



Emanuela Abbatecola

Associate professor

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Education and training

1997

Phd in Sociology and Sociological Research

University of Milan - IT

Academic experience

2015 - ONGOING

Associate Professor

Disfor University of Genoa - Genoa - IT

2006 - 2015

Researcher

Disfor University of Genoa - Genoa

Research interests

Sociologist, she is Associate Professor at Disfor, University of Genoa and she is the Editor-in-Chief of AG-AboutGender, International Journal on Gender Studies (<https://riviste.unige.it/aboutgender/>).

She began addressing the issue of gender discrimination and sexism in the labor market as early as the 1990s, during her doctoral studies, and has since continued to engage with these topics. Her first monograph, *“Il potere delle reti. L’occupazione femminile tra identità e riconoscimento”* (The Power of Networks: Female Employment Between Identity and Recognition), was published in 2002 by Harmattan Italia.

In recent years, she has carried out an experimental research project employing visual sociology techniques, investigating women in so-called “male-dominated occupations”. This project led to the creation of a socio-photographic exhibition entitled “Donna Faber. Male Jobs, Sexism and Other Stereotypes” (www.eng.donnafaber.it).

The exhibition premiered at Palazzo Ducale in Genoa and was subsequently hosted at several venues, including the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2015, following an official invitation extended by Barbara Risman (then Chair of the Department of Sociology and Vice President of the American Sociological Association).

The outcomes of this research were later published in the monograph *“Donna Faber. Lavori maschili, sex-sismo e strategie di r-esistenza”* (Donna Faber: Male Jobs, Sexism, and Strategies of Re-existence), published in 2023 by Fondazione Feltrinelli.

More recently, her work has also focused on the sexist use of the Italian language and on language as a mechanism for reproducing social hierarchies and inequalities, particularly in relation to the labor market. She has published several contributions on the subject, including:

- “Sessismo a parole”, in Corbiero F., Maturi P., Ruspini E. (eds.), “Genere e Linguaggio. I segni dell’uguaglianza e della diversità”, Franco Angeli, Milan, 2016, pp. 138-158;
- “Sulla banalità del sex-sismo. Quando Lei svolge un lavoro da Lui”, in Colloca C., D’Agata R., Mazzone S. (eds.), *Genere femminile. Per una narrazione delle donne fra luoghi, diritti, politica e mercato del lavoro*, Bonanno Editore, Acireale-Rome, 2020, pp. 7-20.

Since the late 1990s, migration studies have been another central area of her research. In the early 2000s, she began a long-standing collaboration with the Medi Study and Research Center on the Mediterranean (Genoa), which continues to this day, as well as with the editorial board of “Mondi Migranti”, a top-tier (Class A) academic journal in the field.

She has conducted numerous studies and published extensively on topics such as: labor integration of Egyptian migrants; cultural mediation in schools; transnational families and long-distance parenting. Her work focuses particular emphasis on trafficking, exploitation, and gender-based violence experienced by migrant women within globalized sex markets. She has authored three monographs on these issues. The most recent one, “Trans-migrazioni. Lavoro, sfruttamento e violenza di genere nei mercati globali del sesso” (Trans-Migrations: Labor, Exploitation, and Gender-Based Violence in Global Sex Markets, 2018), is the outcome of a European research project (ETTS) - for which she coordinated the scientific direction - involving partners from Italy, Spain, Romania, and Brazil. This book, published by Rosenberg & Sellier, received second prize (ex-aequo) in the non-fiction category of the “Il Paese delle Donne” literary competition, organized by the Casa delle Donne in Rome (November 29, 2019).

Her recent work has been addressing labor exploitation among migrant men and women, through the HTH (Hope This Helps) research project, promoted by the Liguria Region and ANCI, in collaboration with the Medi Study Center. This project led to a special issue of *Mondi Migranti*, co-edited by Abbatecola, D. Filipp, and M. Omizzolo (2022), titled “L’inconsistenza dei diritti. Il grave sfruttamento del lavoro migrante in Italia” (The Inconsistency of Rights: Severe Exploitation of Migrant Labor in Italy), no. 2/2022.

She is also actively involved in the PRIN project “Severe Forms of Labour Exploitation in Shipbuilding and the Tourism Industry” (2023-2025), which further investigates labor exploitation in key industrial sectors.