. Coordinator of the international project: *The geographies of traditional and western health practices in Senegal*, Groupe interdisciplinaire de recherche pour l'appui à la planification régionale et au développement local (GIRARDEL) - University of St. Louis, Senegal, Interdepartmental Center of Research and Scientific Collaboration with Western and Sahelian African Countries (CISAO), University of Turin, Regione Piemonte.
- 2008-2009. Coordinator of the international project: *Conservation and cooperation policies among protected areas in Senegal and Burkina Faso*, University of St. Louis, Senegal, University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Interdepartmental Center of Research and Scientific Collaboration with Western and Sahelian African Countries (CISAO), University of Turin, Regione Piemonte.
- 2007-2009. Coordinator of the international project: *Decentralized cooperation and territorial practices in Senegal, Burkina Faso and Tanzania*, University of St. Louis, Senegal, University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Fondazione CRT, DiTer, European centre for documentation and planning on protected areas (CED), Regione Piemonte.

Recent publications

Books

- E. BIGNANTE, E. DANSERO, A. VANOLO, *Atlante del mondo globale [Atlas of a Global World]*, Mondadori, Milano, 2015
- E. BIGNANTE, F. CELATA, A. VANOLO, *Geografie dello sviluppo: una prospettiva critica e globale [Geographies of development. A Global and Critical Perspective]*, Utet, Torino, 2014: ISBN 978-88-6008-424-8.
- E. BIGNANTE, *Geografia e ricerca visuale. Strumenti e metodi [Geography and Visual Research. Tools and Methods]*. Laterza, Bari, 2011.

Scientific articles

- BERARDI, A., J. MISTRY, C. TSCHIRHART, E. BIGNANTE, O. DAVIS, L. HAYNES, R. BENJAMIN, G. ALBERT, R. XAVIER, D. JAFFERALLY, G. DE VILLE, "Applying the system viability framework for cross-scalar governance of nested social-ecological systems in the Guiana Shield, South America", *Ecology and Society* 20 (3):42, 2015 [online]
- E. BIGNANTE, "Vedere l'invisibile. L'utilizzo del video partecipativo in pratiche e ricerche per la cooperazione allo sviluppo" [Seeing the invisible. The use of participatory video in development cooperation activities and researches], in, E. BIGNANTE, E. BIGNANTE, E.

- DANSERO, M. LODA, eds., "Esplorazioni per la cooperazione allo sviluppo. Il contributo del sapere geografico", *Geotema*, n. 48, Anno XIX, 2015, pp. 96-103.
- E. BIGNANTE, E. DANSERO, M. LODA, "Geografia e cooperazione allo sviluppo: prospettive e agende di ricerca, in E. BIGNANTE, E. DANSERO, M. LODA, eds., "Esplorazioni per la cooperazione allo sviluppo. Il contributo del sapere geografico", *Geotema*, n. 48, Anno XIX, 2015, pp. 5-24.
 - J., MISTRY, A. BERARDI, E., BIGNANTE, C. TSCHIRHART, "Between a rock and a hard place: ethical dilemmas of local community facilitators doing participatory projects", *Geoforum*, Vol. 61, 2015, p. 27-35.
 - E. BIGNANTE, "Therapeutic landscapes of traditional healing. Building spaces of wellbeing with the traditional healer in St. Louis, Senegal", *Social and Cultural Geography*, 2015, pp. 1-16.
 - J., MISTRY, C. TSCHIRHART, A. BERARDI, E., BIGNANTE, L. HAYNES, R. BENJAMIN, G. ALBERT, R. XAVIER, D. JAFFERALLY, G. DE VILLE "Social memory performances: Indigenous identity and environmental governance in Guyana, South America", *Cultural Geographies*, 2014, doi:10.1177/1474474014560998 pp. 1-24.
 - C. TSCHIRHART, A. BERARDI, J., MISTRY, E., BIGNANTE, C. VERWER, R. GLASTRA, G. DE VILLE, O. DAVIS, DE SOUZA C., HAYNES L., BENJAMIN R., ALBERT G., XAVIER R., JAFFERALLY D., ABRAHAM J., 2014. 'Las políticas de cambio climático y las prácticas locales sostenibles: una evaluación de sinergias y conflictos en el Escudo Guayanés, América del Sur.' *Red de Desarrollo Sostenible y de Medio Ambiente*, vol.7 (<http://revistavirtual.redesma.org/vol14/articulo9.php?id=c1>)
 - J. MISTRY, E. BIGNANTE, A. BERARDI, "Why are we doing it? Negotiating expectations in the participatory video process", *Area*, 2014, early view, doi: 10.1111/area.12105.
 - E. BIGNANTE, Traditional medicines and local knowledge, in E. Dansero, F. De Filippi, E. Fantini, I. Marocco, (eds.) "Imagining cultures of cooperation. Proceedings of the III Congress of the Italian University Network for Development Cooperation", *JUNCO - Journal of Universities and International Development Cooperation*, n.1, 2014, pp. 729-730.
 - E. BIGNANTE, N. TECCO, "Is indigenous health knowledge converging to herbalism? Healing practices among the Meru and the Maasai of the Ngarenyanyuki ward, Northern Tanzania", *Geoforum* 48, 2013, pp. 177-186.
 - A. BERARDI, C. TSCHIRHART, J. MISTRY, E. BIGNANTE, L. HAYNES, G. ALBERT, R. BENJAMIN, R. XAVIER, D. JAFFERALLY, "From resilience to viability: a case study of indigenous communities of the North Rupununi, Guyana", *EchoGéo* [En ligne], 24, 2013. URL :<http://echogeo.revues.org/13411>; DOI : 10.4000/echogeo.13411
 - E. BIGNANTE, "The use of photo elicitation in field research: Exploring Maasai representation and use of natural resources", *EchoGéo*, n. 11, 2010, [En ligne], URL : <http://echogeo.revues.org/index11622.html>.