

Giovanni Daniele Starita, Ph.D.

Current Affiliation: Università degli Studi di Bergamo

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EDUCATION

- 2019 – 2023 **Università degli Studi di Perugia, Italy**
Ph.D. in Political Science
Dissertation: “*The Visual Self-Presentation of Italian Populist Leaders on Instagram: Negotiating the tension between ordinariness and extraordinariness*”
Supervisor: Prof. Enrico Caniglia
- 01/2022 – 07/2022 **Advanced School for Cultural Analysis, Universiteit van Amsterdam, The Netherlands**
Visiting Ph.D. Student, Erasmus+ Programme
Host: Prof. Richard Rogers
- 2017 – 2018 **Universiteit Utrecht, The Netherlands**
M. Sc. In Cultural Anthropology, *cum laude*
Thesis: *On Bitcoin Usage, Techno-optimism and Participation - An anthropological perspective on Rovereto's Bitcoin Valley Users*
- 2013 – 2016 **Libera Università degli Studi Sociali Guido Carli, Rome, Italy**
BA in Political Sciences and International Relations
BA Thesis: *The role of value-action gap in shaping pro-environmental behaviours: a theoretical review and implications for policymaking*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Visual Politics, Political Communication, Social Media Studies, Visual Analysis, Populism, Digital Methods, Digital Ethnography, Ethnographic Interviewing and Observation Methods, Radical-Right Movements and Parties, Radical Left Movements and Parties, Sociology of Media and Communication.

PUBLISHED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Starita, G. D. (2022). Place Branding in the Gastro-populist Age. Navigating through Giorgia Meloni and Matteo Salvini's Exploitation of the Symbolic Nature of Food. *Fuori Luogo. Rivista Di Sociologia Del Territorio, Turismo, Tecnologia*, 13(3). <https://doi.org/10.6093/2723-9608/9261>
- Starita, G. D., & Trillò, T. (2022). ‘Happy Monday friends! Coffee?’ Matteo Salvini, good morning selfies, and the influencer politician. *Contemporary Italian Politics*, 14(3), 331–351. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23248823.2021.2005339>

Trillò, T., & Starita, G. D. (2023). The Middle Region Populism of Giorgia Meloni and Matteo Renzi on Instagram. *The International Journal of Press/Politics*. Advance Online Publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/19401612231186938>

WORKING PAPERS & OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Olivieri, A.; Noris, A.; Theng, A.; Berg, A.; Rajhans, A.; Holiavin, A.; Arkenbout, C.; Starita, G.D.; Zheng, K.; Bracale, M.; et al. What is a meme, technically speaking? Academic Report for the *Digital Methods Initiative Winter School*, 2022. Available at: <https://www.digitalmethods.net/Dmi/WinterSchool2022WhatIsAMeme>

Olivieri, A.; Noris, A.; Starita, G. D.; Rogers, R.; Burkhardt, S. Image Circulation of Russian State-Controlled and Independent Media on Google.com and Yandex.ru. Academic Report for the *Digital Methods Initiative Summer School*, 2022. Available at: <https://wiki.digitalmethods.net/Dmi/SummerSchool2022ImageCirculationGoogleYandex>

Starita, G.D. The inherent role of affect in the relation between celebrity and politics. Academic report produced for the PRIN project “Fandom Democracies”. Available at: <https://www.fandomdemocracyproject.eu/academic-report-the-relation-between-celebrity-and-politics>

Starita, G. D., & Trillò, T. (2023). Follow Me Through Instagram: Front-Stage, Back-Stage, and Intimate-Stage in Giorgia Meloni’s and Matteo Renzi’s Performances of Celebrity Politics. *AoIR Selected Papers of Internet Research*, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.5210/spir.v2022i0.13087>

Trillò, T., & Starita, G.D. (2023). “Relatable to Whom? Class-based Notions of “the People” in Matteo Salvini’s and Carlo Calenda’s Political Sharenting” (*presented at the Young Scholars Initiative’s workshop on Populism in September 2023*)

CONFERENCES

Annual Conference of SISP (Società Italiana Scienza Politica), Università degli Studi di Trieste, Italy 12-24 September 2024.

Presented: *The role of affect in Italian, digital, political fandoms*

Annual Conference of SISC (Società Italiana Sociologia Cultura e Comunicazione), Università La Sapienza, Roma, Italy. 20-21 September 2024.

Presented: *What does Italian political fandom look like?*

Annual conference of AssoComPol, Università degli Studi di Catania, Italy. 30-1 May-June 2024.

Presented: *Affect and its role in the formation of Italian political fandoms on social media*

Annual conference of AssoComPol, Università degli Studi di Torino, Italy. 8-10 June 2023.

Presented: *The Middle Region Populism of Giorgia Meloni and Matteo Renzi on Instagram*

Annual Conference of AoIR (Association of Organised Internet Researchers), University College Dublin, Ireland. 1-6 November 2024.

Presented: *Follow me through Instagram: Front-stage, back-stage, and intimate-stage in Giorgia Meloni's and Matteo Renzi's performances of celebrity politics*

Conference: "Legality and Participation: Trends, Challenges, and Perspectives", Università degli Studi di Perugia, Italy. 16-17 June 2022.

Presented: *Follow me through Instagram: Front-stage, back-stage, and intimate-stage in Giorgia Meloni's and Matteo Renzi's performances of celebrity politics*

Nationalism and Media Conference, Universiteit Antwerpen, Belgium. 5-7 April 2022.

Presented: *Italian nationalist symbols on visual social media*

ECPR General Conference, 30-3 August-September 2021 (Digital).

Presented: *"Happy Monday Friends! Coffee?" Matteo Salvini, Good Morning Selfies, and the Influencer Politician*

Conference: "Celebrity and crisis, celebrity in crisis", Università di Bologna, 11-13 July 2021 (Digital).

Presented: *"Happy Monday Friends! Coffee?" Matteo Salvini, Good Morning Selfies, and the Influencer Politician*

Biennial Conference of EASA (European Association of Social Anthropology), Universidade de Lisboa, 21-24 July 2020 (Digital).

Presented: *On Bitcoin Usage, Techno-optimism and Participation*

WORK EXPERIENCE

02/2024 – Ongoing

Research Fellow in the PRIN project *Fandom democracy? Celebrity and new forms of citizens' engagement*, P. I. Donatella Campus, Università degli Studi di Bergamo

10/2024 – Ongoing

Freestanding Collaboration at Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa

Main task: Proofreading and indexing of *The politics of the radical right in the 21st century*

03/2024 – Ongoing

Managing Editor for the scientific journal POLIS: *Research and Studies on Society and Politics*

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

Workshop *Fake politics: challenges to the public sphere, from disinformation to Fringe Democracy*
Roundtable on Influencers and Activism. Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, Milano, Italy. 26 June 2024.

Workshop *The Road Ahead: Charting a Course for the Future of Populism Studies*. Organised by Young Scholars Initiative on Populism (digital). 19-20 September 2023.

Digital Methods Initiative Summer School, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. July 2022. Facilitator of the project: *Image Circulation of Russian State-Controlled and Independent Media on Google.com and Yandex.ru*. Editor of the final posters and project report.

Spring School *Visual Analysis of Social Media Data*. Scuola Normale Superiore (digital).

Guest lecturer: *The Value of Images in Political Communication - An Introduction to Visual Analysis on Social Media*. Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, Cuenca, Spain (digital). March 2022.

Digital Methods Initiative Winter School. Universiteit van Amsterdam (digital). January 2022. Participated to the project: *What is a meme?*

ECPR Summer School in *Methods and Techniques: Python programming for social scientists*. August 2021 (digital).

Manager of the student project *Discovering International Organisations*. Roma, Italy, 2014-2016. Main tasks: Organisation of in-campus conferences, organisation of a study trip, management of economic resources

Reviewer for the *International Journal of Communication*

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Italian Native

English C1

Spanish B1

French A1

DIGITAL SKILLS

Microsoft Office Word, Excel, PowerPoint.

Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom

Working knowledge of HTML and CSS for web-scraping

Python for web-scraping

Use of Python-based, open-source tools for data analysis and visualization (in particular PixPlot, Instaloader, Zeeschuimer, OpenCV).