

CURRICULUM VITAE

LAVINIA BENEDETTI

Associate Professor of Chinese Language and Literature (SSD L-OR/21)

Department of Humanities

University of Catania, Italy

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ACADEMIC CAREER

Education, Academic Qualifications and International Fellowships

23 June 2011

Ph.D. (Boshi Xuewei 博士学位) in Chinese Literature

School of Humanities and Social Sciences, **Tsinghua University**, Beijing, People's Republic of China.

Dissertation: *The Metamorphosed Reception of the Di Gong'an Novel in the West (Digong'an xiaoshuo zai xifang de jieshou bianxing 狄公案小说在西方的接受变形).*

Supervisor: Prof. Wang Ning.

Official recognition of degree equivalence in Italy: **16 June 2016.**

22 June 2011

Doctoral Coursework Certificate (Boshi Yanjiusheng Zhengshu 博士研究生证书)

Tsinghua University, Beijing.

Completed **27 doctoral credits** during the period 2007–2011.

September 2007 – June 2011

Recipient of the **Beijing Government Scholarship**, a four-year full doctoral fellowship awarded by the Beijing Municipal Government for Ph.D. studies at Tsinghua University.

October 2008 – April 2009

Recipient of an **International Research Fellowship** (Italian Law 398/89), awarded by Sapienza University of Rome for research abroad and held concurrently with the Beijing Government Scholarship.

September 2016

Recipient of the **Chinese Government Scholarship for the Chinese Language Programme**, a full annual scholarship awarded by the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China.

September 2006 – July 2007

Advanced Chinese Language Programme, **Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU)**.

Awarded the **Visiting Student Certificate (Jinxu Zhengshu 进修证书)**.

June 2006 – September 2006

Internship at the **Italian Cultural Institute**, Embassy of Italy in Beijing, the MAECI–MIUR–CRUI Foundation Programme.

Main activities included:

- organization of cultural events during the "Year of Italy in China" (2006);
- management of institutional web content;
- preparation of Chinese-language press reviews.

20 December 2005

Degree in Oriental Languages and Civilizations

Sapienza University of Rome.

Dissertation: *Chinese Sign Language (Zhongguo Shouyu 中国手语)*.

Graduated **summa cum laude (110/110 cum laude)**.

February – May 2004

Advanced Chinese Language Programme, **Beijing Foreign Studies University**, Beijing.

Awarded the **Visiting Student Certificate**.

September 2002 – July 2003

Erasmus Scholarship

Faculty of Arts and Humanities, **Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain)**.

Academic Appointments and Career Progression

Since 23 March 2026

Member of the **Scientific Committee of the University Language Centre (CLA)**, University of Catania.

Since 9 February 2026

Member of the **Technical Committee for the Chinese Language**, University Language Centre (CLA), University of Catania.

Since September 2022

Member of the **Board of the Bachelor's Degree Programme in Linguistic and Cultural Mediation (L-12)**, Special Didactic Structure of Ragusa, University of Catania.

Since 30 November 2019

Associate Professor of Chinese Language and Literature (SSD L-OR/21)

Department of Humanities, University of Catania (Special Didactic Structure of Ragusa).

6 September 2018

Awarded the **Italian National Scientific Qualification (ASN)** for the position of Associate Professor (Second Level) in Competition Sector 10/N3.

Obtained **unanimous positive evaluation (5/5)** from the national evaluation committee.

January 2017 – November 2019

Tenure-track Assistant Professor (RTD-B)

Chinese Language and Literature (SSD L-OR/21)

Department of Humanities, University of Catania.

December 2011 – January 2017

Assistant Professor (RTD-A)

Chinese Language and Literature (SSD L-OR/21)

Department of Humanities, University of Catania.

Appointment renewed in December 2014.

RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Research Interests

- Classical and modern Chinese crime fiction
- Late imperial vernacular literature
- Chinese erotic literature and representations of the body
- Literary translation and imagology

- Chinese cultural studies, with a particular focus on gender studies, postcolonial studies, and postmodern theory
- Chinese Sign Language (CSL) and visual communication

Principal Investigator in Research Projects and International Research Networks

Principal Investigator

Since September 2021

Principal Investigator, Translation Project of the *Encyclopedic Dictionary of Chinese Culture* (中国文化知识辞典), Beijing Language and Culture University (China).

February 2019 – November 2019

Principal Investigator

Research Project: **Chinese Literary Classics as a Shared Heritage between China and Japan**

Prometeo Research Programme, Department of Humanities, University of Catania.

Research team:

- Lavinia Benedetti (PI)
- Paolo Villani
- Paolo La Marca

May 2018

Principal Investigator

Research Project:

A Textual Study on the Relationship between Feng Menglong's *Clerk's Lady* and the Song-Dynasty Story *Three Appearings*

Conducted in collaboration with Prof. Tang Chunsheng, Chongqing Normal University (China), within the framework of the **Visiting Program for Young Sinologists**, funded by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China.

2018–2019

Individual research project:

Individualism and Self-Representation in Early Chinese Literature

Prometeo Research Programme, University of Catania.

2017–2018

Individual research project:

Women on Death Row: Judicial Injustice in Traditional Chinese Narrative

Prometeo Research Programme, University of Catania.

2017–2018

Principal Investigator

Research Project:

The Unspeakable and Discrimination in China, Egypt and Japan: Comparative Linguistic and Semantic Strategies

Prometeo Research Programme, University of Catania.

Research team:

- Lavinia Benedetti (PI)
- Paolo Villani
- Alba Rosa Suriano

July–August 2017

Principal Investigator

International collaborative project:

The Concept of *Fa* in Pre-Qin Thought from Cosmological, Social and Political Perspectives

Greater China Summer Workshop Program in Chinese Studies.

The project received both the

- **Best Research Project Award**
- **Distinguished Honorary Mention Prize for Best Researcher**

awarded by the Sinological Development Charitable Foundation (SDCF).

2016–2017

Project Manager of the Italian research unit for the international project

Chinese Postmodernism

Principal Investigator: Prof. Wang Ning

Institute of Arts and Humanities, Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

2015–2016

Principal Investigator of the Italian research unit for the international project

Database of Italy

Developed within the framework of the **Chinese Culture Translation and Studies Support Network (CCTSS)**, Beijing Language and Culture University.

2012–2013

Principal Investigator of an individual research project funded by the University of Catania Research Fund.

The project resulted in peer-reviewed publications on morality and justice in Qing dynasty crime fiction.

Member of National and International Research Projects

Since 2025

Member of the **Grupo de Investigación Sinología Española Complutense: Lengua, Cultura y Sociedad (GISEC-LCS 970916)**

Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

Since 2024

Member of the international research project

WU ZETIAN: Writings and Uncovering of the Zhou-era Edicts, Treaties, Inscriptions, Analyses and Narratives

Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

Since 2024

Member of the interdisciplinary PIACERI research project

Human–Nature Relationships through Ecocritical Perspectives

University of Catania.

2023–2026

Member of the Italian National Research Project (**PRIN 2022**)

Phantasmagories of War in Contemporary Literary Experiences (1920–2020)

Funded by the European Union – NextGenerationEU.

Since 2021

Permanent Member of the

Research Center for Chinese Culture Translation and Studies Support Network

Beijing Language and Culture University.

Official appointment recognized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China.

2020–2022

Member of the PIACERI interdisciplinary research project

Rethinking Oriental–Occidental Imaginaries: Language, Body and Mind

University of Catania.

2015–2017

Member of the FIR research project

Wars, Conflicts and Cultural Exchange: New Boundaries and New Cultural Expressions

University of Catania.

The project involved collaborations with several international institutions, including the **Université de Saint-Quentin (France)**.

Research Supervision

Postdoctoral Research Projects

2021–2023

Scientific Coordinator of the postdoctoral research fellowship

ATLAS – Rethinking Oriental–Occidental Imaginaries: Language, Body and Mind

University of Catania.

Research Fellow: **Dr. Marco Meccarelli**

Doctoral Supervision

2019–2022

Ph.D. Supervisor of **Dr. Ludovica Ottaviano**

University of Catania.

Dissertation: The Introduction, Reception, Translation and Reinterpretation of Umberto Eco's Works in China and Taiwan.

Fellowships, Visiting Appointments and International Research Positions

Visiting Professorships

Since 2025

Visiting Researcher

Qingdao City University, Qingdao, People's Republic of China.

Research appointment within the framework of international academic cooperation between Qingdao City University and the University of Catania.

August 2022

Visiting Professor (Doctoral Programme)

School of Humanities, **Binzhou University**, People's Republic of China.

Delivered a **24-hour doctoral seminar** entitled "**Chinese Language Teaching Abroad**" for Ph.D. candidates in linguistics and humanities.

June–July 2021

Visiting Professor

Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU), Beijing, People's Republic of China.

Delivered a **28-hour graduate seminar on Cultural Translation** within the **New Sinology Project – Advanced Chinese Translator Training Programme**, organized by the Chinese Culture Translation and Studies Support Network.

Visiting Research Fellowships

May 2018

Visiting Research Fellow

Chongqing Normal University, People's Republic of China.

Selected for the **Visiting Program for Young Sinologists**, funded by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China.

Research project:

"A Textual Study on the Relationship between Feng Menglong's *Clerk's Lady* and the Song Story *Three Appearings*"

conducted in collaboration with Prof. Tang Chunsheng.

July–August 2017

Visiting Research Fellow

Greater China Summer Workshop Program in Chinese Studies

Research residency at:

- Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Peking University
- National Taiwan University
- Universidade de Macau

Principal Investigator of the research project:

"The Concept of *Fa* in Pre-Qin Thought from Cosmological, Social and Political Perspectives."

Awarded the **Best Research Project Prize** and the **Distinguished Honorary Mention Prize for Best Researcher**.

July–August 2015

Visiting Research Fellow

Shanghai Jiao Tong University, People's Republic of China.

Research appointment at the Institute of Arts and Humanities under the invitation of **Prof. Wang Ning**, Dean of the Institute.

Research activities focused on Chinese postmodern literature and Sino-Western literary theory.

International Academic Cooperation

Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain)

Since 2024, Prof. Benedetti has maintained an ongoing scientific collaboration with the **Área de Estudios de Asia Oriental** and the **Department of Linguistics and East Asian Studies** of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

She is a member of the international research group **GISEC-LCS (Grupo de Investigación Sinología Española Complutense: Lengua, Cultura y Sociedad)** and of the research project **WU ZETIAN: *Writings and Uncovering of the Zhou-era Edicts, Treaties, Inscriptions, Analyses and Narratives***.

Within this framework, she regularly collaborates in research activities, the organization of international conferences, and graduate teaching initiatives. She has delivered several invited seminar series on Chinese literature, crime fiction, mythology, and literary translation under the **Seminario Permanente de Estudios de Asia Oriental**, funded through the Erasmus+ programme.

Academic Cooperation with Chinese Universities

Coordinator of academic cooperation agreements and research collaborations between the **University of Catania** and several Chinese institutions, including:

- **Qingdao City University**
- **Hebei Normal University**
- **Beijing Language and Culture University**
- **Binzhou University**
- **Chongqing Normal University**

Her collaborations include joint research projects, faculty mobility programmes, student exchanges, international conferences, and translation initiatives.

International Cooperation with Other Institutions

Prof. Benedetti has also established long-term academic collaborations with:

- **Universidad Rey Juan Carlos** (Spain)
- **K.J. Somaiya Institute of Dharma Studies, Somaiya Vidyavihar University** (Mumbai, India)

where she has been invited to deliver seminars and graduate courses on Chinese literature, literary translation, and intercultural studies.

International Academic Mobility

Over the course of her academic career, Prof. Benedetti has conducted research and teaching activities at numerous leading international institutions, including **Tsinghua University, Beijing Language and Culture University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Chongqing Normal University, Binzhou University, Peking University, Chinese University of Hong Kong, National Taiwan University, Universidade de Macau, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, and Somaiya University (Mumbai, India).**

Her international mobility has been supported by highly competitive fellowships and research programmes funded by governmental institutions and international organizations in China and Europe.

Books and Articles

1. Lavinia Benedetti, “Il sacro attraverso il corpo. Tradizione vernacolare e riscrittura del Buddismo Chan nel romanzo Bu’er di Feng Tang”, *LE FORME e LA STORIA, Rivista di Filologia Moderna*. (Articolo in rivista di Fascia A). In corso di pubblicazione.

2. Lavinia Benedetti, *Writing History on the Body: Contingency, Rumor, and Realism in Feng Tang's Tianxia luan*, Estudios Complutenses de Asia Oriental LENGUA CHINA, ECAO 2(1) (2026), ISSN-e: 3045-8064. (Articolo in rivista scientifica). In corso di pubblicazione.
3. Lavinia Benedetti, Marco Meccarelli, *Le tre perfezioni dei letterati cinesi. Vol. 2. La Dinastia Ming*, Orientalia Editore, Roma, 2026. (Monografia)
4. Lavinia Benedetti, Una “voce femminile” sul problema ambientale: una lettura ecofemminista di «Ode a Yu Xuanji» di Zhai Yongming, in Caterina Carpinato, Mirella Cassarino, Gaetano Lalomia, Paolo Villani (a cura di), *Narrare l'ambiente fra Oriente e Occidente*, 2025, pp. 21-43. (Capitolo in volume)
5. Lavinia Benedetti, Marco Meccarelli, *Le tre perfezioni dei letterati cinesi. Vol. 1. Dalle origini al XIV secolo*, Orientalia Editore, Roma, 2024. (Lavinia Benedetti pp. 1-219). ISBN: 978-88-96851-57-9. (Monografia)
6. Lavinia Benedetti, “‘I am not writing about sex, but about human nature’. Body, sex and pornography in Feng Tang’s ‘Unspeakable Trilogy’”, *Kervan Journal International of Asian and African Studies*, 2024, pp. 69-89. (Articolo in rivista di Fascia A)
7. Lavinia Benedetti, “Yu Xuanji: il ritratto triste di una donna di talento”, *LE FORME e LA STORIA*, Rivista di Filologia Moderna, n.s. XVI, 2023, 2, pp. 203-230. (Articolo in rivista di Fascia A)
8. Lavinia Benedetti, Marco Meccarelli, “The Metamorphosis of the Chinese Dragon: From the Proto-Long to the National Totem”, in Marina D’Amato – Edmondo Grassi (edited by), *From Myth to Fairy Tale: the Role of Fantastic Animals in Collective Imaginary*, San Gimignano: Edizioni della Fondazione Nazionale Carlo Collodi Collodi, 2023, pp. 83-101. (Capitolo in volume)
9. Lavinia Benedetti, “Forme del tempo e Side Shadowing in Palle imperiali di Feng Tang”, *Illuminazioni* (ISSN: 2037-609X), n. 58, ottobre-dicembre 2021, pp. 98-123. (Articolo in rivista scientifica)
10. Feng Tang (Traduzione, introduzione e postfazione di Lavinia Benedetti), *Palle Imperiali e altri racconti*, Orientalia Editore, Roma, 2020. (Monografia/Traduzione curata)
11. Lavinia Benedetti, Alba Rosa Suriano, Paolo Villani (a cura di), *Stigma, censure e oscenità. L’indicibile nelle culture del Mediterraneo e dell’Asia Orientale*, Orientalia Editore, Roma, 2020. (Curatela)
12. Lavinia Benedetti, “Tradurre l’intraducibile: eros e humor nella versione inglese del Roupoutuan”, in Lavinia Benedetti, Alba Rosa Suriano, Paolo Villani (eds.), *Stigma, censure e oscenità. L’indicibile nelle culture del Mediterraneo e dell’Asia Orientale*, Orientalia Editore, Roma, 2020, pp. 190-212. (Capitolo in volume)
13. Lavinia Benedetti, “L’insulto all’epoca di Qianlong: un’analisi della Serie TV cinese La storia del palazzo Yanxi (延禧攻略, 2018)”, in Rossana Barcellona e Teresa Sardella (eds.), *Violenza delle parole e parole della violenza (Percorsi storico-linguistici dalle aggressioni verbali alle guerre)*, Mimesis, Milano, 2019, pp. 93-122. (Capitolo in volume)
14. Lavinia Benedetti, Marco Meccarelli, “L’insidioso fascino di narrare l’erotismo della Cina imperiale: un’analisi semiotica delle traduzioni del Roupoutuan (Il tappeto da preghiera di carne, XVII secolo)”, *Enthymema* XXII, N. 24, 2019, pp. 313-330 (Benedetti: 315-323). (Articolo in rivista di Fascia A)

15. Li Rui 李蕊 (Lavinia Benedetti), “Di wu zhang: Yidali hanxue jie de Zhongguo wenlun yanjiu” 第五章：意大利汉学界的中国文论研究, in Fang Weigui 方维规 (ed.), *Haiwai hanxue yu Zhongguo wenlun (Ouzhou juan)* 海外汉学与中国文论（欧洲卷）, Beijing Shifan daxue chubanshe 北京师范大学出版社, 2019, pp. 312-343. (Capitolo in volume)
16. Li Rui 李蕊 (Lavinia Benedetti), “Zhongguo gaibian le wo de shenghuo” 中国文化改变了我的生活, «重庆与世界», 2018(11), pp. 65-67. (Articolo in rivista scientifica)
17. Lavinia Benedetti, “Donne di scarto in Cina: dalla tradizione letteraria a La nuova era dell’amore”, in Stefania Arcara, Luca Capponcelli, Anita Fabiani (eds.), *Ne uccide più la parola. Lessici dell’odio e pratiche di reclusione*, 2018, Pisa, Edizioni ETS, pp. 67-87. (Capitolo in volume)
18. Lavinia Benedetti, “Representing Bad Women in Wu Zetian Si Da Qi’an: Political Criticism in Late Qing Crime Fiction”, in Devaleena Das and Colette Morrow, *Unveiling Desire: Fallen Women in Literature, Culture, and Films of the East*, Rutgers University Press, 2018, pp. 159-175. (Capitolo in volume)
19. Lavinia Benedetti, *Storia del giallo in Cina. Dai racconti giudiziari al romanzo di crimine*, Aracne Editore, Roma, 2017. (Monografia)
20. Lavinia Benedetti, “Further Definition of Di Renjie’s identity(ies) in Chinese History, Literature and Media”, *Frontiers of History in China*, 2017, 12(4), pp. 599–620. DOI 10.3868/s020-006-017-0028-4. (Articolo in rivista di Fascia A)
21. Li Rui 李蕊 (Lavinia Benedetti), “Yidali hanxuejie de zhongguo wenlun yanjiu” 意大利汉学界的中国文论研究, «Wenxue lilun qianyan» 《文学理论前沿》 (Frontiers of Literary Theory), Issue 17, 2017, pp. 69-93. (Articolo in rivista scientifica)
22. Lavinia Benedetti, “Oneste, dissolute, vittime e carnefici: le immagini femminili nella narrativa di crimine all’epoca della Cina imperiale”, in Lagdaf Souadou (ed.), *Conflitti di genere. Società, religione e cultura*, Agorà & Co., Lugano, 2017, pp. 1-16. (Capitolo in volume)
23. Wang Ning (curato e tradotto da Lavinia Benedetti), *Il Postmodernismo in Cina*, Bonanno Editore, Catania, 2016. (Traduzione curata)
24. Lavinia Benedetti, “Political Aspect of Misogynies in Late Qing Dynasty Crime Fiction: Di gong’an as a case study”, *Journal of Literature and Art Studies*, Issue 4, Vol. 6, April 2016, pp. 340-355. (Articolo in rivista scientifica)
25. Lavinia Benedetti, “Agire secondo morale: Il funzionario puro e la letteratura di crimine cinese”, in Pietro Piro (ed.), *Agire o non agire?*, Edizioni Unicopli, Milano, 2015, pp. 180-200. (Capitolo in volume)
26. Lavinia Benedetti, “La Cina nello specchio europeo: spunti di riflessione per un’analisi di tipo imagologico sulla complessità di ricezione e rappresentazione dell’identità cinese nell’Europa ottocentesca”, *Civiltà del Mediterraneo*, n. 25, 2014, pp. 131-159. (Articolo in rivista scientifica)
27. Lavinia Benedetti, “Killing Di Gong: Rethinking van Gulik’s Translation of Late Qing Dynasty Novel Wu Zetian Si Da Qi’an”, in Paolo Santangelo (ed.), *Ming Qing Studies 2014*, Aracne, Roma, 2014, pp. 11-42. (Capitolo in volume)
28. Lavinia Benedetti, “La crisi morale e sociale nella letteratura di crimine cinese settecentesca: il caso di Simingyuan”, in Massimo Sturiale, Giuseppe Traina (eds.), *Parole e sconfinamenti*, Eunoedizioni, Leonforte (EN), 2014, pp. 41-57. (Capitolo in volume)

29. Lavinia Benedetti, "Justice and Morality in Early Qing Crime Fiction", in Paolo Santangelo (ed.), *Ming Qing Studies 2013*, No. 2, Aracne, Ariccia (RM), 2013, pp. 17-46. (Capitolo in volume)
30. Lavinia Benedetti, "The use of Chinese Supernatural Elements in Van Gulik's Series Judge Dee Mysteries", «Zhongguo Bijiao Wenxue» 《中国比较文学》 (Comparative Literature in China), Vol. 92, no. 3, 2013, pp. 119-133. (Articolo in rivista scientifica)
31. Wang Ning, Lavinia Benedetti (tr.), "La società postmoderna dei consumi e i valori estetici della cultura popolare", *GEOPOLITICA. Rivista dell'Istituto di Alti Studi in Geopolitica e Scienze Ausiliarie*. Vol.1, No. 3 (Autunno 2012), pp. 221-234. (Traduzione di articolo)
32. Lavinia Benedetti, "The Supernatural and Chinese Crime Fiction", *Asian Journal of Literature, Culture and Society*, Vol. 4, No. 2, 2010, pp. 117-134. (Articolo in rivista scientifica)
33. Lavinia Benedetti, "Se il romanzo investigativo nasce in Cina", *ThrillerMagazine*, Delos Books Associazione Culturale Editore, Milano, 8 ottobre 2009. (Articolo in rivista scientifica)
34. Lavinia Benedetti, "Quando il detective porta la toga", *ThrillerMagazine*, Delos Books Associazione Culturale Editore, Milano, 9 ottobre 2009. (Articolo in rivista scientifica)
35. Lavinia Benedetti, "L'onorevole magistrato Dee", *ThrillerMagazine*, Delos Books Associazione Culturale Editore, Milano, 10 ottobre 2009. (Articolo in rivista scientifica)
36. Lavinia Benedetti, "Angolo Laofei: uno sbirro alla corte dei Song", *ThrillerMagazine*, Delos Books Associazione Culturale Editore, Milano, 13 Ottobre 2009. (Articolo in rivista scientifica)
37. Lavinia Benedetti, Simone Pieranni, "Intervista a Qiu Xiaolong", *ThrillerMagazine*, Delos Books Associazione Culturale Editore, Milano, 15 ottobre 2009. (Articolo in rivista scientifica – intervista)
38. Lavinia Benedetti, "Beijing Rock", *Il Giornale della Musica*, No. 256, EDT Srl, Torino, febbraio 2008, pp. 47-49. (Articolo in rivista scientifica)
39. Lavinia Benedetti, "La lingua dei segni in Cina", in Oscar Marchisio (ed.), *China Time no. 8*, 2007, pp. 90-106. (Capitolo in volume)