

## Academic Resume of Uoldelul Chelati Dirar

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Surname: Chelati Dirar  
Name: Uoldelul  
Date/Place of Birth: 02.01.1964, Asmara (Eritrea)

Telephone: +3907332582726  
E-mail: uoldelul@unimc.it

### Languages:

Italian: native speaker  
Tigrīñña, English, French: proficient  
Amharic, working knowledge  
Spanish, Arabic, Russian: basic knowledge

### Present position:

Associate Professor of African History at the University of Macerata (Italy)

### Academic Degrees and Education:

- 2005 Habilitation to lecture as Associate Professor of African History in Italian Universities
- 1995 Ph.D. in African History, University of Cagliari (Italy).  
*Colonialismo e religioni in Eritrea: la "costruzione" di una identità nazionale, 1890-1936 [Colonialism and Religions in Eritrea: the Construction of a National Identity]*, supervisor Prof. Irma Taddia, professor of African History, Department of History, University of Bologna.
- 1990 Laurea in *Lettere e Filosofia* at the University of Bologna on November 16.1990 with 110 & lode (equivalent to First Class Degree with distinction).  
*Colonialismo e religioni in Eritrea [Colonialism and Religions in Eritrea]*, supervisor Prof. Anna Maria Gentili, professor of African History at the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Bologna.

### Work and Teaching Experience

- Since 2005 - Associate professor of African history at the University of Macerata (Italy)
- 2010 -2016 Deputy Vice-chancellor for International Relations of the University of Macerata
- 2003-2005 - Post-doctoral Fellow, Department of History, University of Bologna  
With a research project on the social history of colonial troops (*Ascari*) in Eritrea
- 1999-2002 - Chair of the Department of History, University of Asmara (Eritrea)  
(for a list of courses taught see below)
- 1998-1999 Lecturer, Department of History, University of Asmara (Eritrea)
- 1993-1998 Visiting Lecturer, Department of History, University of Bologna

### Academic and Related Experience

#### *Programmes Coordinator*

- Since 2018: Coordinator of the bilateral partnership between the University of Macerata and the University of Mekelle (Ethiopia) with particular focus on the capacity building of the PhD programme in History and Cultural Studies of Mekelle University.
- Since 2012 Coordinator of the Double Degree on the Master Program in "Business Administration & Consulting / Global Politics and International Relations" between the University of Macerata and The National University Taras Shevchenko in Kiev (Ukraine)

### Editorial Experience

- Since 2021 Co-editor of the journal *Afriche & Orienti*
- Since 2009 member of the Editorial board of *Northeastern African Studies* (Michigan State University Press)
- Since 2006 member of the scientific board of *Mondo contemporaneo* (Rome)
- Since 1999 member of the editorial board, *Afriche e Orienti* (Bologna).
- 1994-1998 member of the editorial board, *Africa e Mediterraneo* (Bologna).

### Consulting Experience

- 2004 Validskulturs Museet (Museum of World Cultures), Göteborg, preparation of texts for the exhibition "Horizons: Voices from a Global Africa".
- 2002 Texts for the exhibition "The History of Massawa and the Red Sea.", co-organised by the Alliance Française, Asmara, and the National Museum of Eritrea that has been displayed in Paris, Rome and Massawa.
- 2000 Consultant to the Research & Documentation Centre of Eritrea; identification, and selection of Italian archival material relevant to history, culture, and economic development of Eritrea for duplication on microfilm and CD-ROM.

### Organization of conferences

- 2017, December co-organizer of the international workshop *Niente di nuovo sul fronte coloniale? Le colonie italiane e la Prima guerra mondiale [All Quiet on the Colonial Front? Italian Colonies and WWI]*, Department of Political Sciences, University of Pavia, PAVIA
- 2016, September - October 1 co-organizer of the international conference *The First World War from Tripoli to Mogadishu, (1911-1924)*, Ras Makonnen Hall, Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa.
- 2015, November 12-13 co-organizer of the international conference *Contending Religions, Identities and Space. Living together in Contemporary Africa and Europe*, University of Macerata, Macerata
- 2014, September 17-20, President of the organizing committee of the international conference: *Africa in Movimento / Africa on the Move*, Third biannual conference of the Association for African studies in Italy/ Associazione per gli Studi Piazza Strambi, 1i Africani in Italia (ASAI), University of Macerata, Macerata
- 2010, October 14-15, President of the organizing committee of the international conference *Voting with their feet/Votare con i piedi. Colonial administration, borderlands and people's mobility in Italian colonial East Africa*, University of Macerata, Macerata
- 2010 September 30 - October 2: Member of the Organizing Committee of the international conference *Studi italiani sull'Africa a 50 anni dall'indipendenza*, Università degli Studi di Napoli, Napoli
- 2007, November 30, President of the organizing committee of the international conference *La rappresentazione dei migranti: tra costruzione del 'nemico' e percezioni della sicurezza*, Centro Polivalente Provinciale per gli Immigrati, Contrada S. Giovanni, Porto d'Ascoli
- 2006, November President of the organizing committee of the international conference *Vecchie e nuove migrazioni nell'area mediterranea, Tripoli come un miraggio*, sponsored by the University of Macerata and the Provincial administration of Ascoli Piceno, Porto Sant'Elpidio (Ascoli Piceno)
- 2001, July 22-26, Member of the Organizing Committee of the international conference *Independent Eritrea, Lessons and Prospects. First International Conference of Eritrean Studies*, University of Asmara and Eritrean Studies Association; Asmara

### Research and Grants:

- 2024-2026 Research grant from the Italian ministry for University and Research for a three years joint research project (PRIN) on "Loyalty and disloyalty to the Italian Republic. The difficult path towards the construction of a democratic citizenship" a research project conducted with colleagues from the Universities of Siena Urbino and Bologna.
- 2016 Research on Eritrean migration to Ethiopia between 1900 and 1935

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|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2007-2009 | Research grant from the Italian ministry for University and Research for a three years joint research project (PRIN) on "Borders, warfare, people's mobility and nationalisms. State building and the construction of national identities in the Horn of Africa between 19th and 20th centuries," a research project conducted with colleagues from the Universities of Naples, Bologna, Roma Tre and Pavia. |
| 2004      | June 10 – September 10, Research Grant at Uppsala University within the Marco Polo Grants' Scheme of the University of Bologna. Research on Swedish missionaries sources relevant to Eritrean history with emphasis on linguistic identities, and the construction of social and national identities.                                                                                                        |
| 2004      | February 29 - March 27, Visiting professor at the Ecole des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 2003      | May 3-17, Research grant, Alliance Française of Asmara for archival research in the Archives of the Congregation de la Mission (Lazarist Fathers) in Paris focused on Lazarist role in linguistic studies.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2003      | February 10 - April 20, Research grant Centro Interfacoltà per la Cooperazione con i Paesi in via di Sviluppo (CICOPS) of the University of Pavia (Italy), for a research project on Colonialism and Photographic history in Eritrea in collaboration with Dr. Massimo Zaccaria, Faculty of Political Science, University of Pavia.                                                                          |
| 2002      | Two-month grant (July-August) from the Italian Institute for Asia and Africa (ISIAO) to complete research for a monograph on colonialism and missionaries in Eritrea.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1998      | Grant from Bologna University for research on the tradition of seals in Colonial Eritrea and on their social and politic relevance in the semiotic of power.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 1997      | September, pilot survey in Wälqayt (Ethiopia) with Professor I. Taddia (University of Bologna), research project on social history of the region.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1996      | Field research in Eritrea; perception of the Battle of Adwa in an Eritrean context.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 1995      | January-February: archival research in Propaganda Fide Archives (Rome) to investigate origins and aim of early catholic missionary endeavours in Northeast Africa.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 1994      | January, field work in Eritrea and archival research in the Italian State Archives and in the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome (March-April).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1993      | January-February, field work in Eritrea, research at the archive of the Apostolic Vicariate in Asmara.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1992      | archival research on the "Trevaskis papers" at the Bodleyan Library (Oxford) and at the Foreign Office Archives in London.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

### Memberships:

African Borderland Research Network (ABORNE)  
 Associazione Italiana per gli studi africani in Italia (ASAI)  
 Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA)  
 Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA)  
 President of the Associazione Italiana per gli studi africani in Italia (ASAI) for the years 2011-2012.

### Conference Papers:

2023, June 23, "Italian Classicising Imperialism between Negotiation and Dispute", paper presented at the international conference, *Classic and Italian Colonialism*, organised by Samuel Agbamu (RHUL Reading and Elena Giusti (Warwick University), Rome, Museo delle Civiltà 22-24 June 2023.

2022, May 18, "Memories of Italian colonialism in Eritrea: between Mimicry and Nationalism", paper presented at the international conference *The Return of Looted Artefacts since 1945. Post-fascist and post-colonial restitution in comparative perspective*, sixth annual conference of the Max Weber Foundation, Roma Goethe Institute, 16-18 Mayo, 2022.

2021 November 25, "Building the State in Eritrea: Sources and Epistemology", paper presented at the international DUCAS Horn of Africa Workshop in Honoir of Prof. Emerita Irma Taddia, Dalarna University, Falun

2021, March 4, "Dazzled by the Nation to Come: Unpacking Eritrean Nationalism", paper presented at the international

- workshop *Toward Peaceful Transition in Eritrea*, organised by Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich, March 3-5 2021 [workshop held on line due to travel restrictions by Covid19]
- 2020, November 20; "Mobilità coloniali: africani in Italia in età coloniale" [Colonial mobility: Africans in Italy during colonial time] paper presented at the international webinar *Il nodo ignorato: tra colonialismo italiano e eredità (post) coloniale*, organised by the Department of Romance Studies and Classics of Stockholm University
- 2019, November 8 "Mobility in the Horn: New Perspectives", paper presented at the International Conference *Internal Migrations and Displacements within Africa: Historical and Contemporary Dynamics*, Bologna University, Ravenna November 8, 2019
- 2019, June 13 "Citizenship, mobility and colonialism in the Horn of Africa", paper presented at the 8th European Conference on African Studies (ECAS), University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh June 11-14, 2019
- 2019, 7 gennaio, "Cannibal radicalisms. Nationalism, Marxism, Socialism in Eritrea between ideology and praxis", paper presented at the international conference *The Momentous 60's. Reflections on an African Decade*, Ben Gurion University of the Negeva, Beer Sheva, January 6-8, 2019.
- 2018, October 4 "Monoxoito or Colonia Cattolica. Religion, Politics and Ethnicity in the formation of a Catholic Community in an Italian Colonial borderland, 1897-1917", paper presented at the 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Ethiopian Studies (ICES) organised by the Univeristy of Mekelle and the Institute of Ethiopian Studies of Addis Ababa, Mekelle October 1-5 2018;
- 2018, September 5, "Citizenship, mobility and colonialism in the Horn of Africa. Preliminary notes on a work in progress," paper presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> Conference of the 'Associazione per gli Studi Africani in Italia (ASAI) organised by ASAI and Bologna University September 5-7, 2018;
- 2017, December 18, *Aspettando la guerra che non fu? La Prima Guerra Mondiale in Eritrea*, paper presented at the international workshop *Niente di nuovo sul fronte coloniale? Le colonie italiane e la Prima guerra mondiale [All Quite on the Colonial Front? Italian Colonies and WWI]*, Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche e Sociali, Università di Pavia, Pavia, 18-19 December 2017
- 2017, December 16, "Writing War and Colonialism in Tigrinya," paper presented at the international workshop *Comparison as Relation: Multilingual literary regions and comparative colonialisms*, India International Centre, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi 14 - 16 December 2017.
- 2017, September 14, "L'Islam in Somalia tra nazionalismo e internazionalizzazione (1980 - 1998)", paper presented at the conference *SISSCO Cantieri di storia IX*, Padova, 13-15 September 2017
- 2017, April 28, "Between Kommishtato and Abba Shawel. Which Asmara for which heritage?", paper presented at the international conference *Divided Global Cities. Reimagining Global Cities as Spaces for Exploring Hidden Stories and the Voices of Marginalized Residents*, Wilkinson College of Humanities and Social Sciences, April 28 2017
- 2016, September 30 "Writing WW1 with African Gazes. The Great War in the Writing of Eritrean Expatriates" paper presented at the international conference *The First World War from Tripoli to Mogadishu, (1911-1924)*, Ras Makonnen Hall, Institute of Ethiopian Studies. Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa.
- 2016 September 17, "Mobilità, conflitti e trasformazioni sociali nell'Africa post-coloniale: il caso del Corno d'Africa", paper presented at the conference *SISSCO, Conflitti, esuli, profughi e popoli in movimento nel mondo contemporaneo*, Università di Macerata, Macerata, 15-17 September 2016
- 2016, June 6, discussant in the panel "Racial exclusion in colonial contexts" within the international workshop on *German and Italian colonialism - comparative and transnational perspectives*, Villa Vigoni, 6-8 June 2016
- 2016 April 8, "Conflicting radicalisms : Marxism, Nationalism and the Liberation struggle in Eritrea" paper presented at the international conference *Socialismes africains/Socialismes en Afrique*, CNRS (Pouchet)-Université Paris 1 (Panthéon) 6-9 April 2016
- 2016 February 4, discussant at the conference *Legittimazione e delegittimazione politica in Europa tra Otto e Novecento*, Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici, Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Napoli, 4-5 February 2016
- 2015, November 12, "Invisible but Alive. State and Religious Identities in Independent Eritrea", paper presented at the international conference *Contending Religionis, Identities and Sapace. Living together in Contemporary Africa and Europe*, Università di Macerata, Macerata 12-13 November 2015.

- 2014, October 3, "The Great War in the Horn of Africa: between Geopolitics and Individual Trajectories ", Keynote speech at the international workshops *Catastrophe of Catalyst? Africans and African Diaspora's visions Arising from World War One*, Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies University of Bayreuth.
- 2014, September 17, with Christine Smith-Simonsen "Rereading colonial education in Eritrea: the agency perspective", ASAI International conference *Africa in movimento /Africa on the Move*, University of Macerata, Macerata.
- 2014, 1 giugno, " Crescita, bene comune e migrazioni: alcuni casi dal Corno d'Africa " *Classi dirigenti, crescita e bene comune*, Festival Economia, Trento.
- 2014, May 7-8, "Dall'esotismo coloniale alla cittadinanza. La lunga marcia delle Diaspore africane in Italia/From Colonial Exoticism to Citizenship. The long Itinerary of African Diasporas in Italy " *Popoli in movimento. Culture, diritti, geopolitica / People on the move. Culture, rights, geopolitics*, Università di Napoli Federico II San Leucio
- 2014 February 28 - March 1, " Conflicting radicalisms: The ELF the EPLF and the Derg between ideology and praxis", International conference on *The History and Historiography of Radicalism in Ethiopia*, Department of History Addis Ababa University
- 2011, November 17-19, "Il retaggio coloniale: continuità e cambiamento nei rapporti tra l'Italia e il Corno d'Africa", *Nello Specchio del Mondo. l'immagine dell'Italia nella realtà internazionale*, l'Università degli Studi di Napoli, l'Orientale, Napoli
- 2011, November 4-5, "From la Grande Italia to Mother Ethiopia. Trajectories of Italian Indigenat policies in Erythr a (1890-1952)", *Le r gime de l'indig nat et ses m tamorphoses :histoire d'un dispositif imp rial r pressif* Journ es d' tudes organis es par Isabelle Merle et Simon Imbert-Vier les 4 et 5 novembre 2011 , avec le soutien de l'IRIS, du CEMAF et de l'EHESS, Paris
- 2011, June 24, "Revolutions in North Africa and in the Middle East: Perspectives from the Global South. Where does Eritrea stand?", *Revolutions in North Africa and the Middle East: Perspectives from the Global South*, 24 June 2011, Organized in cooperation with Erasmus University Rotterdam, Clingendael (The Netherlands Institute for International Relations) and the Institute of Social Studies The Hague The Netherlands )
- 2010, October 14-15, "Sconfinamenti e costruzione di identit  anticoloniali: Le attivit  del Consolato etiopico di Asmara (1920-1935)" *Votare con i piedi. Amministrazione coloniale, borderlands e mobilit  degli individui nell'Africa coloniale italiana*, international conference, Aula Magna, Universit  degli studi di Macerata,
- 2009, December 15, "Istituzioni plurali per la democrazia e il buon governo: Il caso del Corno d'Africa", *L'Africa alla prova del mercato globale*, international workshop organised by IPALMO-NordOvest, Fondazione Einaudi, Palazzo d'Azeglio, Torino
- 2009, 20 marzo, "Da Adua alle Corti islamiche Il Corno d'Africa come possibile priorit  italiana?", *L'Africa nuovo protagonista. Dalle aspettative della decolonizzazione alla complessit  della globalizzazione*, International workshop organised by IPALMO at the Istituto Diplomatico "Mario Toscano", Villa Madama, Roma
- 2008, September 15-16, "Religione, conflitti e mutamento sociale nel Corno d'Africa", *Ritrono delle fedi, crisi della secolarizzazione? Dall'et  degli estremi al nuovo millennio*, Seminar organised by the journal 900. *Per una storia del tempo presente*, Istituto storico di Modena, Modena
- 2008, September 11-13, "Patrolling Borders and Stretching Ties: Colonial Troops, Colonial Administration and the Shaping of Eritrean Borderlands, " *The Presence of the Past? Africa in the Twenty-First Century*, Yearly conference of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the Commonwealth (ASAUK), University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK
- 2008, January 28-30, "Galantuomini e carnefici. Stermini e controllo del territorio nelle politiche coloniali italiane" [Gentlemen and Killers. Massacres and Control of the Territory in Italian Colonial Policies], *Sterminio e stermini. Shoah e violenze di massa nel Novecento*, International Conference organised by the Forum per i problemi della pace e della guerra, University of Florence, Florence
- 2007, October 19 – 20, "Rivalry, Antagonism and War in the Nation and State Building Process in Eritrea and Ethiopia: The H factor", *The Armed Conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia in Legal and International Perspective*, Scuola Superiore S. Anna, Pisa
- 2007, June13-14, "Colonial Troops, Colonial Boundaries and Post-Colonial Nationalisms: The Case of Ascaris in the Horn of Africa", *African Borderlands Research: Emerging Agendas and Critical Reflections*, Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh, 13-14 June 2007

- 2006, November 24-25, "Il Corno d'Africa e gli spostamenti di popolazioni in prospettiva storica", *Vecchie e nuove migrazioni nell'area mediterranea, Tripoli come un miraggio*, Convegno internazionale di studi, Porto Sant'Elpidio (Ascoli Piceno)
- 2006, October 5 -7, "Fedeli servitori della bandiera? Gli ascari eritrei tra colonialismo, anticolonialismo e nazionalismo" [Loyal servants of the Flag? Eritrean *ascari* between colonialism, anticolonialism and nationalism], *L'Italia e l'Etiopia, 1935-1941. A settant'anni dall'Impero fascista*, Museo di Storia Contemporanea, Milano
- 2006, May 29-31, "Relevance of the Nile Region in Italian Colonial Policies in Eritrea, 1890-1941", *Narrating the Nile – Culture, Identities Memories*, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv
- 2006, May 24, "Da colonia a nazione. Contraddizioni e ambiguità del nation building in Eritrea" [From Colony to Nation. Contradictions and Ambiguities of Nation Building in Eritrea], *Percorsi d'arte e di memoria storica. Politica e comunicazione culturale in Africa*, Università degli Studi di Teramo, Teramo
- 2005, December 2-3, "Hybrid Nationalism: Ascari and the Making of Eritrea", *Scontro/Incontro: The 'Hybrid' Experience of Italy and its Colonies*, London, University of London
- 2005, November 11-12, "Preaching to Believers. Modalities and Impact of Missionary Endeavours in Eritrea", *Une nouvelle mission pour l'Afrique? Le religieux africain et le ré-enchantement du monde*, LFM & Société Suisse d'Etudes africaines, Lausanne
- 2005, November 3-5, "Printing old words and impressing new identities. Missionary publishing activity in Eritrea (1879-1941)", *The Colonial and Post-colonial Live of the Book, 1765-2005: Reaching the Margins*, Institute of English Studies, London
- 2005, June 29 – July 03, "The Historiography on Colonial Troops in Northeast Africa: Problems of Sources, Problems of Method," *AEGIS 1<sup>st</sup> European Conference on African Studies*, School of Oriental and African Studies, London
- 2003, July 21-25, "Monoxoito or Colonia Cattolica. Religion, Politics and Ethnicity in the formation of a Catholic Community in Colonial Eritrea", *15<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Ethiopian Studies*, Hamburg University
- 2003, July 17-18, "Language and Social Consciousness: The Long Itinerary of Tigriñña from *qwanqwa gwasot* to *lesane negus* under Italian Colonial Rule (1885-1941)", Workshop on *Language, Power and Society*, SOAS, University of London.
- 2002, May 31<sup>st</sup>-June 1<sup>st</sup>, "Curing Bodies to Heal Souls: Health in Capuchin's missionary strategy in Eritrea (1894 – 1941)", Workshop on *Medical Missions in Asia and Africa*, University of Warwick (UK).
- 2002, May 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, "The Use of Seals in Colonial Eritrea and Modern Northern Ethiopia: The scientific Studies of Giovanni Ellero and Enno Littmann", *First International Littmann Conference*, Staatliches Museum für Völkerkunde, München (Germany)
- 2002, April 8-12, "Colonialism and the Construction of National Identities: the Eritrean Case", *Annual Conference of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and the Commonwealth*, Arusha (Tanzania).
- 2001, November 30-December 1, "Church and State Relations in Colonial Eritrea: Missionaries and the development of colonial strategies (1869-1911)", *Italian Colonialism and Post-Colonial Legacies*, London, Association for the Study of Modern Italy and the University of Bristol.
- 2001, September 19-24, "The Formation of the State in Eritrea: Historical Perspectives and their Implications in Contemporary Political Issues", Workshop on *Peace in the Horn of Africa*, Centre for Research on Peace of the University of Bari (Italy).
- 2001, July 22-26, "Eritrean Historiography, the Way Forward: Reflections on Post-Independence Eritrean Historiography", *Independent Eritrea, Lessons and Prospects: First International Conference on Eritrean Studies*, Eritrean Studies Association, Asmara.
- 2001, July 2-4, "From Warriors to Urban Dwellers: The Role of Eritrean Colonial Soldiers in the Urban Development of Eritrea", Workshop on *The Urban Experience in Eastern Africa, 18<sup>th</sup> C. to 1980*, British Institute in East Africa, Nairobi.
- 2000, October 26-27, "Michele Da Carbonara e l'organizzazione della Prefettura Apostolica dell'Eritrea, 1894-1910", [Michele Da Carbonara and the organisation of the Apostolic Prefecture of Eritrea], *Workshop on Italian Colonialism*, organised by the historical journal *Quaderni Storici*, Roma.

- 2000, January 11-17, "Language and Domination: The Long Term Impact of Colonial Language Policies in Eritrea", International conference *Against all Odds, African Languages and Literatures in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Asmara.
- 1999, October 21-23, "Il Risorgimento negato: Colonialismo italiano e Nazionalismo Eritreo", [The Denied Risorgimento: Italian Colonialism and Eritrean Nationalism] International conference *La primavera negata. Il Risorgimento tradito : Stati-Nazione e minoranze nazionali tra 1848 e 1998*, University of Verona (Italy).
- 1999, January 16-17, "'Rim" Land and Missionaries in Colonial Eritrea', *International Workshop on Rim Land in Historical Ethiopia*, University of Bologna.
- 1998, November 26-27, "The Issue of Nationalities in Eritrean and Ethiopian Constitutions", *International Conference on African Constitutions*, University of Bologna.
- 1997, December 13-17, "Italian Colonialism in Wälqayt: The Case of Mäsfën Rädä", *XIIIth International Conference of Ethiopian Studies*, University of Kyoto (Japan).
- 1997, November 12-14, "Da Cam a Sem, l'Africa e gli africani nell'immaginario missionario italiano", [From Ham to Sem: Africa and Africans in the Imagination of Italian Missionaries] "*Il razzismo nella storia d'Italia, 1870-1945*", conference of Seminario permanente per la storia del razzismo, University of Bologna.
- 1997, May 19-22, "The Nile as a Gateway for Missionary Activity in "Abyssinia", *The Nile: Civilizations, History, Myths*, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv.
- 1996, April 10-12, "Essere africani nell'Eritrea italiana", *Il Centenario della battaglia di Adua*, organised by the Istituto storico della resistenza e dell'età contemporanea, Piacenza (Italy).
- 1996, February 25-March 2, "Adwa: A Challenge to History?", *Adwa Centenary Conference*, Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa-Adwa.

## Publications

### Monographs

Uoldelul Chelati Dirar (translator), *L'ascaro*, by Abba Gebreyesus Hailu, Napoli, TAMU, 2023

Uoldelul Chelati Dirar, *Il conflitto Etiopia -Eritrea: Ipotesi interpretative e scenari*, Roma [The Ethio-Eritrean Conflict. Interpretative Hypothesis and Scenarios], CESPI (Note & Ricerche), 1998.

Uoldelul Chelati Dirar, *L'Africa nell'esperienza coloniale italiana. La biblioteca Guerrino Lasagni (1915-1991)*, [Africa in the Italian Colonial Experience: the Guerrino Lasagni Library], Bibliografie del Centro Amilcar Cabral, Bologna, Il Nove, 1996.

### Primary Sources

*Carte coloniali: i documenti inediti del fondo Ellero* [Colonial Papers: the Unpublished Documents of the Ellero Collection], Gianni Dore, and Uoldelul Chelati Dirar (eds.), Torino, l'Harmattan Italia, 2000.

*Lettere tigrine: I documenti etiopici del Fondo Ellero, vol I*, [Tigrinyan Letters: the Ethiopian Documents of the Ellero Collection], Uoldelul Chelati Dirar, Alessandro Gori, and Irma Taddia (eds.), Torino, l'Harmattan Italia, 1997.

### Edited books

- Uoldelul Chelati Dirar and Karin Pallaver(eds), *Africa as Method: A Handbook of Sources and Epistemologies*, Cham, Switzerland : Springer, 2024
- Shiferaw Bekele, Uoldelul Chelati Dirar, Alessandro Volterra and Massimo Zaccaria (Eds.)l. *The First World War from Tripoli to Addis Ababa (1911-1924)*. Addis Ababa : Centre français des études éthiopiennes, 2018;
- Isabella Rosoni e Uoldelul Chelati Dirar (Eds), *Votare con i piedi. La mobilità degli individui nell'Africa coloniale italiana*, Macerata, EUM, 2012
- Uoldelul Chelati Dirar, Silvana Palma, A. Triulzi, A Volterra (Eds), *Colonia e post-colonia come spazi diasporici*, Roma, Carocci, 2011

### Chapters in books or proceedings

- Uoldelul Chelati Dirar end Karin Pallaver, introduction to Uoldelul Chelati Dirar e Karin Pallaver (eds), *Africa as Method: A Handbook of Sources and Epistemologies*, Cham, Switzerland : Springer, 2024

- "Building the State in Eritrea: Notes on Epistemologies and Sources", in Uoldelul Chelati Dirar and Karin Pallaver (eds), *Africa as Method: A Handbook of Sources and Epistemologies*, Cham, Switzerland : Springer, 2024
- "9 maggio 1936. La proclamazione dell'impero. Colonialismo fascista" in S. Lupo and A. Ventrone (Eds), *Il fascismo nella storia italiana*, Roma, Donzelli, 2022, pp. 165-184
- "Burdened by the Past and Stranded in the Present. The Weight of History in the Relations Between Eritrea and Ethiopia", in A. De Guttry, H. H.G. Post and G. Venturini (Eds), *The 1998-200 Eritrea-Ethiopia War and Its Aftermath in International Legal Perspective*, The Hague, Springer, 2021
- Shiferaw Bekele, Uoldelul Chelati Dirar, Alessandro Volterra and Massimo Zaccaria, "Introduction" to Shiferaw Bekele, Uoldelul Chelati Dirar, Alessandro Volterra and Massimo Zaccaria (Eds.). *The First World War from Tripoli to Addis Ababa (1911-1924)*. Addis Ababa : Centre français des études éthiopiennes, 2018, pp. 11-36;
- "Writing WWI with African Gazes. The Great War Through the Writing of Tigrinya Speaking Expatriate", In Shiferaw Bekele, Uoldelul Chelati Dirar, Alessandro Volterra and Massimo Zaccaria (Eds.). *The First World War from Tripoli to Addis Ababa (1911-1924)*. Addis Ababa : Centre français des études éthiopiennes, 2018, pp. 323-348;
- "Soldiers as Urbanisers. Ascaris and the shaping of Urban Culture in Colonial Eritrea," in I. Taddia and T. Negash (Eds), *State Institutions and Leadership in Africa*, Padova, libreriauniversitaria.it, 2017, pp. 221-248;
- "1896. Tante Adué per tante memorie," in A. Giardina (ed), *Storia mondiale d'Italia*, Bari-Roma, Laterza, 2017, pp. 555-559;
- "Trespassing Boundaries: The Challenges of Eritrean Historiography," in I. Taddia L. Berge (a cura di), *Themes in Modern African History and Culture*, Padova, libreriauniversitaria.it, 2013, pp. 243-256;
- "Attraversamenti di confini. Politiche imperiali e strategie anticoloniali. L'attività del consolato etiopico di Asmara", in Uoldelul Chelati Dirar, Silvana Palma, A. Triulzi, A. Volterra (a cura di), *Colonia e post-colonia come spazi diasporici*, Roma, Carocci, 2011, pp. 187-208.
- "Rivalry, antagonism and war in the nation- and state-building process: the H factor in the relations between Eritrea and Ethiopia", in G. Venturini- A. De Guttry- H. Post (eds), *The Armed Conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, in international legal perspective*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2008 , pp. 25-51.
- "Fedeli servitori della bandiera?. Gli ascari eritrei tra colonialismo, anticolonialismo e nazionalismo, 1935-1941," in R. Bottoni (Ed), *L'Impero fascista. Italia ed Etiopia (1935-1941)*, Bologna, il Mulino, 2008, pp. 441-470
- "Colonial Eritrea at the time of the Deutsche Aksum-Expedition, 1906," in Steffen Wenig (Ed), IN KAISERLICHEM AUFTRAG. Die Deutsche Aksum-Expedition 1906 unter Enno Littmann. Aichwald : Linden Soft, 2007: pp. 57-62
- "Curing Bodies to Rescue Souls: Health in Capuchin's missionary strategy in Eritrea (1894 – 1941)", in D. Hardiman (ed), *Healing Bodies, Saving Souls: Medical Missions in Asia and Africa*, Amsterdam, Rodopi Press, 2006, 249-278.
- "Il colonialismo europeo e l'Africa: una lettura africana", in G. Forcesi (ed.), *Sguardi incrociati sul colonialismo*, Roma, UCSEI, 2005, 77-118
- "Migration in the Horn: Colonial and Post-Colonial Perspectives", in E. Abiri & H. Thörn (eds.): *Horizons. Perspectives on a Global Africa*, Lund, Goteborg University: Studentlitteratur, 2004, 151-197.
- "The Issue of Nationalities in Eritrean and Ethiopian Constitutions", in I. Taddia and V. Piergigli (eds.), *International Conference on African Constitutions*, University of Bologna, November 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 1998, Torino, Giappichelli, 2000, 221-246.
- "The Nile as a Gateway for Missionary Activity in Abyssinia", in H. Erlich, I. Gershoni (eds.), *The Nile : Histories, Cultures, Myths*, Boulder, Lynne Rienner, 1999, 139-149.
- "Tra Cam e Sem. L'immagine dell' 'Africa Italiana' nella letteratura missionaria (1857-1895)", [Between Ham and Sem: the Image of Italian Africa in Missionary Literature], on A. Burgio (ed.). *Nel nome della razza : Il razzismo nella storia d'Italia (1870-1945)*, Bologna, il Mulino, 1999, 183-200.
- Uoldelul Chelati Dirar and Irma Taddia, "Adwa: a Challenge to History?" in Abdussamad H. Ahmed and R. Pankhurst (Eds.), *Adwa. Victory Centenary Conference 26 February-2 March 1996*, Addis Ababa, Institute of Ethiopian Studies, 1998, 549-567.
- Uoldelul Chelati Dirar and Irma Taddia, "Essere africani nell'Eritrea italiana", [Being African in Italian Eritrea] in A. Del Boca (ed.), *Adua: le ragioni di una sconfitta*, Roma ; Bari, Laterza, 1997, 231-253.

### Articles in Journals

- Uoldelul Chelati Dirar and Nicola Camilleri, "Challenging race, gender, and class in Fascist and Post-War Italy. Biographical notes on Elena Sengal (1911–1962)", *Modern Italy*, 30, 1 2025
  - "From Colonialism to Warring Independences: Manifold Trajectories of Nationalism in the Horn of Africa", in *Afriche e Orienti*, 24, 2, 2021, pp. 9-27.
  - Elena Di Giovanni, Uoldelul Chelati Dirar, "Reviewing directionality in writing and translation: Notes for a history of translation in the Horn of Africa ", in *Translation Studies* 2015
  - "Religione, conflitti e mutamenti politici: un'analisi comparata del Corno d'Africa", in *900. Per una storia del tempo presente* 3, 2010, pp. 77 -105
  - "Colonialism and the Construction of National Identities: The Case of Eritrea", in *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, 1, 2, 2007, 256-276.
- with R. J. Reid, "Experiencing Identities: Making and Remaking African Communities", in *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, 1, 2, 2007, 234-237.
- with Eric Morier Genoud, "Introduzione al Dossier Fondamentalismi nell'Africa del XXI secolo," in *Afriche e Orienti*, 9 (2007) 3-4, pp. 7-11
- "Truppe coloniali e l'individuazione dell'African Agency. Il caso degli ascari eritrei," in *Afriche e Orienti*, 9(2007) 1, pp. 41-56"
- "From Warriors to Urban Dwellers: *Ascari* and the Military Factor in the Urban Development of Colonial Eritrea", *Cahiers d'Études Africaines* XLIV, 3, 175 (2004): 533-574.
  - "Church and State Relations in Colonial Eritrea: Missionaries and the Development of Colonial Strategies (1869-1911)", *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, 8, 3 (2003): 391-410.
  - "Michele Da Carbonara e l'organizzazione della Prefettura Apostolica dell'Eritrea, 1894-1910", [Michele da Carbonara and the Organisation of the Apostolic Prefecture of Eritrea, 1894-1910], *Quaderni storici*, 109, 37,1 (2002): 149-188.
  - "Etiopia-Eritrea, le ragioni di un conflitto annunciato", [Ethiopia and Eritrea. Reasons behind an Announced Conflict] *Afriche e Orienti* 2 (1999): 12-19.
  - "Le religioni nella politica coloniale italiana", [Religion in Italian Colonial Policies] *Africa e Mediterraneo*, 16, 1, (1996): 9-14.
  - "Il riconoscimento delle nazionalità: il caso etiopico", [The Acknowledgment of Nationalities: the Ethiopian Case], *Africa e Mediterraneo*, 13, 2, (1995): 18-22.

### Seminars and Guest Lectures:

- 2024, February 1, Seminar on the translation of *L'Ascario* a novel by Gebreyesus Hailu. University of California Berkeley, Department of Italian studies.
- 2023, June 6 Université Paris 8 Vincennes Saint Denis, "African voices on Italian colonialism," Lecture at the Post-graduate seminar Memoria e politica nell'Italia contemporanea, organised by the Groupe de recherche sur l'italie contemporaine (GRIC)
- 2022, June 7, Round table on "Colonialism and Decolonisation in Italian Studies", School of Advanced studies, University of London [held online]
- 2015-2020, In the framework of a cooperation programme between the University of Macerata and the University of Mekelle (UoM) in Ethiopia, I have collaborated with the PhD programme of the History Department of UoA. In this context, I have also given lectures on methodological issues to PhD students.
- 2012, January 23, Seminar on "Global History e World History viste dall'Italia: storiografie, confini, scambi [Global History e World History in the Italian perspective, historiographies, boundaries and exchanges].
- 2008, November 20, MA on African History, University of Pavia, seminar on "Rethinking Italian Colonialism; Ideology, praxis and changes"
- 2005, October 24-30, Yerevan State University (Armenia), lectures on decolonisation in Africa.

2004, June 30, Department of African Studies Humboldt University (Berlin), lecture on "Colonialism and Contrasting Memories of it in Eritrea".

2004, June 28, Free University of Berlin, Seminar für Semitistik und Arabistik, lecture on "The transformation of the Social Status of Tigrinya Language in Eritrea during Italian Colonialism".

2004, March the following series of lectures was given at the Ecoles des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales:

- March 9, 2004, "The development of African studies in Italy: The case of the Horn of Africa", within a seminar held by Elikia M'Bokolo and José Kagabo.
- March 15, 2004, "The Colonial State in the Horn of Africa and the Historiographic Debate in Italy", within a seminar on *Généalogie des africanismes*, held by Vincent Foucher and Jean Dozon.
- March 17, 2004, "Eritrea and its boundaries: a mutating concept", within a seminar held by Éloi Ficquet.
- March 22, 2003, "Ibrahim Sultan and WoldeAb WoldeMariam: Two Fathers for a Would-be Nation?" within a seminar held by Elikia M'Bokolo.
- March 24, 2004, "Nationalism, Nation-Building and the Myth of Return: the Case of the Eritrean Diaspora", within a seminar held by José Kagabo.
- March 24, 2004, "National Identity and History. Missionary and Colonial Archives: the Eritrean Case", within a seminar *Séminaire de Formation à la Recherche en Afrique*, held by Jean Claude Penrad and Alain Gascon.

2003, 27-29 November, Seminar for the students of *Storia e istituzioni dell'Africa*, a course given by Prof. Luigi Goglia, Faculty of Political Science, University of Roma 3. The following lectures were given:

- 27 November, 2003, "Stato e nazione nel contesto precoloniale".
- 28 November, 2003, "La costruzione dell'Eritrea come un'identità 'coloniale'".
- 29 November, 2003, "La mancata decolonizzazione e il processo di definizione di un nazionalismo eritreo".

2003, 5 May, Institut de Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO), Paris; lecture on: "Le développement de la langue tigrigna à l'époque coloniale".

2002, University of Trømsø (Norway), "Historiography and nation building in Independent Eritrea", lecture given to the students of the course of African History.

2002, University of Trømsø (Norway), "Conflict, Displacement, and Plural Identities: Elements for a History of Eritrean Diaspora" seminar with the staff of the Department of Anthropology.

Academic Year 1997-1998, University of Bologna, Graduate seminar, "The Role of Royal Chronicles in the Reconstruction of Ethiopian History".

Academic Year 1997-1998, University of Bologna, Graduate seminar, "Sources for the Historiography of Colonial Eritrea".

Academic Year 1996-1997, University of Bologna, Graduate seminar, "Ethiopia as a Myth: The Historical Fortune of Ethiopia and its Relations with Europe".

Academic Year 1995-1996, University of Bologna, Graduate seminar, "Eighteenth Century Eritrea as a Borderland: Politics and Society in 19th Century Ethiopia".

Academic Year 1994-1995, University of Bologna, Graduate seminar, "Ethiopian Orthodox Church and the Ecology of Survival: Church and Priest Role in the Organization of Daily Life".

Academic Year 1993-1994, University of Bologna, Graduate seminar, "Missionary Activities in Eritrea during Italian Colonialism."

### Teaching Experience

2025, Spring semester - New York University – Florence, *Topics in Africana Studies: Race and Racialization in Italy*,

2012-2025, Academic Year, University of Macerata, *African History*, graduate courses *History of International Relations*; (offered in English)

2009-2020, Academic Year, University of Macerata, undergraduate courses: *African History*, graduate courses *History of International Relations*, *History of Postcolonial States*;

2008-2020, Academic Year, University of Macerata, undergraduate courses: *African History*, *History of International Relations*, *History of Postcolonial States*; Graduate courses: *History of Modern Migrations*

2007-2008, Academic Year, University of Macerata, undergraduate courses: *African History, History of International Relations, History of Postcolonial States*; Graduate courses: *History of Modern Migrations*

2006-2007, Academic Year, University of Macerata, undergraduate courses: *African History, History of International Relations, History of Postcolonial States*; Graduate courses: *Modern History of the Mediterranean Region*

2005-2006, Academic Year, University of Macerata, undergraduate courses: *African History, History of International Relations*; Graduate courses: *Modern History of the Mediterranean Region*

2005, April – May, University of Bologna, lecturer within the course on *Ethiopian languages and literatures* held by Professor Irma Taddia.

2004, April; University of Pavia, lecturer within the course on *History of Colonialism and Decolonisation* held by Professor Gian Paolo Calchi Novati.

2002-2003, Academic Year, University of Asmara, undergraduate courses: *Research Methodology and Practice* (Hist.371), *Ancient, Modern and Early Modern African History* (Hist 221), *Colonial and Independent Africa* (Hist 321), *Problems in Eritrean History* (Hist 471). [all courses offered in English]

1999-2002, Academic Year, University of Asmara, undergraduate courses: *Historiography and Research Methodology* (Hist 371), *Eritrean Independence Struggle* (Hist 401), *Colonial and Federal Eritrea* (Hist 302); *The Horn of Africa in Historical Perspective* (Hist 312), *Indian and East Asian History* (Hist. 262), *Modern World History* (Hist 242dp). (all courses offered in English)

1998-1999, Academic Year, University of Asmara, undergraduate courses: *Historiography and Research Methodology* (Hist 371); *Pre-colonial Eritrea* (Hist 301), *Colonial and Federal Eritrea* (Hist 302). (all courses offered in English)

1997-1998, Academic Year, University of Asmara, undergraduate courses: *Introduction to Eritrean History* (Hist 101), *Survey of Modern World History* (Hist 142). (all courses offered in English)

### **Teaching activities within the Erasmus staff mobility programme**

AA 2012-2013, African History (University of Dalarna/Falun) [offered in English]

AA 2012-2013, African History (University of Tromsø) [offered in English]

AA 2010-2011, African History (University of Dalarna/Falun) [offered in English]

AA 2010-2011, African History (University of Tromsø) [offered in English]

AA 2009-2010, African History (University of Dalarna/Falun) [offered in English]

### **Research interests**

Historian by training, I have mainly worked on the history of the Horn of Africa, particularly Eritrea, during the colonial period. My research interests have mainly focused on the processes of elite formation and the development of nationalisms in the Horn of Africa. I am currently working on the biographies of African diasporas in Italy between the 1890s and the 1940s.

June 4, 2025

Uoldelul Chelati Dirar

