Graduated at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy of the University of Genoa (1969), he collaborated with the CNR Center for the Study of 16th-and 17th-Century Scientific Thought in Milan, preparing the Canevari Library catalog. In 1973, he won a research position at the Center.

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He has been a lecturer in History of Political Institutions at the Faculty of Arts in Trieste since the 1977-1978, an associate professor of History of Law at the Faculty of Law in Genoa since the 1982-1983, and a full professor of History of law from November 1, 1993 to October 31, 2014; and a professor emeritus since September 24, 2015.

In 2020, he received the G. Cassandro Prize for Studies in the History of Law (University of Bari).

He was elected to the Board of Directors of the University of Genoa in the academic years 1995-1998 and 1998-2001; in 1998-2001, he served on the Committee of the University's ICT Center; since then, he also served on the Coordination Council of the University Library System and chaired the Technical-Scientific Committee of the "P.E. Bensa" Library Services Center.

He is currently preparing an essay on the history of editions of the Corpus iuris civilis from the 16th to the 17th century.