

GAIA TAFFONI

Political scientist working on comparative public policy, regulatory governance, and the politics of policy instruments, with research at the intersection of policy theories, evaluation, and strategic foresight in EU and international contexts.

KEY CREDENTIALS

Current position: Assistant Professor (part-time), School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute (since 2025).

National qualification: Italian National Scientific Qualification (Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale) as Associate Professor in Political Science (Sector 14/A2 — corresponding to GSPS-02/A under DM 639/2024), awarded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (2025–2026).

Principal Investigator: CIVICA Joint Research Project EVALUSE (2024–2026), on the use of evaluation in public policy.

Research funding under evaluation: ERC Starting Grant proposal on the politics of foresight in policymaking (interview stage).

Most recent monograph: *Designing Governance: How Regulatory Policy Instruments Matter for Governance* (Oxford University Press, 2024, co-authored).

Scholarly recognition: Elected Member of the College of the International Public Policy Association (IPPA), since June 2025. Member of the International Advisory Board of Vinnova (Swedish Innovation Agency), policy design specialist since 2026.

Research metrics: Active research profile with international citation impact; full Google Scholar profile available upon request.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Comparative public policy and policy theories (Institutional Grammar Tool, Narrative Policy Framework, Ostrom's institutional analysis, instrument choice)
- Regulatory governance, better regulation, and the politics of policy instruments
- Politics of evidence and the use of evaluation in policymaking
- Strategic foresight and anticipatory governance
- EU policymaking and the European regulatory state
- Policy design and the design of collaborative arrangements

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor (part-time)

Sept 2025 – present

European University Institute (EUI) — School of Transnational Governance, Florence

- Course convenor and instructor for Policy Evaluation (5 ECTS) and Knowledge and Evidence in Policymaking (3 ECTS) in the Master in Transnational Governance: responsible for syllabus design, lecturing, seminar leading, and assessment.
- Coordinator for innovative teaching methods across STG programmes.
- Following appointment as Research Fellow (2021–2025) at the same institution.

Visiting Professor

March 2026

Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) — Brussels •

Course "Innovations in Policy Evaluation".

Research Fellow (part-time)

Dec 2023 – Dec 2024

Université de Lausanne (IDHEAP) — ERC RegTrust project (PI: Prof. Martino Maggetti and Prof. David Levi-Faur)

- Co-investigator on the effects of evidence and expertise on trust in the Italian fintech sector; research on administrative tools and trust in regulation.

Research Fellow *Sept 2021 – Aug 2025 European University Institute — School of Transnational Governance*
Research Associate *Jan 2019 – Aug 2021*
University College London — Department of Political Science

- ERC PROTEGO project (PI: Prof. Claudio Radaelli) — Research on stakeholder consultation and regulatory impact assessment as accountability mechanisms across EU member states; construction of a comparative EU-wide database.

Adjunct Professor *AY 2021 – 2022*
Università degli Studi di Milano (Dept. of Social and Political Sciences) & Università degli Studi di Genova (Dept. of Political Science)

GRANTS AND FUNDING

Principal Investigator — CIVICA Joint Research Project EVALUSE (2024–2026)

Interdisciplinary project on *Evaluation Use in Public Policy*: investigating how evaluation knowledge is produced and used in policy decisions, and the institutional and political conditions under which evaluation results inform policy choices. CIVICA Alliance funding.

ERC Starting Grant — under evaluation (interview stage)

Proposal on *The Politics of Foresight in Policymaking*: political dynamics shaping the integration of foresight into anticipatory governance and crisis preparedness. **Co-investigator on ERC-funded projects:**

- ERC PROTEGO (UCL & EUI; PI: Claudio Radaelli; Co-PI: Claire Dunlop) — regulatory governance and accountability in the EU.
- ERC RegTrust (Université de Lausanne; PI: Martino Maggetti & David Levi-Faur) — administrative tools and trust in regulation.

PUBLICATIONS

Note: Publications marked with ★ are those submitted for comparative evaluation in this application (12 selected works).

Books

- ★ Dunlop, C., Kamkhaji, J., Radaelli, C., **Taffoni, G.**, & Wagemann, C. (2024). *Designing Governance: How Regulatory Policy Instruments Matter for Governance*. Oxford University Press. ISBN 9780192868961.
- ★ **Taffoni, G.** (2020). *Promoting Justice. The Politics of EU Judicial Support in Morocco and Jordan: From Independence to Efficiency*. Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN 978-3-030-50772-5.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- ★ **Taffoni, G.** & De Vito, L. (2026). Evidence for the Future? Strategic foresight as a source of evidence for policymaking. *Policy & Society* (online first).
- ★ Crutzen, N., Esposito, G., **Taffoni, G.**, & Terlizzi, A. (2024). Between rules and narratives: Understanding collective action in innovation policy processes. *European Policy Analysis*, 10(4), 532–558.
- ★ **Taffoni, G.**, Kamkhaji, J., Melloni, E., & Vasilescu, C. M. (2024). Teaching with P-Cube: Practical lessons for students and teachers. *Teaching Public Administration* (online first).
- ★ **Taffoni, G.** & De Vito, L. (2023). Strategic foresight and policy evaluation: Insights for an integrated approach. *European Journal of Risk Regulation*, 14(4).
- ★ Dunlop, C., Kamkhaji, J., Radaelli, C., & **Taffoni, G.** (2022). Measuring design diversity: A new application of Ostrom's rules types. *Policy Studies Journal*.

- ★ Dunlop, C., Kamkhaji, J., Radaelli, C. M., & **Taffoni, G.** (2021). The Institutional Grammar Tool meets the Narrative Policy Framework: Narrating institutional statements in consultation. *European Policy Analysis*, 7(2), 365–385.
- ★ **Taffoni, G.** (2020). Regulating for innovation? Insights from the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. *European Journal of Risk Regulation*, 11(1), 141–147.
- ★ Dunlop, C., Kamkhaji, J., Radaelli, C., **Taffoni, G.**, & Wagemann, C. (2020). Does consultation count for corruption? The causal relations in the EU-28. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 27(11), 1718–1741.
- ★ **Taffoni, G.** (2019). Supporting rule of law from abroad: A comparative assessment of two post-Arab Spring judicial reforms. *Italian Political Science Review*, 50(1).

Forthcoming

- Taffoni, G.** Foresight and Policy Evaluation. In (eds.), *Futures-informed Evaluation: Methodological Approaches and Empirical Applications*. Springer Nature, forthcoming.
- Taffoni, G.** Administrative tools and trust in regulation (forthcoming, 2026).
- Taffoni, G.** Systematic literature review on foresight in public policy and administration (forthcoming, 2026).

Book Chapters and Edited Volumes

- ★ Radaelli, C., & **Taffoni, G.** (2023). Soft law in European politics. In Eliantonio, Korkea-aho & Mörtz (eds.), *Research Handbook on Soft Law*. Edward Elgar.
- Radaelli, C., & **Taffoni, G.** (2020). The trustworthiness test for regulatory impact assessment and judicial review. In De Benedetto, Lupo & Rangone (eds.), *The Crisis of Confidence in Legislation*. Nomos–Hart Publishing.
- Taffoni, G.** (2020). Better regulation e diritto alla scienza. In Perrone & Perduca (eds.), *Così san tutte*. Fandango.

Policy Papers and Working Papers

- Cagnin, C., Foubert, T., Anstey, J., Miller, R., **Taffoni, G.**, & Lafont, E. (2024). *Navigating the Future: The Role of Geopolitics in Shaping the Education and Skills of the Next Generation*. EUI / STG / ETF Policy Brief.
- Taffoni, G.** & Radaelli, C. (2022). What is the role of foresight in impact assessment? Early experience and lessons from the European Commission. *STG Policy Papers*, Issue 17.
- Bussani, M., della Cananea, G., Radaelli, C., **Taffoni, G.** (2022). Regulation and innovation in the European Union: The European Commission and the Council in the early stages of the policy process. *COCEAL Working Paper* 2021/01.

Other Publications and Scholarly Commentary

- Taffoni, G.** (2023). Gender impact assessment: A policy tool to advance gender equality. *The Loop — ECPR Political Science Blog*.
- Taffoni, G.** (2022). Review of *Practical Lessons from Policy Theories* (Weible & Cairney, eds.). *International Review of Public Policy*.
- Plus selected commentary in *Rassegna trimestrale – Osservatorio AIR*, *ECA Journal*, *Paradoxa*, and *CER Europe Matters Blog*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching

European University Institute — School of Transnational Governance

2021 – present

Master in Transnational Governance (MTnG)

- Policy Evaluation (5 ECTS) — course convenor and instructor; designed independently
- Knowledge and Evidence in Policymaking (3 ECTS) — course convenor and instructor; designed independently
- Anticipatory Policymaking (3 ECTS) — course convenor and instructor; designed independently
- Coordinator for innovative teaching methods across STG programmes.

Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) — Visiting Professor

March 2026

- Course "Innovations in Policy Evaluation".

Undergraduate Teaching

Università degli Studi di Milano — Adjunct Professor

Apr – Dec 2022

- Policy Change and Entrepreneurship in a Transnational Perspective (20h), Dept. of Social and Political Sciences.

Università degli Studi di Genova — Adjunct Professor

AY 2021 – 2022

- Public Administration (6 ECTS), Dept. of Political Science.

King's College London — Graduate Teaching Assistant

Sept 2018 – May 2019

- Comparative Political Systems (Dept. of Political Economy); International Relations (Dept. of European Studies).

Executive Education

- Scuola Nazionale dell'Amministrazione (SNA) — Foresight Lab; SNA/RESPA training for Italian and Western Balkans officials; SNA/Regione Puglia executive training on Strategic Foresight (2025–2026).
- EUI Executive Education — Unboxing the Commission (2023–2025); High Quality Regulation: Tools and Practice (2021–2023); Gender Budgeting (2023, with Expertise France).
- European Court of Auditors (ECA), Dec 2021 — Trainer on Regulating for Innovation.

POLICY ENGAGEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

- Member, International Advisory Board — Vinnova (Swedish Innovation Agency) and Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (since 2026). Appointed as policy design specialist for a national initiative on welfare-related crime and abuse of welfare systems.
- Research collaboration with the European Commission's JRC EU Policy Lab (foresight, policy labs).
- Collaboration with the European Committee of the Regions.
- European Training Foundation (ETF) — joint publication on foresight, geopolitics, and the future of education and skills (2024).
- Consultant, Synthesia — project The Future of VAT Policy (Sept 2023 – Aug 2025).
- Member, Osservatorio AIR (Italian observatory on regulatory impact assessment).
- Researcher, Erasmus+ project P-Cube — Playing Public Policy; member, Science for Democracy.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Editorial and Reviewing Activities

Reviewer for *Journal of Public Policy*, *International Review of Public Policy*, *European Policy Analysis*, *Rivista Italiana di Politiche Pubbliche*, *European Journal of Risk Regulation*, *Regulation & Governance*. **Editorial Manager**, *Mediterranean Politics* (Taylor & Francis), 2018–2019.

Professional Service and Memberships

- Member, International Advisory Board — Vinnova and Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (since 2026).
- Elected Member, College of the International Public Policy Association (IPPA), since June 2025.
- Member, Società Italiana di Scienza Politica (SISP).
- Member, Osservatorio AIR.

CONFERENCES AND INVITED TALKS (SELECTED)

- Invited Speaker, OECD National Schools of Government Annual Conference, Plenary Panel on Transforming the Public Service (2026).

- Invited Guest Lecturer, Scuola di Alta Difesa, Rome, April 2026 — Lecture on anticipatory capacities in policymaking.
- Invited Speaker, European Training Foundation (ETF) event on Skills for Anticipatory Actions in Public Policy.
- International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP), Chiang Mai, June 2025 — Book presentation of *Designing Governance* (OUP, 2024); paper on systematic literature review on foresight. Elected to the IPPA College.
- Società Italiana di Scienza Politica (SISP) Annual Conference, Naples, September 2025 — Panel organiser and chair on future-regarding policies; paper on industrial policy.
- International Workshop on Public Policy — Panel organiser, workshop on The Causal Effects of Regulation.

EDUCATION AND NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Italian National Scientific Qualification (ASN) — Associate Professor 2025 – 2026 *Ministry of University and Research (MUR), Italy — Sector 14/A2 (Political Science), corresponding to 14/GSPS-02 — GSPS02/A under DM 639/2024*

Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale alle funzioni di Professore Universitario di Seconda Fascia.

PhD in Political Science 2015 – 2019

Università degli Studi di Milano — NASP Graduate School in Social and Political Sciences

Dissertation: *Rule of Law in the Southern Mediterranean: From Judicial Independence to Efficiency. An Internal–External Analysis of EU Judicial Support in Morocco and Jordan*

Doctoral research stays: Queen Mary University of London (2017–2018); Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame (2017).

MA in International Relations (110/110 cum laude) 2009 – 2015

Alma Mater Studiorum — Università di Bologna

Thesis: *Europeanisation Outside the Borders: A Comparative Analysis of Morocco and Tunisia*

RESEARCH METHODS AND LANGUAGES

Methodological expertise: Institutional Grammar Tool (IGT) for the analysis of regulatory text and institutional design; Narrative Policy Framework (NPF) for the study of actors' narratives in policy processes; foresight and scenario-building methodologies; set-theoretic approaches (Qualitative Comparative Analysis, QCA); qualitative analysis (interviews, case studies) supported by NVivo; comparative and design-based approaches.

Languages: Italian (native); English (fluent, academic teaching and writing); French (working knowledge).

Firenze, 29/04/26

Gaia TAFFONI

(firma autografa omessa ai sensi dell'art. 3 del D.lgs. n. 39/1993)