

ANTONELLA CARUSO CURRICULUM VITAE

SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE

2020: Founder and Executive Director, LAMEDINA Institute

Currently, in the process to be filed as 501(c)3 in California, LAMEDINA fosters peaceful coexistence in increasingly multicultural societies across the world, through high-level dialogue processes and in-depth studies and analysis of issues of interest. LAMEDINA co-organized the LA Dialogue on Creating Cities of Belonging in Los Angeles on March 4-5, 2020 under the chairmanship of the HR United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Miguel Angel Moratinos and the Mayor of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti

2018-2019: Adjunct, Rand Corporation

Helped develop research proposals in the fields of Middle East politics, minorities and Shi'a Islam.

2012-2017: Director (D-2 level) of the Middle East and West Asia Division (MEWAD)- Department of Political Affairs, United Nations

The MEWAD division is the largest within the UN Department of Political Affairs, covering the vast area that stretches from the Gaza Strip to Pakistan, including the Gulf region and the Central Asian Republics. With five dedicated teams and a total of 42 staff based in the UNHQ, MEWAD backstops five Special Political Missions (UNAMA in Afghanistan, UNAMI in Iraq, UNSCO in Jerusalem, UNSCOL in Lebanon and UNRCC in Turkmenistan) and two Special Offices, the ones for Syria and Yemen. . The division supports the good offices of the UN Secretary General and provides strategic advice for the UN leadership with analytical notes, talking points, background notes, briefings and reports, supported by a robust network of relations with members states both at the General Assembly and Security Council, regional organizations and the overall UN system.

2008-2012: Founder and Director of the Ipalmo-USIP Dialogue on National Reconciliation in Iraq

The Dialogue formed the first Parliamentary Caucus for National Reconciliation in October 2010. In May, 2011 the Caucus, constituted by 22 well-known MPs and political leaders, launched its Action Plan For National Reconciliation, in the presence and with the endorsement of the Iraqi Government and the Presidency of the Parliament. The Iraqi Dialogue was financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs-DGPAS.

2003-7: Columnist on Middle Eastern affairs at L'Espresso Magazine

2000-2003: Senior Fellow, Institute for Mediterranean Studies (ISM), Università della Svizzera Italiana

Director of the program 'Incontri del Gottardo', an annual cycle of Italian-Swiss round-tables on Mediterranean issues, organized high-level meetings on the Middle East and North Africa.

1992 -2000: Senior Advisor, ENI (Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi)

Advisor to ENI CEO on North Africa and the Middle East, helped enlarge and strengthen a wide-ranging network of top-level politicians, experts, think-tanks and state institutions in North Africa and the Middle East. Provided in-depth analysis and reports to the CEO and top management on energy policy, socio-political trends as well as on political and economic regional and sub-regional cooperation.

In 1992-1996, as a member of ENI's International Affairs Department, followed European Union energy policy, the Barcelona Process and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. and

participated in international conferences aimed at supporting peace and stability in the Mediterranean area (WEF Davos, WEF North Africa/Middle East Economic Summit, OME Conference on Energy Cooperation among Euro-Mediterranean countries).

1989-1992 – Special Assistant on North Africa and Middle East Affairs of the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Reporting directly to the Minister and working in coordination with the Cabinet of the Minister and his Technical Secretariat, followed all diplomatic initiatives concerning bilateral, multilateral, regional and sub-regional cooperation with Arab and Islamic countries. Member of the Italian delegation in the Special Group for the European Community Coordination in the Middle East Peace Process, of the Italian delegation in the Euro-Arab Dialogue, of the Middle East Peace Conference in Madrid and Moscow, and of the Western Mediterranean Cooperation Dialogue.

Working alongside the Minister, contributed to the development of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CSCM) and helped finalize the first drafts of the constituent documents of the CSCM. In addition, helped develop the '5+5' initiative to promote stability and economic development in the Western Mediterranean.

Member of the Commission for the evaluation of experts for the Central Technical Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in charge of the Arab Language exams.

STUDIES AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

- 1984** Rome. Degree in Arabic Language and Literature (110/110 cum laude with publication of the abridged version of the thesis)- MA equivalent, Department of Oriental Studies, Faculty of Letters, La Sapienza University, Rome.
- 1985** London. Studies on Islamic medieval geography and cosmology under the supervision of Prof. Alessandro Bausani, Islamic Studies I, Department of Oriental Studies, Faculty of Letters, La Sapienza University, Rome.
- 1985-86**
1987-88 Cairo-Egypt. Ministry of Foreign Affairs scholarship for post-graduate studies. Courses of Arabic Advanced level at 'Ayn Shams University and the Centre Culturel Francais. Member of the research team on Saint Jean of Acre: History/Preservation, under the supervision of Prof. Luciana Menozzi, Faculty of Architecture, Universita' degli Studi di Reggio Calabria. Supervised and assisted by Prof. G.C. Anawati, Institut Dominicain d'Etudes Orientales du Caire, in study of a manuscript text of Islamic medieval theodicy attributed to the medieval scholar al-Jahiz.
- 1992** Arcavacata-Cosenza. Visiting Professor , Arab Contemporary History, Universita' della Calabria, Department of Political Economy.
- 1994-2012:** North Africa and the Middle East Coordinator, LIMES, the Italian Geopolitical Review and Member of its Scientific Committee.
- 2006- 2007** Research Associate, Institut Montaigne, Paris. Project leader on the institutionalization of Islam in Europe, with a focus on France, Great Britain and Austria.

PUBLICATIONS

Medio Oriente, XXI Secolo, Istituto dell'Enciclopedia Italiana Treccani, Rome, 2010

Au nom de l'Islam: quel dialogue avec les minorités musulmanes en Europe? Institut Montaigne, Paris, Septembre 2007

Una versione diversa dell'Islam radicale, *Awraq*, vol. XVI (1995) pp. 247-276

L'arte talismanica nel codice Vaticano Arabo 938, in "Yad Nama : in memoria di Alessandro Bausani", vol. II, Roma, 1991, pp. 29-58

Kitab al'ibar wa l-i'tibar : introduzione, analisi e traduzione di un testo « apocrifo » jahiziano, Istituto Universitario di Napoli, Napoli, 1991

v. *Cartografia Islamica*, Enciclopedia dell'Arte Medievale, Treccani

v. *Almeria*, Enciclopedia dell'Arte Medievale, Treccani

La Marina Musulmana nel Mediterraneo Orientale, in « Atti del I Convegno Internazionale : Guerra di corsa e di pirateria nel Mediterraneo », Catanzaro, 1988

Il Canone di al-Biruni, *Sapere* (May 1988) pp. 33-38

Note di cosmologia islamica nel commento coranico di Fakhr al-din al-Razi, *Annali dell'Istituto di Studi Orientali di Napoli*, 47 (1987) pp. 15-37

La forma della Terra nella letteratura geografica musulmana del Medioevo, (abridged version of the BA/MA thesis), *Rivista degli Studi Orientali*, LIX, fasc. I-IV (1985) pp. 23-45

LIMES: several articles (1994-2012); L'ESPRESSO magazine, several articles (2004-2012)