

Matteo Miele, PhD, FRAS

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research primarily addresses the history of the British Empire, particularly the Anglo-Bhutanese relations in the 19th and 20th centuries. Other research interests concern the history of the Parsi-Zoroastrian communities in the British Raj and Southeast Asia and the British presence in the Persian Gulf.

EDUCATION

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|-------------|---|
| 2010 – 2014 | University of Pisa, PhD (Dottorato di Ricerca)
Political and Social Sciences – Geopolitics
Academic discipline: History and institutions of Asia |
| 2006 – 2008 | University of Pisa, Master's degree (Laurea specialistica)
International Politics and Relations |
| 2003 – 2006 | University of Pisa, Bachelor's degree (Laurea)
Political and International Sciences |

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

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|-------------------|---|
| Since Dec 6, 2023 | ANVUR – Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes
National Scientific Habilitation (ASN) for the position of <i>Associate Professor</i> in the field 14/B2 – History of international relations and of non-European societies and institutions.
Academic discipline: SPS/14 – History and institutions of Asia
(unanimous decision; validity: Dec 6, 2023 – Dec 6, 2034) |
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Since Apr 2023 **Kyoto University – Center for Southeast Asian Studies**
Affiliated Associate Professor, Division of Cross-regional Studies – Research Subject: *Opium and sandalwood: The Parsis in the British Empire*
- Since Sept 2022 **University of Florence – Dept of Political and Social Sciences**
Assistant Professor (History and institutions of Asia)
- Nov 2019 – Mar 2023 **Kyoto University – Center for Southeast Asian Studies**
Affiliated Assistant Professor, Division of Cross-regional Studies – Research Subject: *The geopolitical space of the British Empire in Indochina and High Asia (1858-1948)*
- Jan 2021 – Mar 2022 **Kyoto University – Center for Southeast Asian Studies**
Program-Specific Assistant Professor, Division of Environmental Coexistence (Research Unit for Realization of Sustainable Society)
- Aug 2021 – Nov 2021 **Thammasat University – Faculty of Liberal Arts**
Visiting Professor
- Jan 2021 – May 2021 **Thammasat University – Faculty of Liberal Arts**
Visiting Professor
- Nov 2019 – Oct 2020 **Kyoto University – Kokoro Research Center**
Collaborative Researcher, Dept of Bhutanese Studies
- Nov 2017 – Oct 2019 **Kyoto University – Kokoro Research Center**
JSPS International Research Fellow – Research project: *Origins of a great leader: Choeki Gyeltshen's regency and the early years of the 13th Dalai Lama*
- Nov 2012 – Oct 2017¹ **University of Pisa – Dept of Political Sciences**
Cultore della materia (History and institutions of Afro-Asiatic Countries; Asia in 20th Century: Politics, Economics and International Relations; History, Politics and International Relations of Independent Africa)
- Aug 2011 – Jul 2012 **Royal University of Bhutan – Sherubtse College**
Lecturer

¹ Since November 8, 2012 to November 8, 2015. Appointment renewed on December 14, 2015

RESEARCH GROUPS

- Jan 2021 – Mar 2022 **Kyoto University**
While working as a program-specific assistant professor at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, I was part of the Research Unit for Realization of Sustainable Society, Kyoto University. Research subject: *Religious Traditions and Sustainability in Asia: Historical Legacies and Legal Issues*
- May 2021 – Mar 2022 **Kyoto University**
From May 26, 2021 to March 31, 2022 I was a member of the Unit for Himalayan Studies of Kyoto University

COURSES TAUGHT

- University of Florence – School of Political Sciences “Cesare Alfieri”**
History and institutions of Asia² (Since 2023)
China in International History (Since 2023)
China in Contemporary History (2022)
- University of Florence – School of Humanities and Education**
History of International Relations³ (Since 2022)
- Thammasat University – Faculty of Liberal Arts**
Seminar on Political Issues in Southeast Asia (2021)
Contemporary Issues in Southeast Asia (2021)
- Royal University of Bhutan – Sherubtse College**
Contemporary World Politics (2012)
Introduction to Political Science II (2012)
Political History of Bhutan (2011)
Geopolitics⁴ (2011)
Introduction to Political Science I (2011)
Project (2011)

ELECTION TO LEARNED SOCIETIES

- Since 2011 **Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland**
Fellow (elected on Oct 13, 2011)

² In Italian.

³ In Italian. The course was shared with another lecturer.

⁴ The course was shared with another lecturer.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

2017 – 2019(2020)	KAKENHI Grant Number 17F17306, Grant-in-Aid for JSPS Fellows Host Researcher: Seiji Kumagai, KRC, Kyoto University
2017 – 2019	Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Postdoctoral Fellowship for Research in Japan
2010 – 2012(2013)	Doctoral scholarship, Doctoral school in Political and Social Sciences, University of Pisa (36 months)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Since 2023	<i>Agreement of Cultural and Scientific Cooperation between the University of Florence and the National Sun Yat-sen University</i> Coordinator (for the Dept of Political and Social Sciences)
Since 2023	<i>Agreement of Cultural and Scientific Cooperation between the University of Florence and the Shanghai Normal University</i> Coordinator (for the Dept of Political and Social Sciences)
Since 2022	<i>Agreement of Cultural and Scientific Cooperation between the University of Florence and the University of Seoul</i> Coordinator (for the Dept of Political and Social Sciences)
Since 2022	<i>Sherub Doenme (Bhutan)</i> Member of the Editorial Board
Since 2022	<i>Documentos de Trabajo en Estudios Asiáticos (Chile)</i> Member of the Scientific Board
Since 2021	<i>Annuario di diritto comparato e studi legislativi (Italy)</i> Member of the Editorial Board
Referee for:	<i>Archiv orientální; Cambio. Rivista sulle Trasformazioni Sociali; Asia Maior; Buddhism, Law & Society; Nuova Rivista Storica</i>

MEMBERSHIP

Member of the Association for Iranian Studies
Member of the Oriental Rug and Textile Society
Basic Member of the Python Software Foundation

NON-DEGREE TRAINING

- 2024 *Introduction to Programming with Python*
FutureLearn, online
- 2024 *Software Development: Understanding Python*
FutureLearn (endorsed by Coventry University), online
- 2024 *Computer Programming for Everyone*
University of Leeds and Institute of Coding, FutureLearn, online
- 2024 *Mathematics for Computer Science: Essential Skills*
University of Hull – FutureLearn, online
- 2023 *FCBLx: Foundations of Central Bank Law*
IMFx (International Monetary Fund) – edX, online
- 2023 *Zoroastrianism: History, Religion, and Belief*
SOAS University of London – FutureLearn, online
- 2017 *Ka-Ter Translation Project: 15th Tibetan Translator Training*
Shang Shang Institute Austria (Jul 07, 2017 – Jul 23, 2017)
- 2016 *Ka-Ter Translation Project: 14th Tibetan Translator Training*
Shang Shang Institute Austria (Jul 18, 2016 – Jul 31, 2016)
- 2014 *Summer School Colloquial Tibetan*
Universität Heidelberg, Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe” (Aug 04, 2014 – Aug 27, 2014)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Languages: Python (familiar); Java (basic)

Web Development: JavaScript (basic); HTML / CSS (basic)

LANGUAGES

Italian (native); English (fluent); French (proficient in reading, conversational speaking);
Persian (intermediate)

Research tools: Chinese (intermediate); Spanish; Portuguese; Classical Tibetan

MAIN PRESENTATIONS AND SEMINARS

Invited talks and lectures

2024 *Zoroastrianism: A Universal/Ethnic Religion*, guest lecture, Religions in Southeast Asia: Socio-Political Contexts, Special and International Program (Southeast Asian Studies), Faculty of Liberal Arts, Thammasat University, Jan 25, 24

2023 *Hong Kong's British heritage*, Seminar on Socio-Cultural Issues in Southeast Asia, Southeast Asian Studies Program, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Thammasat University, Oct 17, 2023

2023 *Gross National Happiness: History and Perspectives of a Bhutanese Proposal*, Institute of Psychology, Polish Academy of Sciences, organized by Prof. Kuba Kryś, Head of the Macropsychology Lab, May 24, 2023

2023 *The Motion of No Confidence in the Bhutanese Constitutional System: A Historical and Comparative View*, lecture, Module "Government and Politics in Bhutan", Sherubtse College, Royal University of Bhutan, Mar 8, 2023

2023 *A Colonial Legacy: The Zoroastrian Diaspora in South-East Asia*, guest lecture, Religion in Southeast Asia: Socio-politico contexts, Southeast Asian Studies Program, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Thammasat University, Jan 25, 2023

2022 *History and politics of Tibetan Buddhism*, guest lecture, History of Buddhism, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Dec 3, 2022

2022 *Hong Kong: Colonial and Local Identity*, special lecture, Seminar on Socio-Cultural Issues in Southeast Asia, Southeast Asian Studies Program, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Thammasat University, Nov 15, 2022

2022 *Parsis: A Zoroastrian Community in British Burma*, guest lecture, Religion in Southeast Asia: Socio-politico contexts, Southeast Asian Studies Program, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Thammasat University, Mar 8, 2022

2022 *China in the twentieth century: history and institutions*,⁵ seminar, Doctoral Program in Businesses, Institutions and Behaviors, University of Cassino and Southern Lazio, Feb 23, 2022

2021 *After the Great Game: historical research and High Asian geopolitics*, The Importance of Research and Publication for Knowledge Enhancement in Humanities and Social Sciences, Thammasat University, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Jul 27, 2021

⁵ The seminar was in Italian. Original title: *La Cina nel Novecento: storia ed istituzioni*.

2014 *Bhutanese geopolitics and democratisation*, Global Studies Research Seminar, Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham, May 8, 2014

2014 *Mongolian Independence and the British*, Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, Student Series, London, May 7, 2014

2014 *The cold war*,⁶ seminar shared with Prof. Luca Riccardi, Doctoral course in Sciences of the literary text and of the historical sources, University of Cassino and Southern Lazio, Feb 11, 2014

Conferences and workshops

2023 *An unofficial Chinese mission to Afghanistan in 1939*, AIS (Association for Iranian Studies) Online Symposium, Oct 21, 2023

2023 *The Treaty of Punakha: Political reasons behind the "semi-protectorate"*, 3rd International Workshop on Himalayan Law, Politics and Buddhist Ethics, IFoHS (Institute for the Future of Human Society), Kyoto University, Sept 27, 2023

2023 *History of Dzongkha: A look at the British archival sources*, International Workshop on Languages in Asia: History, Society and Law, organized by Dr Miguel Álvarez Ortega, Graduate School of Law, Kyoto University, Jan 17, 2023

2022 *Sino-Afghan Relations in 1942: The Weak British Mediation*, Liberal Arts of the Future: Changes and Challenges in Research and Pedagogy, LATU (Faculty of Liberal Arts, Thammasat University) National and International Conference, Jul 27, 2022

2021 *The Mongolian independence: a geopolitical tangle for the British High Asian dimension (1911-1916)*, 2nd International Workshop on Himalayan Law, Politics and Buddhist Ethics, Jan 18, 2021

2019 *The unopened letter: Ugyen Dorji's missions to Lhasa for the British Raj*, Japanese Association for South Asian Studies (JASAS) 32nd Annual Conference, Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan, October 5, 2019

2019 *Geography of power in post-1885 Bhutan: British perspectives*, 22nd Seminar on Bhutan/18th Seminar on Himalayan Religion (International Workshop on Himalayan Law, Politics and Buddhist Ethics), Dept of Bhutanese Studies, Kokoro Research Center, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Sept 12, 2019

2019 *The Bhutanese Mediation: Ugyen Wangchuck and the Younghusband Expedition*, Fifteenth Seminar of the International Association for Tibetan Studies, Paris, July 9, 2019 (presented in absentia)

⁶ The seminar was in Italian. Original title: *La guerra fredda*.

Campus or departmental talks

2023 *Towards the birth of a Himalayan kingdom: Bhutan between 1885 and 1907*,⁷
University of Florence, Dept of Political and Social Sciences, Lunch Seminar, Jan 10, 2023

2021 *Zoroastrianism and Sustainability: Remote Roots and Contemporary Perspectives*, Kyoto University Research Coordination Alliance, Report Meeting of Unexplored Science Research Unit 2021, Jul 24, 2021

2013 *Between India and China: geopolitics of the Himalayan region*,⁸ Corso di dottorato in Geopolitica / Insegnamento di Geopolitica internazionale. Storia delle crisi, University of Pisa, May 8, 2013

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Ongoing *The Snow and the Rock: The British Legacy and Political History of Sikkim and Bhutan after Indian Independence* (working title), in preparation, expected Sept 2025

2022 *Introduzione al persiano tagico letterario* [Introduction to Literary Tajik Persian], Bangkok 2022, ISBN: 978-616-594-875-3 (textbook)

2022 *Mongolian Independence and the British: Geopolitics and Diplomacy in High Asia, 1911–1916*, E-International Relations, Bristol, England 2022, pp. i-xv, 1-222, ISBN: 978-1-910814-64-2 (research monograph)

Papers in peer reviewed journals

2024 *Thieves at the Liquor Shop: A Case of Application of the Anglo-Bhutanese Extradition Agreement of 1910*, submitted to: *Afriche e Orienti*, under review

2024 *Political Reasons behind the Ambiguity of the Treaty of Punakha*, in: *Thai Journal of East Asian Studies*, Vol. 28, No. 1, pp. 16-31

2024 *Nepal 2020–2023: From the Institutional Crisis to New Political Paths*, in: *Asia Maior*, XXXIV/2023, 2024, pp. 323-338

⁷ The seminar was in Italian. Original title: *Verso la nascita di un regno himalayano: il Bhutan tra il 1885 ed il 1907*.

⁸ The seminar was in Italian. Original title: *Tra India e Cina: geopolitica della regione himalayana*.

- 2022 *The ghosts of Changlimithang: a brief Anglo-Bhutanese negotiation during the British Expedition to Tibet of 1903–1904*, in: *Prague Papers on the History of International Relations*, 2, 2022, pp. 53-63
- 2021 *The establishment of the Chinese legation in Tehran: Chungking's Middle Eastern strategies and the British Foreign Office (1941-1942)*, in: *Thai Journal of East Asian Studies*, 25, 2, 2021, pp. 1-12
- 2020 *Nepal 2019: Attempts at mediation in domestic and foreign policies*, in: *Asia Maior*, XXX/2019, 2020, pp. 419-434
- 2019 *English Common Law, Extraterritoriality and Parsi Law: A Case in 1930s' China*, in: *Prague Papers on the History of International Relations*, 2, 2019, pp. 19-29
- 2019 *Hamlet in Kashgar: British Diplomacy and the 1920 Afghan Attempt to Establish Relations with the Republic of China*, in: *Prague Papers on the History of International Relations*, 1, 2019, pp. 54-64
- 2019 *Le mozioni di sfiducia nei confronti del Druk Gyalpo e del Consiglio dei ministri del Bhutan* [The no-confidence motions against the Druk Gyalpo and the Council of Ministers of Bhutan], in: *Annuario di diritto comparato e studi legislativi*, X, 2019, pp. 903-917
- 2019 *Nepal 2018: The Communist search for new political and trade routes*, in: *Asia Maior*, XXIX/2018, 2019, pp. 321-336
- 2018 *The British Expedition to Sikkim of 1888: The Bhutanese Role*, in: *West Bohemian Historical Review*, 8(2), 2018, pp. 199-213
- 2018 *Nepal 2015-2017: A Post-Earthquake Constitution and the Political Struggle*, in: *Asia Maior*, XXVIII/2017, 2018, pp. 309-329
- 2017 *British Diplomatic Views on Nepal and the Final Stage of the Ch'ing Empire (1910–1911)*, in: *Prague Papers on the History of International Relations*, 1, 2017, pp. 90-101
- 2017 *Isolamento ed interdipendenza, tradizione ed impermanenza. Note sul percorso costituzionale del Bhutan* [Isolation and interdependence, tradition and impermanence. Notes on the constitutional path of Bhutan], in: *Annuario di diritto comparato e studi legislativi*, VIII, 2017, pp. 381-404
- 2012 *Geopolitical notes on the border between Sikkim and Tibet*, in: *Chronica Mundi*, 5, III, 2012, pp. 91-105
- 2011 *Religiosi cattolici nella Shanghai dei Piccoli Coltelli* [Catholic churchmen in Small Knives' Shanghai], in: *Chronica Mundi*, 2, II, 2011, pp. 69-84

2011 *La lotta politica di Dharamsala e Pechino intorno a Dorje Shugden* [The political struggle of Dharamsala and Peking around Dorje Shugden], in: *Chronica Mundi*, 1, I, 2011, pp. 155-170

Book chapters

2018 *Chinese Shadows on Bhutanese Independence after the Treaty of Punakha. The Tibetan Buddhist Connection and the British Diplomatic Action*, in: S. Kumagai (Ed.), *Buddhism, Culture and Society in Bhutan*, Vajra Publications, Kathmandu, 2018, pp. 215-239

2015 *Verso Est o verso Ovest? L'Unione Economica Eurasiatica e l'Armenia* [Eastward or westward? The Eurasian Economic Union and Armenia], in: M. Corgnati & U. Volli (Eds.), *Il genocidio infinito. 100 anni dopo il Metz Yegh ern*, Guerini e Associati, Milano, 2015, pp. 187-204

Book reviews

2024 *A County in Manchukuo* [Review of Filippo Dornetti, *Integrazione politica e societ  nella Mancuria coloniale: L'Associazione della Concordia nella Contea del Fushun*, Milano: Franco Angeli, 2021, 130 pp.], in: *Asia Maior*, vol. XXXIV / 2023, pp. 455-457

2022 Review of Simona A. Grano, David Wei Feng Huang (eds.), *China-US Competition: Impact on Small and Middle Powers' Strategic Choices*, Palgrave Macmillan, Cham, 2023, 365 pp., ISBN 978-3-031-15391-4, in: *Afriche e Orienti*, 1/2022, pp. 211-214

2020 Review of *In the Name of the Nation: India and Its Northeast* by S. Baruah, *Southeast Asian Studies*, 9 (3), pp. 476-479

2016 *A Tibetan Grammar for Italian Students* [review of *La lingua tibetana classica* by F. Sanders], *Tibetan Review*, April 26, 2016, <http://www.tibetanreview.net/book-review-a-tibetan-grammar-for-italian-students/>

Non-peer reviewed papers (selection)

2022 *Hypothesis on a Parsi Community in Tamatave in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century*, in: *Ennen Ja Nyt: Historian Tietosanomat*, 2022/3, pp. 75-79

2021 *A Parsi Community in Madagascar? Research on British archival sources*, in: *CSEAS Newsletter*, 79, 2021, pp. 012-013

- 2021 アジアの広告規制 [Asian Advertising Regulations] – ブータン王国(2)
[Asian Advertising Regulations 14 – The Kingdom of Bhutan (2)], in: JARO [Japan
Advertising Review Organization] Report, 2021.2, translated by A. Karaiskos, pp. 17-18
- 2021 アジアの広告規制 [Asian Advertising Regulations] – ブータン王国(1)
[The Kingdom of Bhutan (1)], in: JARO [Japan Advertising Review Organization] Report,
2021.1, translated by A. Karaiskos, pp. 18-19
- 2015 *Ereditare dall'Impero* [Legacy from the Empire], in: Mondoperaio, 3,
2015, pp. 56-59
- 2015 *The 13th Dalai Lama's diplomatic parleys in Peking in 1908*, in: Tibetan
Review, XLVIII, 03-04, 2015, pp. 10-11
- 2015 *A geopolitical reading of the 1913 treaty between Tibet and Mongolia*, in:
Tibetan Review, XLVIII, 01-02, 2015, pp. 14-16
- 2010 *La Cina e i vicini* [China and neighbors], in: Mondoperaio, 4, 2010, pp.
32-44