

Elena Mucciarelli

Postdoctoral Fellow

The Martin Buber Society of Fellows in the Humanities and Social Sciences,
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Profile

Elena Mucciarelli focuses on the cultural history of South India using a holistic approach that brings together textual, oral, and visual materials and different disciplinary approaches (philology, anthropology, media studies). Currently she is working on the narratives of power and the strategic usage of media in 12th-14th centuries Karnataka. She is also studying the ritual aspects in the performative tradition of modern Kerala. Her areas of expertise are: Old Indian ritual and poetic tradition (Vedic); Medieval inscriptions and courtly literature in Karnataka, Kerala theatrical tradition. Languages of expertise: Kannada, Malayalam, Sanskrit.

Curriculum vitae

- 2007: MA degree in Indology and Classical Literature, University of Milan with a thesis entitled “Una radice indoeuropea del desiderio nella *Rgvedasamhitā*”.
- 2008-2009: two-years grant for studying abroad by University of Milan for a project on ritual language in Brāhmaṇas at University of Tübingen.
- 2011-2012: Teaching Assistant at the Department of Literary Studies, Philology and Linguistic, University of Milan.
- May 2011: Ph.D. “Bi-nationally Supervised Doctoral thesis” (“co-tutelle de thèse”) in Indological and Tibetological Studies, University of Turin and Cultural Studies, University of Tübingen. Advisors: Prof. Giuliano Boccali, Prof. Klaus Butzenberger.
- 2014 Dr. Phil. degree in Indology, University of Tübingen.
- 2017 up to present: Research Fellow, The Martin Buber Society of Fellows in the Humanities and Social Sciences (<http://buberfellows.huji.ac.il/node/429>).

Academic Activities

I – Projects and Collaborations

A. As principal investigator:

- 2014-2015: Principal investigator “Kings of the Wild” supported by the Institutional Strategy of the University of Tübingen (DFG, ZUK 63).

B. As member of the core research team in founded projects:

- 2016-2018: Research assistant “Das Hermann-Gundert Portal: Digitalisierung und Erschließung des Nachlasses von Hermann Gundert (Handschriften, Drucke) sowie ergänzender Werke aus seinem Umfeld an der Universitätsbibliothek Tübingen” (DFG), University of Tübingen.
- 2016-2017: Junior Researcher “Farbpräferenzen – ein interdisziplinäres Forschungsvorhaben zum Verhältnis von Farbwahrnehmung und visueller Kultur” (Exploration Fund) PI: Prof. S. Marschall and Dr. A. Werner, University of Tübingen.
- 2013-2015 (prolonged to 2016): Fellow researcher “Kudiyattam: Living Sanskrit Theater in Kerala Tradition” (funded by German-Israel Foundation) PI: Prof. Heike Oberlin, University of Tübingen and Prof. David Shulman, Hebrew University of

Jerusalem.

- 2012-2013: Post-doctoral fellow "Traces of an Heterodox Concept of Kingship in Ancient, Medieval and Modern India" (U.E. / RAS), University of Cagliari.

C. As member of joint-projects:

- 2013-2014: *Epigraphia Carnatica Digitization Project* at Tübingen University Library <http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/en/35650>
- 2010 onward: funding member of the research network Coffee Break Project <http://asiaticacoffeebreak.wordpress.com>

D. As external invited expert:

- 2013 External collaborator of the *Sanskrit Manuscript Project, Cambridge* <http://sanskrit.lib.cam.ac.uk>

Selected Publications

- Books

2014 *Changes in the semantics between the Ṛgveda Saṃhitā and the Brāhmaṇas*. Tübingen: Online-Ausg.- TOBIAS-lib.

2011 *Changes in the language between the Ṛgvedasaṃhitā and the Brāhmaṇas: a case-study*. Università di Torino (PhD Thesis in Indological and Tibetological Studies).

2011 (with. M. Angelillo) *Il Brahmanesimo. Il cuore del pensiero religioso vedico*. Como: Xenia

- Edited Books

2017 (forth.) Oberlin, H.; Shulman, D.; and Mucciarelli E. (eds.) *Two masterpieces of Kūṭiyāṭṭam: Mantrāṅkam and Aṅguliyāṅkam*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.

2016 Bindi, S.; Mucciarelli, E.; Pontillo, T. (eds.) *Cross-Cutting Asian Studies: an Interdisciplinary Approach*. Delhi: DK.

2015 Pontillo, T.; Bignami, C.; Dore, M.; Mucciarelli, E. (eds.) *The Volatile World of Sovereignty: The Vrātya Problem and Kingship in South Asia*. Delhi: DK.

2013 Boccali, G.; Mucciarelli, E.(eds.) *Stylistic Devices in Indian Literature and Arts*. Milano: Cisalpino Istituto Editoriale Universitario.

- Articles

2018 (forth.) Elena Mucciarelli "An Arena for Experimentation: The Blurring Structure of Mantrāṅkam". In *Two masterpieces of Kūṭiyāṭṭam: Mantrāṅkam and Aṅguliyāṅkam*, ed. by H. Oberlin, D. Shulman.

2018 (forth.) Heike Oberlin-Elena Mucciarelli: "Plucking the flowers: Theatre and Ritual in Mantrāṅkam". In *Two masterpieces of Kūṭiyāṭṭam: Mantrāṅkam and Aṅguliyāṅkam*, ed. by H. Oberlin, D. Shulman.

2017 "The steadiness of a non-steady place: re-adaptation of the imagery of the chariot". In *Adaptive Reuse: Aspects of Creativity in South Asian Cultural History*, ed. by E. Freschi and P. A. Maas. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz (Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes 101).

2016 "Talking Stones: Royal Inscriptions in Medieval Karṇāṭaka". In *Cosmopolitanism and Regionalism in the Indian Cultural Dynamics*, ed. by Cristina Bignami and Ewa Dębicka-Borek. (Cracow: Cracow Indological Studies XVIII).

2016 "Goddess and Fertility in the Vedic Period: looking for Stratifications". In *Cross-Cutting Asian Studies: an Interdisciplinary Approach*, ed. by S. Bindi, E. Mucciarelli, T. Pontillo. Delhi: DK.

2015 "Lost Speech: the poetry of sattrins". In *The Volatile World of Sovereignty: The Vrātya*

Problem and Kingship in South Asia, ed. by T. Pontillo, C. Bignami, M. Dore, E. Mucciarelli. Delhi: DK.

- 2014 "Quotations in Vedic Literature: is the changing of a mantra a stylistic device or the degeneration of a 'beautiful mind? ". In *Journal of Indian Philosophy*. Volume 43, Issue 4 (2015): 559-579 (DOI: 10.1007/s10781-014-9247-2).
- 2013 "How to tell the presence of the gods: a Ṛgvedic technique". In *Stylistic Devices in Indian Literature and Arts*, ed. by G. Boccali and E. Mucciarelli. Milano: Cisalpino Istituto Editoriale Universitario, 133-144.

For pdfs of articles etc. see [Academia.edu](https://www.academia.edu).