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Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellow
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Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellow in Anthropology. Her research project, 'THETRANCE-Transnational Healing: Therapeutic Trajectories in Spiritual Trance', investigates the therapeutic aspects of learning practices of spiritual trance in the Brazilian Spiritualist Christian Order Vale do Amanhecer (Valley of the Dawn) in a transnational perspective. This Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellowship is in partnership with the Department of Anthropology, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil, and the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Oxford, UK.

Dr Pierini is a social anthropologist with extensive ethnographic fieldwork experience in Brazil and Europe. Her research interests in the field of social and medical anthropology, and the anthropology of religion include: health and spirituality, notions of the body and the self, emotions and the senses, religious learning, religious experience, spirit mediumship and possession.

She received a Ph.D in Social Anthropology from the University of Bristol with a thesis on mediumistic experience in the Vale do Amanhecer, investigating notions of the body and the self in the process of learning mediumship, which was awarded the Royal Anthropological Institute Sutasoma Award.

She is author of *Jaguars of the Dawn: Spirit Mediumship in the Brazilian Vale do Amanhecer* (2020, New York; Oxford: Berghahn), several articles in international journals and chapters in edited books. She has also conducted research on Afro-Brazilian religions (Federal District, Brazil) and on Goddess Spirituality (Glastonbury, UK, and Italy).

She coordinates the Spirituality & Health Research Network which brings together international scholars in anthropology, medical professionals, spiritual therapists and religious leaders.

Dr Pierini has taught Social Anthropology and Research Methods courses at the University of Bristol and The American University of Rome, and she has given invited lectures in postgraduate programmes at University of Sarajevo and several Brazilian Universities.

Education

Ph.D, Social Anthropology, University of Bristol, United Kingdom.

M.A., Dist., Social Anthropology, University of Bristol, United Kingdom.

Laurea di Dottore in Sciences of Communication, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy.

Positions and Affiliations

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellow in Anthropology, Sapienza University of Rome, Project 'Transnational Healing: Therapeutic Trajectories in Spiritual Trance', in collaboration with Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil, and University of Oxford, UK.

Visiting Professor of the Postgraduate Programme in Social Anthropology, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil.

Coordinator of the Spirituality and Health Research Network.

Member of the Scientific Committee of the Religious Experience Research Centre, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, UK.

Member of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA).

Member of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES).

Member of the Associazione Italiana di Sociologia, sezione Sociologia della Religione.

Founding member with Fiona Bowie of the Afterlife Research Centre for Cross-Cultural Ethnographic Research (formerly at University of Bristol).

Member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal for the Study of Religious Experience*.

Publications

- 2020 *Jaguars of the Dawn: Spirit Mediumship in the Brazilian Vale do Amanhecer*, New York; Oxford: Berghahn.
- 2018 Healing and Therapeutic Trajectories among the Spirit Mediums of the Brazilian Vale do Amanhecer, *International Journal of Latin American Religions* 2(2): 272-289.
- 2017 Incontri Incorporati: Pratiche Medianiche e Etnografia del Sentire. In S. Botta and M. Ferrara (eds), *Corpi Sciamanici: La Nozione di Persona nello Studio dello Sciamanesimo*, Roma: Nuova Cultura, pp. 137-156.
- 2016 Edited with Alberto Groisman, Fieldwork in Religion: Bodily Experience and Ethnographic Knowledge (Special Issue), *Journal for the Study of Religious Experience* 2.
- 2016 Co-authored with Alberto Groisman, Introduction. Fieldwork in Religion: Bodily Experience and Ethnographic Knowledge, *Journal for the Study of Religious Experience* 2: 1-6.
- 2016 Embodied Encounters: Ethnographic Knowledge, Emotion and Senses in the Vale do Amanhecer's Spirit Mediumship. *Journal for the Study of Religious Experience* 2: 25-49.
- 2016 Becoming a Jaguar: Spiritual Routes in the Vale do Amanhecer. In Bettina Schmidt and Steven Engler (eds). *Handbook of Contemporary Religions in Brazil*. Leiden: Brill, pp. 225-232.
- 2016 'Fieldwork and Embodied Knowledge: Researching the Experiences of Spirit Mediums in the Brazilian Vale do Amanhecer'. In Bettina Schmidt. *The Study of Religious Experience: Approaches and Methodologies*, London: Equinox, pp. 50-70.
- 2016 Becoming a Spirit Medium: Initiatory Learning and the Self in the Vale do Amanhecer. *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology* 81(2): 290-314. (Published online in 2014).
- 2010 Aspectos Sócio-culturais dos Cultos de Matrizes Afros e Afro-brasileiras no Distrito Federal. In E. Pierini and M. Reis. *Identificação dos Lugares de Matrizes Africanas e Afro-Brasileira no Distrito Federal e Entorno, Inventário Nacional de Referências Culturais/INRC Lugares de Culto de Matrizes Africanas e Afro-Brasileiras no Distrito Federal e Entorno Fase II*. Brasília: Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional, pp. 56-94.
- 2009 Identità Ibride: l'Esperienza Religiosa nella Vale do Amanhecer. *Quaderni di Thule IX*, pp. 215-220.
- 2008 L'Ibridismo Religioso della Vale do Amanhecer. Un'Analisi delle Interazioni tra il Globale e il Locale in Brasile. *Quaderni di Thule VIII*, pp. 513-518.

Conference papers and invited lectures

- 2020 *Materializing Spiritual Experiences: Mediumistic Ways of Knowing in Brazil*, EASA2020 Conference, University of Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2019 *Learning to Heal: Developing Mediumship in the Vale do Amanhecer*, International Conference of the Centre for Studies on New Religions, University of Turin, Italy.
- 2019 *Beyond Belief: Therapeutic Trajectories and Mediumistic Experiences in the Vale do Amanhecer*, International Conference of the Religious Experience Research Centre, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, UK.
- 2018 *Notions of the Body and the Self in the Vale do Amanhecer's Spiritual Healing*, Workshop of the International Society for Academic Research on Shamanism-ISARS, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy.
- 2018 *Transnational Ways of Knowing the Spirits: Mediumship in the Vale do Amanhecer*, EASA2018 Conference, Stockholm University, Sweden.
- 2018 *Disobsessive Healing and Mediumistic Development in the Vale do Amanhecer*, 18th World Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil.
- 2017 *The Mediumistic Body: Learning Spirit Mediumship in the Vale do Amanhecer*. Skill and Scale in Transnational Mediumship Conference, University of Cologne, Germany.
- 2017 *Religions in Brazil between Categories and Experience*. 'Defining Religious Pluralism: A Research Hub for the Study of Religions', Department of History, Cultures and Religions, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy.

- 2016 *The Glastonbury Experience: Gender and Embodiment in the Goddess Temple*. 'Women, Religion and Gender Relations' Conference, University of Turin, Italy.
- 2016 *Discerning Spirits, Defining Selves: Learning Semi-Conscious Trance in the Vale do Amanhecer*. Conference 'Wild or Domesticated: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives to Mind', Helsinki, Finland.
- 2016 *Experiencing the Sacred through the Body: Emotion and Sensation in the Vale do Amanhecer's Spirit Mediumship*. Ethnography and Qualitative Research Conference, University of Bergamo, Italy.
- 2015 *Embodied Forms of Encounter: Educating Perception in researching among Brazilian Spirit Mediums*. 33rd ISSR Conference 'Sensing Religion', Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.
- 2013 *Religiosidade, Corpo e Self: O Aprendizado Iniciático no Vale do Amanhecer*. Invited Lecture at the PPGAS, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Florianópolis, Brazil.
- 2013 *Percursos Espirituais e Trajetórias Terapêuticas: O Aprendizado Iniciático no Vale do Amanhecer*. Invited Lecture at the PPGAS – Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal de Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 2013 *Mediumistic Experience and Notions of Selfhood in the Spiritualist Christian Order 'Vale do Amanhecer'*. 17th World Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, University of Manchester, UK.
- 2011 *Master Sun, Master Moon: Complementary Forms of Mediumship among the Jaguares of the Vale do Amanhecer*. Afterlife Research Centre Workshop 'Ethnographic Approaches to Mediumship', University of Bristol, UK.
- 2010 *Mediunidade e Cura no Vale do Amanhecer*. Medical Anthropology Seminar, Faculty of Medicine, Universidade de São Paulo (FM-USP), Brazil.
- 2009 *Hybrid Identities. Religious Experience in the Vale do Amanhecer*. 31st International Congress of Americanists, Perugia, Italy.
- 2009 *Religious Hybridism. The Process of 'Glocalisation' in the Vale do Amanhecer*. Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth ASA09 Conference, University of Bristol, UK.
- 2008 *Religious Hybridism in the Vale do Amanhecer. An Analysis of the Interactions between the Global and the Local in Brazil*. 30th International Congress of Americanists, Perugia, Italy.

Organization of events

- 2020 Panel convenor with Alberto Groisman, '*Other Worlds, Other Bodies? Ethnography, Experience and Epistemological Embodiment*', EASA2020 Conference, Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2019 Panel convenor with Alessandro Gusman, '*Healing Practices: Spiritual Approaches to Wellbeing*', International Conference of the Centre for Studies on New Religion, University of Turin, Italy.
- 2018 Convenor with Alberto Groisman and Diana Espírito Santo of the Workshop of the Instituto Brasil Plural '*Encontro Espiritualidade e Saúde*', Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil.
- 2018 Panel convenor with Alberto Groisman, '*Spirituality and Health: Epistemologies of Healing and the Ethnographic Encounter*', 18th World Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil.
- 2018 Panel convenor with Stefania Palmisano and Nicola Pannofino, '*Experiencing the Sacred between Religion and Spirituality*', Ethnography and Qualitative Research Conference, University of Bergamo, Italy.
- 2016 Panel convenor with Stefania Palmisano and Veronica Roldan, '*Qualitative Methodologies in the Social Sciences Conference*', Università degli Studi di Roma Tre, Italy.
- 2015 Panel convenor with Alberto Groisman, '*Bodily Dimension, Experience, and Ethnographic Research*', 33rd ISSR Conference 'Sensing Religion', Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.
- 2013 Panel convenor with Fiona Bowie, '*The Extended Self: Relationships between Material and*

- Immaterial Worlds*, 17th World Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, University of Manchester, UK.
- 2012 Convenor of the Afterlife Research Centre Research Seminar and Network Meeting, University of Bristol, UK.
- 2011 Convenor of the Workshop '*Ethnographic Approaches to Mediumship*', University of Bristol, UK.
- 2009 Student Member of the Organizing Committee of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth ASA09 Conference, University of Bristol, UK.
- 2009 Panel convenor with Maria de Lourdes Beldi de Alcântara: '*Cultural Negotiation: The Dialogue between Rituals and Globalisation*'. ASA09 Conference, University of Bristol, UK.
- 2009 Convenor of the Postgraduate Research Forum. ASA09 Conference, University of Bristol, UK.

Italiano

Ricercatrice Marie Skłodowska-Curie in Antropologia, Sapienza Università di Roma, Dipartimento SARAS. Il suo progetto, 'THETRANCE-Transnational Healing: Therapeutic Trajectories in Spiritual Trance', studia gli aspetti terapeutici dell'apprendimento di pratiche di trance spirituale nell'Ordine Spiritualista Cristiano Vale do Amanhecer in una prospettiva transnazionale. La Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellowship è in collaborazione con il Dipartimento di Antropologia dell'Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina in Brasile e con l'Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology dell'Università di Oxford, UK.

Antropologa sociale con un'estensiva esperienza etnografica in Brasile ed Europa. I suoi interessi di ricerca nel campo dell'antropologia sociale, medica e religiosa comprendono: spiritualità e salute, nozioni del corpo e del sé, emozioni e sensi, apprendimento religioso, esperienza religiosa, medianità e possessione.

Ha conseguito un Ph.D in Social Anthropology (University of Bristol) con tesi sull'esperienza medianica nel Vale do Amanhecer in Brasile, analizzando le nozioni di corpo e del sé nel processo di apprendimento della medianità; ricerca che ha ricevuto il Sutasoma Award dal Royal Anthropological Institute.

Autrice di *Jaguars of the Dawn: Spirit Mediumship in the Brazilian Vale do Amanhecer* (2020, New York; Oxford: Berghahn), articoli in riviste scientifiche internazionali e capitoli. Ha condotto ricerche anche sulle religioni afro-brasiliane (Distretto Federale, Brasile) e sulla spiritualità della Dea a Glastonbury (UK) e in Italia.

Coordinatrice del network internazionale di ricerca Spirituality & Health che riunisce antropologi, professionisti nel campo medico, terapeuti spirituali e rappresentanti di gruppi religiosi.

Ha insegnato corsi di antropologia e metodologia della ricerca etnografica presso la University of Bristol e The American University of Rome. Ha inoltre tenuto lezioni presso l'Università di Sarajevo e diverse università brasiliane.

Formazione

Ph.D, Social Anthropology, University of Bristol, United Kingdom.

M.A., con lode, Social Anthropology, University of Bristol, United Kingdom.

Laurea di Dottore in Scienze della Comunicazione, Sapienza Università di Roma, Italia.

Posizioni e affiliazioni

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellow, Sapienza Università di Roma. Progetto: 'Transnational Healing: Therapeutic Trajectories in Spiritual Trance', in collaborazione con l'Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina in Brasile, e University of Oxford, UK.

Visiting Professor del PPG in Antropologia Sociale, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brasile.

Coordinatrice del Network di Ricerca Spirituality & Health.

Membro del Comitato Scientifico del Religious Experience Research Centre, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, UK.

Membro della European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA).

Membro dell'International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES).

Membro dell'Associazione Italiana di Sociologia, sezione Sociologia della Religione.

Membro fondatore con Fiona Bowie del Afterlife Research Centre for Cross-Cultural Ethnographic Research (fondato alla University of Bristol).

Membro del Consiglio Editoriale del *Journal for the Study of Religious Experience*.

Pubblicazioni

- 2020 *Jaguars of the Dawn: Spirit Mediumship in the Brazilian Vale do Amanhecer*, New York; Oxford: Berghahn.
- 2018 Healing and Therapeutic Trajectories among the Spirit Mediums of the Brazilian Vale do Amanhecer, *International Journal of Latin American Religions* 2(2): 272-289.
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- 2016 Becoming a Jaguar: Spiritual Routes in the Vale do Amanhecer. In Bettina Schmidt and Steven Engler (eds). *Handbook of Contemporary Religions in Brazil*. Leiden: Brill, pp. 225-232.
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- 2010 Aspectos Sócio-culturais dos Cultos de Matrizes Afros e Afro-brasileiras no Distrito Federal. In E. Pierini and M. Reis. *Identificação dos Lugares de Matrizes Africanas e Afro-Brasileira no Distrito Federal e Entorno, Inventário Nacional de Referências Culturais/INRC Lugares de Culto de Matrizes Africanas e Afro-Brasileiras no Distrito Federal e Entorno Fase II*. Brasília: Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional, pp. 56-94.
- 2009 Identità Ibride: l'Esperienza Religiosa nella Vale do Amanhecer. *Quaderni di Thule IX*, pp. 215-220.
- 2008 L'Ibridismo Religioso della Vale do Amanhecer. Un'Analisi delle Interazioni tra il Globale e il Locale in Brasile. *Quaderni di Thule VIII*, pp. 513-518.

Conferenze

- 2020 *Materializing Spiritual Experiences: Mediumistic Ways of Knowing in Brazil*, EASA2020 Conference, University of Lisbon, Portogallo.
- 2019 *Learning to Heal: Developing Mediumship in the Vale do Amanhecer*, International Conference of the Centre for Studies on New Religions, Università di Torino, Italia.
- 2019 *Beyond Belief: Therapeutic Trajectories and Mediumistic Experiences in the Vale do Amanhecer*, International Conference of the Religious Experience Research Centre, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, UK.
- 2018 *Notions of the Body and the Self in the Vale do Amanhecer's Spiritual Healing*, Workshop of the International Society for Academic Research on Shamanism-ISARS, Sapienza Università di Roma.
- 2018 *Transnational Ways of Knowing the Spirits: Mediumship in the Vale do Amanhecer*, EASA2018 Conference, Stockholm University, Svezia.
- 2018 *Disobsessive Healing and Mediumistic Development in the Vale do Amanhecer*, 18th World Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brasile.

- 2017 *The Mediumistic Body: Learning Spirit Mediumship in the Vale do Amanhecer*. Skill and Scale in Transnational Mediumship Conference, University of Cologne, Germania.
- 2017 *Religions in Brazil between Categories and Experience*. 'Defining Religious Pluralism: A Research Hub for the Study of Religions', Department of History, Cultures and Religions, Sapienza Università di Roma, Italia.
- 2016 *The Glastonbury Experience: Gender and Embodiment in the Goddess Temple*. 'Women, Religion and Gender Relations' Conference, Università di Torino, Italia.
- 2016 *Discerning Spirits, Defining Selves: Learning Semi-Conscious Trance in the Vale do Amanhecer*. Conference 'Wild or Domesticated: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives to Mind', Helsinki, Finlandia.
- 2016 *Experiencing the Sacred through the Body: Emotion and Sensation in the Vale do Amanhecer's Spirit Mediumship*. Convegno di 'Etnografia e Ricerca Qualitativa', Università di Bergamo, Italia.
- 2015 *Embodied Forms of Encounter: Educating Perception in researching among Brazilian Spirit Mediums*. 33rd ISSR Conference 'Sensing Religion', Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgio.
- 2013 *Religiosidade, Corpo e Self: O Aprendizado Inicial no Vale do Amanhecer*. Invited Lecture al PPGAS, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Florianópolis, Brasile.
- 2013 *Percursos Espirituais e Trajetórias Terapêuticas: O Aprendizado Inicial no Vale do Amanhecer*. Invited Lecture al PPGAS – Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal de Rio de Janeiro, Brasile.
- 2013 *Mediumistic Experience and Notions of Selfhood in the Spiritualist Christian Order 'Vale do Amanhecer'*. 17th World Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, University of Manchester, UK.
- 2011 *Master Sun, Master Moon: Complementary Forms of Mediumship among the Jaguares of the Vale do Amanhecer*. Afterlife Research Centre Workshop 'Ethnographic Approaches to Mediumship', University of Bristol, UK.
- 2010 *Mediunidade e Cura no Vale do Amanhecer*. Seminario di Antropologia Medica, Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de São Paulo (FM-USP), Brasile.
- 2009 *Hybrid Identities. Religious Experience in the Vale do Amanhecer*. 31st International Congress of Americanists, Perugia, Italia.
- 2009 *Religious Hybridism. The Process of 'Glocalisation' in the Vale do Amanhecer*. Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth ASA09 Conference, University of Bristol, UK.
- 2008 *Religious Hybridism in the Vale do Amanhecer. An Analysis of the Interactions between the Global and the Local in Brazil*. 30th International Congress of Americanists, Perugia, Italia.

Organizzazione di eventi internazionali

- 2020 con Alberto Groisman, panel '*Other Worlds, Other Bodies? Ethnography, Experience and Epistemological Embodiment*' EASA2020 Conference, Lisbona, Portogallo.
- 2019 con Alessandro Gusman, panel '*Healing Practices: Spiritual Approaches to Wellbeing*', International Conference of the Centre for Studies on New Religion, Università di Torino, Italia.
- 2018 con Alberto Groisman e Diana Espírito Santo, Workshop '*Encontro Espiritualidade e Saúde*', Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brasile.
- 2018 con Alberto Groisman, panel '*Spirituality and Health: Epistemologies of Healing and the Ethnographic Encounter*', 18th World Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brasile.
- 2018 con Stefania Palmisano and Nicola Pannofino, panel '*Experiencing the Sacred between Religion and Spirituality*', Convegno di 'Etnografia e Ricerca Qualitativa', Università di Bergamo, Italia.
- 2016 con Stefania Palmisano e Veronica Roldan, Convegno 'Metodologie Qualitative nelle Scienze Sociali', Università degli Studi di Roma Tre, Italia.

- 2015 con Alberto Groisman, panel '*Bodily Dimension, Experience, and Ethnographic Research*' 33rd ISSR Conference 'Sensing Religion', Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.
- 2013 con Fiona Bowie: '*The Extended Self: Relationships between Material and Immaterial Worlds*', 17th World Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, University of Manchester, UK.
- 2012 Afterlife Research Centre Research Seminar and Network Meeting, University of Bristol, UK.
- 2011 Organizzazione del Workshop '*Ethnographic Approaches to Mediumship*', University of Bristol, UK.
- 2009 Membro del Comitato Organizzativo dell'Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth ASA09 Conference, University of Bristol, UK.
- 2009 con Maria de Lourdes Beldi de Alcântara, panel '*Cultural Negotiation: The Dialogue between Rituals and Globalisation*', ASA09 Conference, University of Bristol, UK.
- 2009 Organizzazione del Postgraduate Research Forum, ASA09 Conference, University of Bristol, UK.