

Dr Federica Mirra

Position: Module Leader, University of Macerata, Italy and Assistant Editor, *JCCA*, Intellect
Affiliation: Visiting Research Fellow, Centre for Contemporary Visual Arts Asia, School of Arts, Birmingham City University **Email:** federica.mirra@hotmail.it; Federica.mirra@bcu.ac.uk
e-profile: [federica.mirra](https://federicamirra.com) **Address:** B3 1JL, Birmingham, UK

Employment history

Jan 2026 – Jun 2026	Module Leader (fixed-term contract), University of Macerata, Italy
Jan 2026 – Jan 2028	Visiting Research Fellow , CCVA, School of Arts, Birmingham City University (BCU), Birmingham, UK
Jan 2023 – ongoing	Assistant Editor , <i>Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art</i> , Intellect, UK
Jan 2023 – Dec 2025	Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow , School of Arts, BCU
Jan 2019 – Jul 2025	Visiting Lecturer , School of Arts, BCU: MA Contemporary Arts China (2019-23); BA Fine Arts (2023-25); and Hunan Normal University, Changsha, China: MA Fine Arts (2024/25)
Sep 2021 – Nov 2022	Research Fellow , Chair of Chinese Culture and Society, University of St Gallen, Switzerland
Jan 2020 – Jul 2020	Research Assistant (part-time), Troy House Art Foundation, London, UK
Jan 2019 – Jan 2020	Research Assistant for the PGR Studio (part-time), BCU
Jul 2017 – Nov 2018	Curatorial Assistant (part-time), <i>Thailand Biennale 2018-19, Krabi</i> , Thai Ministry of Culture and BCU, Thailand and UK

Education

Oct 2018 – Apr 2022	PhD funded by the AHRC/Midlands3Cities Doctoral Training Partnership Award, School of Arts, BCU <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Urban Imaginaries: Contemporary art and urban transformations in China since 2001 (expected publication with Routledge by 2026)
Sep 2017 – Sep 2018	MA Contemporary Arts China, School of Arts, BCU (distinction)
Sep 2015 – Sep 2016	MA East Asian Studies (Chinese Studies), Leiden University, Netherlands
Sep 2012 – Jul 2015	BA Language, Culture and Society of Asia and Mediterranean Africa, Ca Foscari University of Venice, Italy (110 cum laude)

Awards, external funding and scholarships

(2023-26) Leverhulme Trust , Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellowship: £118,000
(2024) University of Bologna , funding covering travelling to present at their workshop: £200
(2022) Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Science , funding for conference: CHF 1,000
(2020) UCCL , funding to conduct fieldwork in China: £2,000 (not used due to Covid-19)
(2020) University of Sydney , merit-based scholarship to attend their workshop in Suzhou, China (online due to Covid-19)
(2018-21) AHRC , Midlands3Cities AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership: £48,000
(2017-18) Birmingham City University fee-waiver to attend the MA CAC: £3,000
(2014) Ca Foscari University of Venice , merit-based scholarship to study one term at Jilin Huaqiao Waiguoyu Xueyuan, Changchun, China

Languages: Italian (native), English (fluent), Mandarin (C1), German (B2)

Publications

- **Monographs**

(exp 2026) *China Dreaming: contemporary visual arts and the city since 2001*, Routledge.
(submitted), *The City as Art: Living aesthetics in contemporary Chinese southwestern cities*.

- **Journal articles and chapters**

(exp Feb 2026) 'Forest Chongqing: a photographic reportage by Yan Wang Preston', in Guo and Laughlin (eds.), *Reportage in the Chinese-Speaking World*, University of Michigan Press.
(in press) 'Overlapping temporalities: square dance in China's southwestern region', in *Urban Co-Temporality: Historical and Theoretical approaches*, DeGruyter.
(accepted) 'Visual narratives of the Belt and Road Initiative in Xinjiang', in Fletcher et al. (eds.), *Free to Work: creative practices and cultural labour across the arts*, Intellect.
(2025) '[Living aesthetics in China: An Introduction](#)', JCCA 12:2-3, 159-174.
(2024) '[Water calligraphy: a living aesthetics in China's south-western cities](#)', JCCA 11:1, 51-74.
(2024) '[Artistic and Spatial Mobility in China's Urban Villages](#)', in García and Toivanen. (eds.), *Urban Mobilities in Literature and Art Activism*, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 175-208.
(2023) '[Erasure](#)', *Third Text*, 37:4, 487-507.
(2023) '[Visual arts: imagining a shanghai city in twenty-first century China](#)', *Visual Studies* 39:1-2, 60-72.
(2023) 'Mobilità sociale ed artistica nei villaggi urbani in Cina', *Sinosfere* 18, [Sinosfere.com](#).
(2020) '[The art of billboards in urbanized China](#)', JCCA 7:2-3, 275-300.
(2019) '[Reverie through Ma Yansong's Shanshui City](#) to evoke and re-appropriate China's urban space', *Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art* 6:2-3, 393-413.
(2019) 'Visual arts, representations and interventions in contemporary China: urbanized interface', *Journal of Visual Art Practice* [18:3](#), 282-284.

- **Edited journals**

(2025) '[\(Extra\)ordinary living in modern and contemporary China](#)', JCCA 12.2&3.

- **Exhibition catalogue contributions**

(2019) *Catalogue of Thailand Biennale*, Bangkok: OCAC, Ministry of Culture.

(2018) *Thailand Biennale Short Guide*, Bangkok: OCAC, Ministry of Culture.

Memberships and qualifications

Advance HE Fellow (Nov 2025)	Centre for Contemporary Visual Arts Asia
British Association of Chinese Studies	Everyday Aesthetics Network
Italian Association of Chinese Studies	Urban Fringes

PhD supervision: Co-supervisor to Rucheng Yang, 'City Walk: The Driver for Urban Micro-Regeneration in Contemporary China', School of Architecture, BCU

Peer-reviewer for the following journals: *Humanities and Social Sciences*, *Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art*, *Kervan*, *Visual Communication Quarterly*

Selected conferences

(2026) 'Everyday gestures, diasporic roots', ICA Conference, Prešov, 20-23 Jul.
(2025) 'Lighting rivers and banks', BACS conference, University of Leicester, 3-5 Sep.
(2024) 'Changsha Wenheyou', JEACS Conference, University of Central Lancashire, 26-28 Jun.
(2023) 'Dishu: Calligrafia nella Cina urbana contemporanea', XIX Convegno AISC, Sapienza University of Rome, 21-23 Sep.