

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

Silvia Maria Colombo

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- 01/04/2022–Present **Researcher and Faculty Advisor**  
NATO Defense College
- 01/04/2022–Present **Associate Fellow**  
Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Rome (Italy)
- 01/05/2019–31/03/2022 **Head, Italy's Foreign Policy Programme**  
Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Rome (Italy)
- 01/10/2015–Present **Reader and Module Coordinator**  
Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE)
- 01/05/2017–30/04/2019 **Head, Mediterranean and Middle East Programme**  
Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Rome (Italy)
- 01/04/2009–30/04/2017 **(Senior) Research Fellow**  
Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Rome (Italy)
- 01/10/2013–31/12/2013 **Visiting PhD Fellow**  
Middle East Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), London (United Kingdom)

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- 01/02/2011–17/06/2014 **PhD cum laude in Comparative Politics**  
Scuola Normale Superiore (SNS), Pisa/Florence (Italy)  
Thesis: "Political and Institutional Transition in North Africa. Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco in Comparative Perspective".  
Supervisor: Professor Leonardo Morlino
- 01/10/2007–31/08/2008 **MA in Near and Middle Eastern Studies**  
School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, London (United Kingdom)  
Final grade: Distinction
- 01/10/2005–16/07/2007 **MA in Afro-Asian Studies (International Relations)**  
Faculty of Political Science, Università degli Studi di Pavia, Pavia (Italy)  
Final grade: 110/110 cum laude
- 01/10/2002–15/12/2005 **BA in Linguistic and Cultural Mediation**  
Faculty of Political Science, Università degli Studi di Milano, Milan (Italy)  
Final grade: 110/110 cum laude

## PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) Italian

Foreign language(s)

|         | UNDERSTANDING |         | SPEAKING           |                   | WRITING |
|---------|---------------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|---------|
|         | Listening     | Reading | Spoken interaction | Spoken production |         |
| English | C2            | C2      | C1                 | C1                | C1      |
| French  | C1            | C1      | B2                 | B2                | B2      |
| Arabic  | B1            | B2      | B1                 | B1                | B1      |

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user - B1 and B2: Independent user - C1 and C2: Proficient user  
Common European Framework of Reference for Languages - Self-assessment grid

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Honours and awards Grant of the Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL) to carry out research in Syria (£2,500), 2008

Scholarship of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy to study Arabic in Damascus, 2006

Publications **Books**

Colombo, S. and D. Huber (eds.) (2022), *Ten Years of Protests in the Middle East and North Africa. Dynamics of Mobilisation in a Complex (Geo)Political Environment*, Peter Lang Publishing Group.

Colombo, S. and A. Abdel Ghafar (eds.) (2021), *The EU and the GCC. Towards a New Path*, Singapore, Palgrave Macmillan.

Colombo, S. (ed.) (2020), *Italia ed Europa di fronte alla crisi libica*, Rome: Edizioni Nuova Cultura.

Colombo, S. and A. Dessì (eds.) (2020), *Fostering a New Security Architecture in the Middle East*, Rome: Edizioni Nuova Cultura.

Colombo, S. (2018), *Political and Institutional Transition in North Africa: Egypt and Tunisia in Comparative Perspective*, London: Routledge.

Colombo, S. and E. Ragab (eds.) (2018), *Foreign Relations of the GCC Countries amid Shifting Global and Regional Dynamics*, London: Routledge.

Colombo, S.; A. Dessì and V. Ntousas (2017), *The EU, Resilience and the MENA Region*, Rome: Edizioni Nuova Cultura.

Colombo, S. et al. (eds.) (2016), *The Future of Natural Gas*, Hof van Twente, Lenth: European Energy Review.

Colombo, S. (ed.) (2014), *Bridging the Gulf: EU-GCC Relations at a Crossroads*, IAI Research Papers No. 14, March 2014, Rome: Edizioni Nuova Cultura.

Colombo, S. (ed.) (2014), *Italy and Saudi Arabia Confronting the Challenges of the XXI Century*, IAI Research Papers No. 10, September 2013, Rome: Edizioni Nuova Cultura.

Colombo, S. and N. Tocci (eds.) (2011), *The Challenges of State Sustainability in the Mediterranean*, IAI Research Papers No. 3, September 2011, Rome: Edizioni Nuova Cultura.

Colombo, S.; K. Mezran and S. van Genugten (eds.) (2011), *L'Africa Mediterranea. Storia e Futuro*, Rome: Donzelli Editore.

**Journal articles (peer-reviewed)**

Colombo, S. (2021), "I movimenti islamisti tra crisi interne, pluralizzazione e tendenze post islamiste", *Italianieuropei*, n. 5/2021, pp. 81-86.

Colombo, S. and E. Soler i Lecha (2021), "Europe and the 'New' Middle East", *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*, available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19448953.2021.1888246> (Open Access)

Colombo, S. and B. Voltolini (2018), "The EU and Islamist parties in Tunisia and Egypt after the Arab uprisings: A story of selective engagement", *Mediterranean Politics*, Vol. 23, Issue 1, January 2018, pp. 83-102.

Colombo, S. (2018), "A Tale of Several Stories: EU-North Africa Relations Revisited", *Great Insights*, Vol. 7, No. 4 (Autumn 2018), pp. 26-28.

Colombo, S. (2017), "EU-GCC Relations and the Risk of Irrelevance", *Turkish Policy Quarterly*, Vol. 16, No. 3 (Fall 2017), pp. 61-69.

Colombo, S. and E. Ragab (eds.) (2017), Foreign Relations of the GCC Countries amid Shifting Global and Regional Dynamics, Special Issue *The International Spectator*, Vol. 52, No. 2, June 2017.

Colombo, S. (2017), "Italia e Arabia Saudita: non solo per soldi", *Limes*, Vol. 3/2017, March 2017, pp. 191-197.

Colombo, S. (2014), "L'ascesa islamista e la competizione regionale tra Arabia Saudita e Qatar", *Afriche e Orienti*, Vol. 1-2, pp. 47-63.

Colombo, S. and B. Voltolini (2014), "Business as Usual' in EU Democracy Promotion Towards Morocco? Assessing the Limits of the EU's Approach towards the Mediterranean after the Arab Uprisings", *L'Europe en Formation*, Vol. 371, pp. 41-57.

Colombo, S. (2012), "The GCC and the Arab Spring: A Tale of Double Standards", *The International Spectator*, Vol. 47, No. 4 (December 2012), pp. 110-126.

### Book chapters

Colombo, S. (2021), "Overcoming Structural Constraints in EU-GCC Relations: The format, the Content and the Actors" in A. Abdel Ghafar and S. Colombo, *The EU and the GCC. Towards a New Path*, Singapore, Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 9-32.

Colombo, S. and A. Dessì (2020), "Collective Security and Multilateral Engagement in the Middle East: Pathways for EU Policy" in S. Colombo and A. Dessì (eds.), *Fostering a New Security Architecture in the Middle East*, Rome: Edizioni Nuova Cultura.

Colombo, S. (2019), "Re-conceptualising EU-North Africa Relations: 'Outside-In' and 'Inside-Out' Dynamics" in S. Giusti and I. Mirkina (eds.), *The EU in a Trans-European Space. External Relations across Europe, Asia and the Middle East*, Cham, Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 177-196.

Colombo, S. (2016), "The Trajectory of the Crises in the Mediterranean" in A. Marrone and M. Nones, *Italy and Security in the Mediterranean*, Rome: Edizioni Nuova Cultura, pp.11-23.

Colombo, S. (2015), "L'arco di crisi sul Mediterraneo" in A. Marrone and M. Nones (eds.), *La sicurezza nel Mediterraneo e l'Italia*, Rome: Edizioni Nuova Cultura, pp. 13-29.

Colombo, S. (2014), "The Gulf and the EU: Partners or Competitors?" in S. Gstöhl and E. Lannon (eds.), *The Neighbours of the European Union's Neighbours. Diplomatic and Geopolitical Dimensions beyond the European Neighbourhood Policy*, Farnham and Burlington: Ashgate, pp. 123-144.

Colombo, S. (2012), "Islamisti al potere tra pluralismo e pragmatismo" in S. Rizzo (ed.), *Le rivoluzioni della dignità. 18 mesi di proteste, di repressione e di rivoluzioni che hanno cambiato il mondo arabo*, Rome: Ediesse, pp. 161-176.

Colombo, S. (2012), "Un paese di minoranze: La Siria e l'incubo del settarismo" in G. Calchi Novati (ed.), *Verso un nuovo orientalismo. Primavera Arabe e Grande Medio Oriente*, Carocci: Centro Studi per i Popoli Extra-europei Cesare Bonacossa, Università di Pavia, pp. 127-141.

Colombo, S. (2012), "Giovani e democratizzazione in Egitto dopo la Primavera araba: un nuovo paradigma di partecipazione politica?" in C. Wagemann (ed.), *La Democrazia, i Giovani, il Mediterraneo*, SMP - Società Mutamento Politica, Vol. 3, No. 5, pp. 55-68.

Colombo, S. and A. Dessì (2012), "L'Italia di fronte alla «Primavera araba»" in A. Colombo and E. Greco (eds.), *La politica Estera dell'Italia*, Bologna: Il Mulino, pp. 53-72.

Colombo, S. and B. Voltolini (2012), "EU democracy promotion and electoral politics between 'milieu goals' and 'possession goals': the cases of Lebanon and Morocco" in B. Wassenberg and G. Faleg (eds.), *Europe and the Middle East: The Hour of the EU?*, P.I.E. Peter Lang (Euroclio 63), pp. 65-79.

Colombo, S. and N. Tocci (2012), "The EU Response to the Arab Uprising: Old Wine in New Bottles?" in R. Alcaro and M. Haubrich-Seco (eds.), *Re-thinking Western Policies in Light of the Arab Uprisings*, IAI Research Papers No. 4, Rome: Edizioni Nuova Cultura, pp. 71-96.

Colombo, S. and H. Darbouche (2011), "The EU, Civil Society and Conflict Transformation in Western Sahara: The Failure of Disengagement" in N. Tocci (ed.), *The EU, Civil Society and Conflict*, London: Routledge.

### Working papers (peer-reviewed)

Colombo, S. (2021), "Rome is back but should strategise its foreign policy towards the Middle East and North Africa better", *Manara Magazine*, available at: <https://manaramagazine.org/2021/10/31/rome-is-back-but-should-strategise-its-foreign-policy-towards-the-middle-east-and-north-africa-better/>

Colombo, S. and A. Abdel Ghafar (2021), *France and the UAE: A deepening partnership in uncertain times*, Brooking. Order from Chaos, 28 October 2021, available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/10/28/france-and-the-uae-a-deepening-partnership-in-uncertain-times/>

Colombo, S. (2021), *Tunisia's Quest for Democracy: Unfinished Domestic Revolution and Regional Geopolitical Entanglements*, IAI Papers 2145, available at: <https://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/iaip2145.pdf>

Colombo, S. (2021), "Principled Pragmatism" *Reset: For a Recalibration of the EU's Diplomatic Engagement with the MENA Region*, IAI Papers 2139, available at:

<https://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/iaip2139.pdf>

Colombo, S. and D. Cristiani (2021), *Making Sense of Italy's Renewed Economic Diplomacy Towards Libya*, IAI Commentary 2135, available at: <https://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/iaicom2135.pdf>

Colombo, S. and D. Cristiani (2021), *Libya as a Transatlantic Litmus Test for European Strategic Autonomy*, IAI Commentary 2126, available at: <https://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/iaicom2126.pdf>

Colombo, S. and B. Venturi (2020), *Rethinking EU Leadership in the "Neighbourhood": Limits and Ambitions*, IAI Commentary 2101, available at: <https://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/iaicom2101.pdf>

Colombo, S. and E. Soler i Lecha (2020), *Infrastructures and Power in the Middle East and North Africa*, European Institute of the Mediterranean, available at:

<https://www.euromesco.net/publication/infrastructures-and-power-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa-2>

Colombo, S. and M. Calculli (2020), *Il Libano alla prova dei fatti*, Rome: Chamber of Deputies, available at: [https://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/pi\\_a\\_162.pdf](https://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/pi_a_162.pdf)

Colombo, S. (2019), "Molto rumore per nulla. Le reazioni europee al ritiro americano delle truppe dalla Siria" in R. Alcaro (ed.), *Focus euroatlantico* No. 11, Rome: Senate, pp. 39-45, available at: [https://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/pi\\_fe\\_11.pdf](https://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/pi_fe_11.pdf)

Colombo, S. et al. (2019), *The Art of the (Im)Possible. Sowing the Seeds for the EU's Constructive Engagement in the Middle East and North Africa*, MENARA Reports, available at: <https://www.iai.it/it/pubblicazioni/art-impossible>

Colombo, S.; E. Soler i Lecha and M. Otte (2019), *A Half-Empty Glass: Limits and Dilemmas of the EU's Relations to the MENA Countries*, MENARA Reports, available at: <https://www.iai.it/it/pubblicazioni/half-empty-glass-limits-and-dilemmas-eus-relations-mena-countries>

Colombo, S.; E. Goell and E. Soler i Lecha (2019), *Imagining Future(s) for the Middle East and North Africa*, MENARA Reports, available at: <https://www.iai.it/it/pubblicazioni/imagining-futures-middle-east-and-north-africa>

Colombo, S. and A. Palm (2019), *Italy in the Mediterranean. Priorities and Perspectives of a EU Middle Power*, Bruxelles/Roma, Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) e Fondazione EYU.

Colombo, S. et al (2018), *New Trends in Identity Politics in the Middle East and North Africa and Their*

*Impact on State-Society Relations*, MENARA Reports, available at: <https://www.iai.it/it/pubblicazioni/new-trends-identity-politics-middle-east-and-north-africa-and-their-impact-state>

Colombo, S. and H. Meddeb (2018), "Fostering Inclusiveness: A New Roadmap for EU-Tunisia Relations and the Engagement with Civil Society" in E. Cohen-Hadria (ed.), *The EU-Tunisia Privileged Partnership - What Next?*, IEMed/EuroMeSCo Joint Policy Study 10, Barcelona: European Institute of the Mediterranean, pp. 34-56.

Colombo, S. and R.A. Boserup (2017), *Hybridization of Domestic Order-Making in the Contemporary MENA Region*, MENARA Reports, available at: <https://www.iai.it/it/pubblicazioni/hybridization-domestic-order-making-contemporary-mena-region>

Colombo, S. and N. Shapovalova (2018), "The European Neighbourhood Policy Promotion of Civil Society" in T. Schumacher, A. Marchetti and T. Demmelhuber (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook on the European Neighbourhood Policy*, London and New York: Routledge, p. 494-506.

Colombo, S. and R.A. Boserup (2017), *Hybridization of Domestic Order-Making in the Contemporary MENA Region*, MENARA Reports, available at: <https://www.iai.it/it/pubblicazioni/hybridization-domestic-order-making-contemporary-mena-region>

Colombo, S. et al. (2017), *Global Identities: Embedding the Middle East and North Africa Region in the Wider World*, MENARA Reports, available at: <http://www.iai.it/en/pubblicazioni/global-identities-embedding-middle-east-and-north-africa-region-wider-world>

Colombo, S. and B. Voltolini (2017), *The EU's engagement with 'moderate' political Islam: The case of Ennahda*, LSE Middle East Centre papers series, 19, London: LSE Middle East Centre.

Colombo, S. (2016), *The EU's External Migration Policy and Implications for the MENA Region*, EDA Insights, available at: [http://eda.ac.ae/images/pdf/EDAInsight\\_EUs\\_External\\_Migration\\_Policy\\_English.pdf](http://eda.ac.ae/images/pdf/EDAInsight_EUs_External_Migration_Policy_English.pdf)

Colombo, S. et al. (2016), *Re-conceptualizing Orders in the MENA Region. The Analytical Framework of the MENARA Project*, MENARA Papers, available at: [http://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/menara\\_cp\\_1.pdf](http://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/menara_cp_1.pdf)

Colombo, S. and N. Sartori (2016), *The OSCE's Contribution to Energy Governance in the Mediterranean Region*, IAI, available at: <http://www.iai.it/en/pubblicazioni/osces-contribution-energy-governance-mediterranean-region>

Colombo, S. and D. Huber (2016), *The EU and Conflict Resolution in the Mediterranean Neighbourhood*, IEMed/EuroMeSCo Papers 27, Barcelona: European Institute of the Mediterranean, available at: <http://www.iai.it/en/pubblicazioni/eu-and-conflict-resolution-mediterranean-neighbourhood>

Colombo, S. (ed.) (2016), *Youth Activism in the South and East Mediterranean Countries since the Arab Uprisings*, EuroMeSCo Joint Policy Study 2, Barcelona: European Institute of the Mediterranean, available at: <http://www.iai.it/en/pubblicazioni/youth-activism-south-and-east-mediterranean-countries-arab-uprisings>

Colombo, S. (2015), "L'Europa e il Mediterraneo in fermento" in G. Bonvicini e S. Silvestri (eds.), *L'eredità del passato, la sfida del futuro. Il ruolo dell'Italia e dell'Europa nelle relazioni internazionali*, pp. 23-29, available at: [http://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/iai50\\_paper\\_it\\_0.pdf](http://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/iai50_paper_it_0.pdf)

Colombo, S. (2015), *La crisi libica e il ruolo dell'Europa*, Documenti IAI, available at: <http://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/iai1516.pdf>

Colombo, S. and N. Sartori (2014), *Rethinking EU Energy Policies Towards the Southern Mediterranean Region*, Working Paper No. 1414, available at: <http://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/iaiw1414.pdf>

Colombo, S. (2014), "The Military, Egyptian Bag-snatchers", *Insight Egypt*, November 2014, available at: <http://www.iai.it/en/pubblicazioni/military-egyptian-bag-snatchers>

Colombo, S. (2014), *The GCC, the EU and the Merits of Inter-Regionalism*, GRC Gulf Papers.

Colombo, S. and A. Meringolo (2013), *Egypt: Back to Square One?*, IAI Working Paper No. 1323, available at: <http://www.iai.it/pdf/DocIAI/iaiw1323.pdf>

Colombo, S. et al. (2013), *Regional Dynamics in the Mediterranean and Prospects for Transatlantic Cooperation*, Mediterranean Paper Series, The German Marshall Fund of the United States, .

Colombo, S. (2013), *The Future of Syria and the Regional Arms Race*, IAI Working Paper No. 1319, available at: <http://www.iai.it/pdf/DocIAI/iaiw1319.pdf>

Colombo, S. and C. Committeri (2013), *Need to Rethink the EU-GCC Strategic Relation. Sharaka Conceptual Paper*, Sharaka Research Paper No. 1.

Colombo, S. et al. (2012), *The GCC in the Mediterranean in Light of the Arab Spring*, Mediterranean

Paper Series, The German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Colombo, S. (2012), *The "Bearded Elites" and the Sad State of Egyptian State Institutions*, Op-Med Series, 21 November 2012, available at : [http://www.iai.it/pdf/mediterraneo/GMF-IAI/Op-Med\\_12.pdf](http://www.iai.it/pdf/mediterraneo/GMF-IAI/Op-Med_12.pdf)

Colombo, S. (2012), "Syria: Neither Spring nor Peace" in T. Behr and P. Sasnal, *Still Awake: The Beginnings of Arab Democratic Change*, The Polish Institute of International Affairs and The Finnish Institute of International Affairs, pp. 30-36.

Colombo, S. (2012), *The GCC Countries and the Arab Spring. Between Outreach, Patronage and Repression*, IAI Working Paper No. 1209, available at: <http://www.iai.it/pdf/DocIAI/iaiw1209.pdf>

Colombo, S.; P. Caridi and J. Kinninmont (2012), *New Socio-political Actors in North Africa: a Transatlantic Perspective*, Mediterranean Paper Series, The German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Colombo, S. and N. Abdelkhalik (2012), *The European Union and Multilateralism in the Mediterranean: Energy and Migration Policy*, Mercury E-Paper No. 18.

Colombo, S.; L. Debnárová; V. Rihácková and L. March (2012), *The EU Neighbourhood and Comparative Modernisation*, Mercury E-paper No. 17.

Colombo, S. (2011), *Morocco's Uncertain Transition*, EuroMeSCo Brief No. 26, available at: <http://www.euromesco.net/images/briefs/euromescobrief26.pdf>

Colombo, S. (2011), *Syria and Lebanon: Diverging Paths of State Unsustainability*, MEDPRO Technical Report No. 6, Brussels: MEDPRO, available at: <http://www.medpro-foresight.eu/publication/syria-and-lebanon-diverging-paths-state-unsustainability>

Colombo, S. (2011), *Morocco at the Crossroads: Seizing the Window of Opportunity for Sustainable Development*, MEDPRO Technical Report No. 2, April 2011, Brussels: MEDPRO, available at: <http://www.medpro-foresight.eu/publication/morocco-crossroads-seizing-window-opportunity-sustainable-development>

### Book reviews

Colombo, S. (2016), "Regional Insecurity After the Arab Uprisings. Narratives of Security and Threat", *Mediterranean Politics*, Vol. 21, No. 3, pp. 469-471.

Colombo, S. (2016), "The EU and Euro-Mediterranean Governance in the Wake of the Arab Uprisings. Understanding the successes and limits of the EU's engagement with the MENA region", *International Affairs*, Vol. 92, No. 1, pp. 21-22.

Colombo, S. (2015), *Qatar and the Arab Spring*, E-International Relations, available at: <http://www.e-ir.info/author/silvia-colombo/>

Colombo, S. (2011), "Navigating Comparative Middle Eastern Politics in the Twenty-First Century", *Mediterranean Politics*, Vol. 16, No. 3, pp. 397-399.

Colombo, S. (2011), "Charting the Future Trajectory of the Muslim Brotherhood: Some Useful Instruments", *The International Spectator*, Vol. 46, No. 3, pp. 412-415.

Colombo, S. (2010), " Hamas At A Crossroads: Taking Stock of Past Experience", *The International Spectator*, Vol. 45, No. 1, pp. 35-37.

**Courses** **Summer School in Comparative Democratic Institutions and Constitutional Engineering** by Professor John Huber, University of Oslo, 2011

- Reviewer for *Mediterranean Politics*, *Global Challenges*, *Democratization*, *International Security*, *Journal of Arabia Studies*, *The International Spectator*.
- Member of the Italian Society for Middle Eastern Studies (SeSaMo), the Italian Political Science Association (SISP) and the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES).

**Presentations** Teaching

- Mediterranean Regional Integration (International Relations), Master in Advanced European and International Studies (MAEIS), Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE), Nice – Tunis – Istanbul/Rome, MA, 2015-2019
- Political and Institutional Changes and Continuities in the Middle East and North Africa

(Comparative Politics), Master in Advanced European and International Studies (MAEIS), Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE), Nice-Tunis -Istanbul/Rome, MA, 2015-2019

- Italy's Foreign Policy and the Mediterranean, IES Abroad, Rome Campus, BA, 2013
- Supervision of 12 MA dissertations, Master in Advanced European and International Studies (MAEIS), Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE), Nice-Tunis -Istanbul/Rome, 2015-2019

Roma 22 febbraio 2024

Dott.ssa Silvia Maria COLOMBO  
(firma autografa omessa ai sensi dell'art. 3 del D.lgs. n. 39/1993)