

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Laura Parodi

TITLE Ph.D.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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| 2023- | Islamic Art Instructor, BA in Conservation of the Cultural Heritage (40h, 6 CFU) |
| 2018- | Language Instructor (<i>English for the Media I and II</i>), BA in <i>Media, Communication and Society</i> (Savona Campus) (36h, 6 CFU x2) |
| | Università degli Studi di Genova |
| 2012-14 | Team Coordinator, Project: <i>Comparative Oriental Manuscript Studies</i> |
| | European Science Foundation / Hamburg University |
| 2011-12 | Research Associate |
| | Harvard University |
| 2010-11 | Aga Khan Postdoctoral Fellow |
| | Harvard University |
| 2010-11 | Aga Khan Postdoctoral Fellow + Lecturer, <i>Garden History & Conservation</i> |
| | Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) |
| 2009-10 | Lecturer, <i>Islamic Art and Writings on Art</i> |
| | University College Dublin (UCD) |
| 2008 (ottobre-dicembre) | Research Officer |
| | University of Oxford |
| 2007-08 | Departmental Lecturer, <i>Islamic Art and Archaeology</i> |
| | University of Oxford |
| 2000-2007 | Adjunct Professor, <i>Islamic Art and Archaeology</i> |
| | Università degli Studi di Genova, Italy (BA / MA in Conservation of Cultural Heritage) |
| 2004-6 | Adjunct Professor, <i>Islamic Art</i> |
| | Università degli Studi di Urbino "Carlo Bo", Italy (BA in Languages) |

EDUCATION

1999 **Ph.D. in Asian Art**
Università degli Studi di Genova

1994 **Laurea (MA) in Arts**
Università degli Studi di Genova

SKILLS / COMPETENCES

Native Language Italian

Other Languages

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken Interaction	Spoken Production	
English	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
French	C1	C2	C1	C1	C1

(other languages: German, Russian, Persian, Arabic)

Soft Skills Wide experience in a range of professional contexts.
Decades-long experience teaching students of:

- Arts
- Conservation
- Languages
- Oriental Studies
- Architecture

Outreach activities: between 1992-98, I taught birdwatching and environmental awareness in elementary and middle schools, and continuing education programmes for adults (project sponsored by LIPU, Italian partner of BirdLife International)

Management Skills Over the years I have built upon my natural coordinator / facilitator skills.

- For three years I worked as Team Coordinator for a European Science Foundation project
- I previously participated in three other international projects
- In one of them (PIC-Interreg III/MEDOCC, 2001-04; official language: French), I coordinated and trained personnel to create multilingual digital entries (French/English/Italian/Arabic)

Other Professional Skills For over 25 years I have been working as a professional translator and, occasionally, as an interpreter from/into English and French.
Outside the academic environment, I have worked in PR, the exhibition industry, the food industry, and schools.

All these jobs require soft skills, notably:

- An ability to work under tight deadlines and considerable pressure
- An ability to interact with people of different ages and backgrounds, in different languages

Digital Skills

Information and Data Literacy	Communication and Collaboration	Digital Content Creation	Safety	Problem Solving
Intermediate User	Advanced User	Intermediate User	Advanced User	Intermediate User

Other digital skills:

- Certified eLearning expert (c/o University of the Balearic Isles, 2003)
- Sound command of digital imaging programmes
- Near-professional skills in architectural photography
- Good draftmanship and experience in collage and art photography (including digital)

Additional Skills

- Food activist, with various volumes and essays co-edited with my husband, notably *La civiltà della fame* (Genoa, 2002). Numerous outreach events organized over the years.
- Keen gardener and member of national and international seed savers' networks.
- Member of HIAA (Historians of Islamic Art Association).

Training and courses attended at the University of Oxford (2007-08):

- Presentation and Delivery, Powerpoint Skills, Project Management, Team Management, Resource Management

Recent Publications (2014-)

Volumes / monographs:

- 2022 **Creation of a Teaching Unit on the history, ecology, and socio-cultural relevance of Islamic gardens, commissioned by the Aga Khan Development Network (<https://www.akdn.org/>) and the Institute for Ismaili Studies (<https://www.iis.ac.uk/>).** This is part of a Teaching Module on Islamic Heritage, to be translated into 8 languages and used in Aga Khan-sponsored schools across the world.

Edited volumes:

- 2015 (with Alessandro Bausi et al.) *Comparative Oriental Manuscript Studies: An Introduction*. Amburgo: COMSt

- 2014 *The Visual World of Muslim India: The Art, Culture and Society of the Deccan in the Early Modern Era*. Londra: I.B. Tauris

Translated volumes:

- 2021 English translation of *History of Mar Yahballaha and Rabban Sauma*, ed. Pier Giorgio Borbone (Hamburg, Tredition, 2021).

Articles / book chapters:

- 2025 "Paradise Reveries or Down-to-Earth Amenities? Recentring the Narrative about Islamic Gardens", *Muqamas* 42 (2025), forthcoming in October-November.
- "Chapter 8: Gardens and Landscapes." *Architecture, Monuments and Urbanism*, Vol. 1: *Architectural Influences along the Silk Roads*, ed. Elena Paskaleva, Mike Turner. *UNESCO Thematic Collection of Cultural Exchanges along the Silk Roads* (Paris and Nanjing: UNESCO / Creative Center (China)), 195-217. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000393649>
- 2024 "Mughal Art on its Own Terms: Reflections on an Album Folio." *Eighteenth-Century Indian Muraqqa's*, ed. Friederike Weis, *Islamic Manuscripts and Books Series*, 23 (Leiden and Boston: Brill. 2024), 93-114. <https://brill.com/downloadpdf/display/title/71240.pdf>
- 2021 "Kabul, a forgotten Mughal capital: gardens, city and court at the turn of the sixteenth century." *Muqamas* 38 (2021), 113-53.
- "Mughal Religious Architecture." *The Religious Architecture of Islam*, Vol. 1: *Asia and Australia*, ed. Hasan Uddin-Khan, Kathryn Blair Moore (Turnhout: Brepols, 2021), 373-91.
- "A Dispersed Imperial Mughal Folio from the Minto-Wantage-Kevorkian Album Group." *Persian Manuscripts & Paintings from the Berenson Collection*, ed. Aysin Yoltar-Yıldırım (Firenze: Villa I Tatti, 2021): 197-215.
- "The Making, Unmaking and Making Sense of an Illustration from an Imperial Mughal *Akbarnama*." *The Making of Islamic Art: Studies in Honour of Sheila Blair and Jonathan Bloom*, ed. Robert Hillenbrand (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2021): 242-59.
- "Mughal garden typologies reconsidered." *Reflections on Mughal art and culture*, ed. Roda Ahluwalia (Mumbai: Niyogi Books, 2021): 157-81.
- 2018 "Shah Abu'l Ma'ali, Mir Sayyid 'Ali, and the Sayyids of Tirmiz: Three Portraits Challenge Akbari Historiography," *Muqamas* 35 (2018): 125-43.
- "Tracing the Rise of Mughal Portraiture: the Kabul Corpus, c. 1545-55." *Portraiture in South Asia Since the Mughals: Art, History, Representation*, ed. Crispin Branfoot. London: I.B. Tauris, 2018: 49-69.
- 2017 "The Taj Mahal and the Garden Tradition of the Mughals." *Orientations* 48/3 (May/Jun 2017): 36-65

Recent Lectures, Symposiums, and Conferences

- "What's in a Name? Revisiting a century of scholarship on *charbaghs*". *Beyond Babur's Gardens: A Symposium in Honor of Elizabeth Moynihan*. Washington, DC, Freer Research Center, Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art, 3-5 June, 2025.
- "Central Asian Gardens". Symposium: *Origins of the Picturesque*. Einsiedeln (Switzerland), Werner Oechslin Library, 14 May, 2025.
- "Appunti per una storia del ritratto in Eurasia". Doctoral Seminar. Sapienza Università di Roma, 9 May, 2025.
- "Water as opulence in Mughal gardens, from hydrology to ideology". International Conference: The Great Mughals: Art, Architecture and Opulence. London, Victoria and Albert Museum, 27-28 March, 2025.
- "The Invention of Paradise: New evidence on the origins of *chaharbaghs*", University of Oxford, Graduate Seminar Lecture, 9 March, 2023.
- "Mughal Gardens: Myths and Realities", *Karwaan Special Lecture* (Delhi / online), 31 January, 2022.
- "Muted Voices and Talking Images: Reading Dissent between the Lines in the Mughal Empire" (Late 16th-Early 17 Century)." International Workshop: *The Art of Dissent in the Iberian World 1500-1700*. University of Oxford, 24-25 June, 2021.

Other Academic Activities

2023	Lecturer, Doctoral Seminar in Islamic codicology c/o University of Pisa (Italy).
2021	Lecturer, Doctoral Seminar in Asian Art c/o University "La Sapienza" (Rome).
Grants and Awards	Winner of the Professor Hasan Uddin Khan Article Award with "Kabul, a forgotten Mughal capital": https://networks.h-net.org/node/22055/discussions/9940059/announcement-winners-professor-hasan-uddin-khan-article-award-new
2022	
2013	Shortlisted for the International ARIAH Prize for innovative online publications with "Tracing the History of a Mughal Album Page" (http://www.ariah.info/ONLINEPRIZE.html)
2011	Winner of Hamad bin Khalifa Fellowship, Museum of Islamic Art, Doha (Qatar)
2008	Shortlisted for the Leverhulme Prize (https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/)