

## Elena Valdameri (Ph.D., M.A.)

elena.valdameri83@gmail.com  
+393335396550

### Biography

I am a historian with significant research experience and particular expertise in modern South Asia. I received my Ph.D. from the State University of Milan in 2015, with a dissertation on the political thought of Gopal Krishna Gokhale (1866–1915), liberal leader of the Indian National Congress. After completing my Ph.D., I taught modern and contemporary History of South Asia and Southeast Asia at the University of Pavia and I was a postdoctoral researcher at academic institutions in Switzerland, India, and Germany.

### Research Interests

- History of citizenship with a particular focus on citizen-crafting programs targeting women in late colonial and early independent India
- History of the Indian nationalism with special attention to political thought and global circulation of ideas
- History of the social reform movement in colonial India and its transnational interconnections
- Gender studies and women's studies
- History of contemporary Indonesia

### Academic History

Apr. 2020 – Jul. 2020

Junior Postdoctoral Fellow, Max Weber College, University of Erfurt

Nov. 2018 - Apr. 2019

Junior Postdoctoral Fellow, ICAS:MP, New Delhi

Project title: *“Physical Education and Femininity in India (1900s – 1950s): Global Trends and Local Politics towards Crafting Women Citizens”*

Sep. 2017 - Oct. 2018

Postdoctoral Researcher, Chair for the History of the Modern World, ETH-Zurich

Nov. 2011 - Jul. 2015

Ph.D. in Historical and Documentary Studies, State University of Milan

Thesis: *Foundations of Gokhale's Nationalism: Between Nation and Empire*

Supervisors: Prof. Michelguglielmo Torri; Silvia M. Pizzetti, Dr. Parimala V. Rao

Jul. 2013 - Jul. 2014

Affiliated Research Scholar, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Feb. 2007 - Nov. 2010

M.A. in History and Historical Documentary Research, State University of Milan

Thesis: *Thomas Saunders e la rivalità anglo-francese in India 1746-1754* (Thomas Saunders and Anglo-French Rivalry in India 1746-1754)

Sept. 2004 - Feb. 2007

B.A. in Historical Sciences, State University of Milan

Thesis: *“The private diary of Ananda Ranga Pillai”: la fine del colonialismo francese in India attraverso le memorie di un tamil* (The private diary of Ananda Ranga Pillai”: the end of French colonialism through the eyes of a Tamil)

### Current Research

My current research focusses on the citizen-making projects targeting women in late colonial and early independent India and adopting physical culture as an instrument to inscribe values of ‘good’ citizenship, discipline, and national pride on their bodies. While considering the transnational trajectories and global tendencies in terms of theories, debates, and practices of crafting healthy and (re-)productive female citizens, I intend to explore if and how the

physical education imparted affected gender norms and created spaces to claim new rights or to modify existing citizenship codes.

### Teaching Activities

Academic Year 2017-18

Lecture Course: “Storia dell’India e del Sudest asiatico” at the University of Pavia, Department of Political and Social Sciences

Academic Year 2016-17

Seminar Course: “Indian Ocean: History, Geopolitics and Security” (with Dr. Massimo Zaccaria) at the University of Pavia, Department of Political and Social Sciences

### Training Courses

Summer School ‘TOIndia’ on Globalization and Development in India organised by the Department of Political Studies of the University of Turin, 4-8 July 2011

Cycle of seminars on ‘Società internazionale e multiculturalismo dall’antichità ai giorni nostri’ (International society and multiculturalism from ancient history to contemporaneity), promoted by the Centro per gli studi di politica estera e opinione pubblica dell’Università degli Studi di Milano (November 2005-May 2006)

### Awards and Funding

Three-month Fellowship from Max Weber College, Erfurt University

Six-month Junior Fellowship from ICAS:MP, Delhi

“Premio Cesare Bonacossa” for the best Ph.D. thesis on the non-European world in the academic years 2014-2015 by the Centre for the Study of Extra-European Civilisations (CSPE) of the University of Pavia

Three-year Ph.D. scholarship awarded by Ministero dell’Istruzione, dell’Università e della Ricerca (Italian Government)

### Publications

*Indian Liberalism between Nation and Empire: The Political Life of Gopal Krishna Gokhale* (London: Routledge 2021) .

“Debates on Citizenship in Colonial South Asia and Global Political Thought (c. 1880–1950)” in *The Routledge Handbook of the History of Colonialism in South Asia*, ed. by Harald Fischer-Tiné and Maria Framke (London: Routledge, 2021).

“Gopal Krishna Gokhale: Nazione e Impero tra ‘Oriente’ e ‘Occidente’”, in Marzia Casolari, Claudia Tresso (eds.), *Sguardi sull’Asia. Scritti in onore di Michelguglielmo Torri*, I Libri di Emil, Bologna 2017, pp. 101-127.

“Indonesia 2017: Towards Illiberal Democracy?” *Asia Maior* 2017, Vol. XXVIII, pp. 165-190.

“Indonesia 2016: A Difficult Equilibrium amid Global Anxiety”, *Asia Maior* 2016, Vol. XXVII, pp. 167-197.

“La Tentazione dell’*Hindutva*. Fondamentalismo indù e intolleranza in India”, *MicroMega* 8/2016, pp. 119-126.

“Indonesia in 2015: The People’s President’s First Year”, *Asia Maior* 2015, Vol. XXVI, pp. 157-195.

“The Influence of Liberalism in the Definition of the Idea of the Nation in India”, *La Révolution française* [online], 8 (2015), published online on the 24 July 2015.

“‘The Man on Earth I Should Dread as an Enemy’. The Administration of Thomas Saunders during the War in the Deccan (1750-55)”, *Società e storia*, n. 135, 2012, pp. 5-40.

Book Review: Marc Jason Gilbert, *South Asia in World History*, New York, Oxford University Press, 2017, in: *H-Soz-Kult*, 28.08.2018

Book Review: Giulio Abbate, *Un dispotismo illuminato e paterno: riforme e codificazione nell'India britannica, 1772-1883*, (Giuffrè, 2015), in *Ricerche di Storia Politica*, Vol. 20, No. 2 (June 2017).

### Contributions to Public Debates

“Fragile India ai tempi del Covid-19”, interview for *Popoli e Missione*, Jun. 2020.

“L’India, il blocco, il Kashmir e l’Assam”, interview for *Nessun Luogo è Lontano*, *Radio 24*, 6 Apr. 2020.

“Radical Islam is Gaining Ground in Indonesia”, *The Wire*, 7 June 2017.

“Gopal Krishna Gokhale: The Neglected Liberal”, *The Wire*, 9 May 2016.

“Attentati a Jakarta e influenza saudita in Indonesia”, interview for *L’Ora di Cindia*, *Radio Radicale*, 16 Jan. 2016.

### International Conferences and Research Activities

#### Panels organized

“Riches and belonging: Global diasporas in the 20<sup>th</sup> century” with Prof. Martin Dusinger, Prof. Harald Fischer-Tiné, Dr. Mark Frost and Dario Willi for the *Fünfte Schweizerische Geschichtstage*, 7 June 2019, Zürich.

“Crafting citizens before and beyond the nation: politics of citizenship in late colonial India 1880-1940” with Prof. Harald Fischer-Tiné, Dr. Mark Frost and Dr. Swapna Banerjee for the *Annual Conference on South Asia*, 12 October 2018, Madison.

“Alternatives to the British colonial order: Some reflections on the French presence in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century colonial India” with Dr. Massimiliano Vaghi, Dr. Parimala Rao, and Gopal Gopalakichenane, for the *6th French Network for Asian Studies International Conference*, 26 June 2017, Paris.

#### Papers Given

“The poor, the rich, and the citizen: shift in discourses of citizenship in 20<sup>th</sup> century India”, *Fünfte Schweizerische Geschichtstage*, 7 June 2019, Zürich.

“Physical Education and Femininity in India (1900s – 1950s): Global Trends and Local Politics towards Crafting Women Citizens”, *Women’s Studies Centre, Savitribai Phule University*, 14 March 2019, Pune.

“Gopal Krishna Gokhale: some reflections on his political thought”, *Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics*, 30 January 2019, Pune.

“Gopal Krishna Gokhale and the making of public-spirited citizens through political and civics education”, *Annual Conference on South Asia*, 12 October 2018, Madison.

“The French Revolution in the Maharashtra anti-colonial movement (ca 1890-1910)”, *6th French Network for Asian Studies International Conference*, 26 June 2017, Paris.

“Gopal Krishna Gokhale: creating citizens in colonial India (1890-1915)”, *BASAS Annual Conference*, 19-21 April 2017, Nottingham.

### Language skills

Italian: native speaker

English: proficiency level

Hindi: advanced level

Marathi: beginner level (ongoing study)

Spanish: intermediate level

German: beginner level

### Computer skills

Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)  
Skype Video Conferencing  
Digital Calendars (Google, Outlook, etc.)  
Zotero  
Data Sharing Programs (Google Drive, Dropbox)

### Teamworking and leadership skills

Working on common projects with highly collaborative and multi-national teams

Sharing research in an inter-disciplinary and multi-cultural environment

Taking the initiative in calling for meetings, organizing workshops and panels, starting discussions that might be of interest for the team

### Project Management

Designing research proposals which are tailored according to the specific requirements of different calls and funding schemes

Working effectively on diverse and multiple tasks, both in group and individually, identifying priorities as required

Working flexibly, meeting tight deadlines and managing high levels of stress

### Communication and building network

Preparing and presenting written and verbal communications in front of academic audiences and students of mixed level and ability

Building and keeping networks, nationally and internationally

12/06/2020