

VALERIA LAURIA
valeria.lauria@manchester.ac.uk
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2596-9582>

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2026–present:	University of Manchester Hallsworth Research Fellow in Chinese Political Economy, Global Development Institute (GDI)	Manchester, UK
2026–present:	European University Institute Assistant Professor (part-time), Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS)	Fiesole, IT
2023–2025:	European University Institute Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellow, RSCAS	Fiesole, IT
2021–2023:	Peking University Boya Postdoctoral Fellow, National School of Development	Beijing, CN

EDUCATION

2020:	International Institute of Social Studies (Erasmus University) Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies <i>PhD (double degree) Development Studies and Global Politics</i>	The Hague, NL Pisa, IT
2013:	London School of Economics <i>M.Sc. Social Policy and Development</i>	London, UK
2011:	Roma Tre University <i>MA International Relations</i>	Rome, IT
2009:	Roma Tre University <i>BA Political Science</i>	Rome, IT

AFFILIATIONS AND VISITING FELLOWSHIPS

2025:	BRUEGEL Visiting Fellow	Brussels, BE
2020:	Yale University Visiting Fellow, MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies	New Haven, USA
2017:	Tsinghua University Visiting Scholar, Department of International Relations	Beijing, CN

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

2025–2027:	DigiAfrica: Infrastructure, Critical Minerals, and Transnational Governance in Africa’s Digital Transition – <i>Principal Investigator</i> , CIVICA (Call, 2025).
2025–2026:	GRID: Governance, Resilience, Infrastructure, and Digital Transition in Africa – <i>Principal Investigator</i> , EUI Widening Europe Programme (3rd Call, 2025).

RESEARCH FUNDING, GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2025–2027:** CIVICA (Call, 2025) EUI – €60,000.
2025–2026: EUI Widening Europe Programme (3rd Call, 2025), EUI – €19,800.
2023–2025: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellowship, EUI – €189,000.
2021–2023: Boya Postdoctoral Fellowship, Peking University – RMB 540,000 (€78,000).
2019: Yale Research Fellowship, MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies – €5,000.
2017: Student Research Fund, International Institute of Social Studies – €4,000.
2018: Fieldwork Grant, Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies – €6,000.

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph:

- Lauria, V. (2020). *Beltways of Agency: Drivers, Modalities, and Outcomes of Chinese Engagement in Ethiopian Infrastructure Investments*. Erasmus University Rotterdam.

Peer-reviewed journal articles:

- Lauria, V. (2025). Exploring the impact of Chinese firms in the Ethiopian infrastructure sector: Implications for local development. *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 1–23.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022278X25000199>
- Lauria, V., Lin, J.Y., Wang, X., & Zheng, Y. (2024). Development Strategy, Infrastructure, and Premature Deindustrialization: Comparing Asian, African, and Latin American Economies. *Economics & Politics*, 36(3), 456–478. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ecpo.12319>
- Lauria, V. (2022). Chinese Financing in Ethiopia’s Infrastructure Sector: Agency Distribution Within and Outside the State. *Third World Quarterly*, 43(10), 2334–2356.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2022.2150609>
- Lauria, V., & Fumagalli, C. (2019). BRICS, the Southern Model, and the Evolving Landscape of Development Assistance: Toward a New Taxonomy. *Public Administration and Development*, 39(1), 1–15.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/pad.1851>

Book Chapters:

- Jili, B., & Lauria, V. (2026). Wired asymmetries and contested futures: Digital trade and connectivity in Africa’s global engagements. In Ferracane, M.F. & Nordås H. (eds.), forthcoming, *Digital trade in Africa: A research agenda*, European University Institute.
- Lauria, V. (2024). *Investing in the Mediterranean: Strategies for Infrastructure Development*. In *IEMed Mediterranean Yearbook 2024*. Barcelona: European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed). ISSN:1698-3068
- Lauria, V. (2021). *Chinese Infrastructure Firms in Africa: The Importance of the Local Context for the Right Path to Recovery*. In *Intersecting Volume* (Global Solutions Initiative - GSI). is

Other publications (selected):

- Lauria, V., et al. (2026). *Europe, the Maghreb and non-European powers: competition, coexistence or synergy?* ISPI Policy Paper.
- Lauria, V., et al. (2024). *Decarbonizing the Future amid an Uncertain Present. Assessing Combined Challenges and Initiating New Policy, Financial and Technology Solutions on Land and at Sea. T7 Policy Brief*.
- Lauria, V., et al. (2022). *Realising the Potential of Institutional Actors: The Role of National Development Banks and Foundations in Scaling Up Green and Inclusive Infrastructure. T20/G20 Policy Brief*.
- Lauria, V., et al. (2022). *Big Data Analytics for Safe, Decarbonized, and Climate-Resilient Infrastructure. T20/G20 Policy Brief*.
- Lauria, V., et al. (2022). *Addressing the High Debt Gridlock to Support Post-COVID Inclusive Development in Low- and Middle-Income Countries. T20/G20 Policy Brief*.
- Lauria, V., Bersanetti, F., & Bilotta, N. (2021). *Local Infrastructure Investments: Five Priorities for Italy. LAI Commentary*.
- Lauria, V. (2022). *What’s Next for Infrastructure? An Introduction. Agenda for International Development*.
- Lauria, V., & Fumagalli, C. (2017). *BRICS Financing in the Infrastructure Sector: Perspectives from Africa. Agenda for International Development*.
- Lauria, V., Fumagalli, C., Harshe, N., & Ramapurath, S. (2015). *Why the SDGs Are Not That Sustainable. Agenda for International Development*.

Work in Progress:

- Lauria, V. & Schramm, M. *Governing the Stack: The Political Economy of AI Infrastructure in South Africa* Intended for submission to: World Development.
- Lauria, V. & Fumagalli, C. *Rethinking the BRICS: Enlargement and the Making of a New Type of International Organization* Intended for submission to: New Political Economy.
- Lauria, V. *Japan's Digital Infrastructure Strategy in Africa: AI/Cloud Ecosystems, Standards, and Partnerships* Intended for submission to: Geoforum.

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

- 2026:** MGDI70982: Understanding Development Research, University of Manchester.
- 2026:** MSc in Global Development, supervision of 5 dissertations.
- 2024:** Teaching Training Certificate, EUI.
- 2020:** Guest Lecture, Rethinking African Agency Within and Beyond State Institutions, *African Politics Working Group*, Yale University.
- 2018:** Guest Lecture, Transnational Networks, Market Entry, and the Internationalisation of Chinese Firms in Africa, *MSc Environment and Sustainable Development*, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.

ACADEMIC TALKS AND CONFERENCES (selected)

Invited talks

- 7 May 2026 – Symposium on Tech Competition and the End of Globalization, Vienna University of Technology.
- 14 December 2021 – The Eighth International Annual Workshop on New Structural Economics (NSE), Beijing: presenter.
- 29 July 2021 – International Virtual Dialogue: Paradigmatic Shift from “Extracting” to “Intersecting”. Centre for Sustainability (CFS) – Jindal School of Government & Global Solutions Initiative Foundation.
- 13 September 2018 – Forum on China-Africa at UNDP Ethiopia. UNDP. Addis Ababa.

Conference presentations

- 10-12 December 2025 – The political economy of foreign engagement in Africa: Finance, firms and rules, Workshop EUI, Florence.
- 11 September 2025 – Diplomacy, Nationalism and Economic Statecraft in China's Global Strategies. American Political Science Association (APSA). Vancouver: presenter.
- 5 September 2025 – Political Science in the Digital Age. Annual Conference of the Società Italiana di Scienza Politica (SISP). Naples: presenter.
- 28 April 2025 – Developing a digital trade research agenda on Africa. European University Institute (EUI). Florence: presenter.
- 25 February 2025 – REDEFINE: Researching Global China Conference – Innovation and Challenges. The Open University. Milton Keynes: presenter.
- 6 December 2024 – Africa in the global economy 2024 (AfrEcon). German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS). Bonn: presenter.
- 9 November 2024 – The 2024 International Political Economy Society (IPES) Conference. Yale University. Florence: presenter.
- 22 November 2022 – 2022 Annual Conference of the Global Research Consortium on Economic Structural Transformation (GReCEST) Beijing: presenter.
- 22 June 2022 – Infrastructure Investment in a connected world: Lessons learned from the Pandemic? 11th Forum of the Grand Paris Alliance. Online: presenter.
- 7 July 2021 – European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) Conference. Online: presenter.
- 20 September 2019 – 8th PhD Conference on International Development, Institute of Development Studies, September 2019: Brighton, UK: presenter.
- 29 October 2018 – The Sustainable Development Goals in Global Perspective. Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies and A-id. Pisa, Italy: presenter and co-organiser.
- 24 September 2017 – The Symposium on International Development Aid in the BRICS. Fudan University. Shanghai: presenter.

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP CONVENING (selected)

- 2025** **Convenor**, *The political economy of foreign engagement in Africa: Finance, firms and rules*, Workshop EUI, Florence, 9-10/12/2025.
- 2022** **Co-convenor**, *Unlocking the power of multilateral cooperation for infrastructure financing and delivery*, G20 Conference, Turin, 10-11/11/2022.
- 2022** **Co-convenor**, *2022 Annual Conference of the Global Research Consortium on Economic Structural Transformation (GReCEST)*, Beijing, 22-23/11/2022.
- 2022** **Co-convenor**, *Joining forces for recovery and a safe, sustainable future: Assessing a multilateral road map for financing high impact, sustainable infrastructure projects in the G20*, Online Workshop, 24/05/2022.
- 2021** **Co-convenor**, *Infrastructure: a long-term perspective on financing and sustainability (T20/G20)*, Turin 07/09/2021.
- 2021** **Co-convenor**, *Infrastructure 4.0: data, technology and resilience (T20/G20)*, Online Workshop, 12/07/2021.
- 2019** **Co-convenor**, *Implementing the 2030 Agenda in Italy: challenges and opportunities (with A-id think tank)*, Conference, Italian Parliament, Rome, 06/06/19.
- 2018** **Convenor**, *Toward a sustainable Italy (with A-id think tank)*, Conference, Italian Parliament, Rome, 08/06/18.
- 2018** **Co-convenor** *The sustainable development goals in a global perspective*, Conference, Agenda for International Development and Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, 28-29/10/18.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (selected)

- 2016–present:** Founder & Director, Agenda for International Development (A-id) think tank (Rome/hybrid).
- 2022–2025:** External Reviewer & Selection Committee Member, “Geopolitics and Technology” Funding Scheme, Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo (Turin).
- 2021–2023:** Adviser to Lead Co-Chair, G20/T20 Task Force on Infrastructure Investment and Financing (hybrid).
- 2020:** Consultant, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (Paris).
- 2018:** Consultant, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia).
- 2017:** Policy Analyst, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) (Beijing, China).

FIELDWORK

China (2017, 2021), Kenya (2018), Ethiopia (2018), South Africa (2026)

SERVICE & MEMBERSHIPS

Member: *European Consortium for Political Research*, *American Political Science Association*, *Association for Asian Studies*.

PEER REVIEWER (selected)

Reviewer for *Development and Change*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Telecommunications Policy*, *Public Administration and Development*, *Global Social Challenges*.

LANGUAGES

Italian (native); English (fluent); Spanish (fluent); Chinese (professional research proficiency).