

# DR ELEONORA TAFURO AMBROSETTI

**About me:** I am a foreign policy analyst with over ten years of experience in think tanks and academia. I currently work as a Senior Research Fellow at the Russia, Caucasus and Central Asia Centre at the Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI), Italy's oldest think-tank. I am also a non-resident fellow at the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB). Previously, I was a Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellow based at the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, where I have also pursued my PhD in International Relations. My research interests include Eurasian security, Russia's foreign policy, EU-Russia and Turkey-Russia relations. I also feel passionate about music, Soviet films and art (especially Realism), and yoga.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

08/01/2018 - CURRENT - Milan, Italy

**SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW AND CO-HEAD - RUSSIA, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA CENTRE** - Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI)

Research and publication of policy analyses and book chapters on EU neighbourhood and enlargement policies, Russian and EU foreign policy, Russia-Turkey and Russia-EU relations; Coordinator - Task Force Multilateralism & Global Governance, T20; Outreach activities; Media presence.

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06/11/2014 - 25/09/2017 - Ankara, Turkey

**MARIE SKŁODOWSKA CURIE FELLOW** - Middle East Technical University (METU)

Research on Russian and Turkish Foreign Policy in the framework of the Power and Region in a Multipolar Order (PRIMO) Project (Turkish academic staff contract); Organisation of several outreach activities, including chairing a seven-panel section in the 2017 edition of the European International Association Studies (EISA) conference.

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03/10/2012 - 30/08/2014 - Brussels, Belgium

**JUNIOR RESEARCHER** - Foundation for International Relations and Foreign Dialogue (FRIDE)

Research on EU-Russia relations and EU neighbourhood policies; Research and project management assistance: European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS) governance and power report, an analysis of long-term global trends and implications for the EU (In collaboration with Chatham House). <http://europa.eu/espas/pdf/espas-report-governance-power.pdf>

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01/10/2011 - 01/07/2012 - Barcelona, Spain

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT** - Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB)

Research assistance on European affairs and Russia's domestic and foreign policies; Background research, editing of reports and organisation of conferences

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## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

14/09/2014 - 07/08/2018 - Turkey

**PHD IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS** - Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, Turkey

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01/09/2010 - 30/08/2011 - Spain

**MASTER'S IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (BILINGUAL, ENGLISH AND SPANISH)** - Institute of International Studies (IBEI), Barcelona, Spain

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03/11/2007 - 08/03/2010 - Italy

**MASTER'S IN EUROPEAN STUDIES** - University of Roma Tre, Rome, Italy

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03/11/2007 - 08/03/2010 - Italy

**BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE** - University of Salento, Lecce, Italy

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## RESEARCH STAYS

02/05/2017 - 08/07/2017 European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), 16 Smith Square, Westminster, London

01/04/2016 - 01/07/2016 St Petersburg State University (SPbSU), World Economy Department.

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue: **ITALIAN**

Other languages: **ENGLISH** C2 (Proficient user); **SPANISH** C2 (Proficient user); **FRENCH** B2 (Independent user); **TURKISH** B1 (Independent user); **RUSSIAN** A2 (Pre-intermediate)

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### DIGITAL SKILLS

Microsoft Word / Microsoft Excel / Outlook / Microsoft Powerpoint/ Social Media / Microsoft Office / Google Drive / Skype / PowerPoint / Microsoft Teams / Zoom

### HONOURS AND AWARDS

#### 2020 - Global Diplomacy Lab (GDL) – German Federal Foreign Office

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The Global Diplomacy Lab is a platform in partnership with the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt, the German-American Fulbright Commission, and the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It aims to explore new and more inclusive diplomacy, which goes beyond traditional politics. Since 2020, I am a member of this network of creative professionals from various fields looking to explore new tools of communication based on mutual trust and re-formulate an agenda for collective action. I've participated in several online and offline activities. For example, in March 2022 I organised and chaired a workshop on the future of EU-Russia relations for the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

<https://global-diplomacy-lab.org/home/>

#### 2020 - Digital Sherlock – Atlantic Council

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In 2020, I joined the Digital Sherlock programme organized by the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab, the world's leading hub of digital forensic analysts tracking events in governance, technology, and security. The programme helps Fellows to identify, expose, and explain disinformation.

<https://www.digitalsherlocks.org/about>

#### 2018 - Turkey-Europe Future Fellow – Stiftung Mercator

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In 2018, I joined the Turkey Europe Future Forum (TEFF), a project of Stiftung Mercator in cooperation with TUSIAD, the Turkish Industry and Business Association. Since 2015, TEFF has been bringing together dedicated young leaders from Turkey and Europe for intensive dialogue and activities in Turkey, Germany and other European countries.

<https://www.turkey-europe-future-forum.com/en/fellows/eleonora-tafuro-ambrosetti-1435/>

### PUBLICATIONS (SELECTION)

#### Edited Volumes:

Environment in Times of War: Climate and Energy Challenges in the Post-Soviet Region. (with A. Ferrari) Milan: ISPI/Ledizioni Publishing, July 2022

Russia's foreign policy: the internal-international link. (with A. Ferrari) Milan: ISPI/Ledizioni Publishing, May 2021

Russia in The Middle East and North Africa: Continuity and Change. (co-ed.) Routledge Europa series, April 2020

Forward to the past? New/Old theatres of Russia's international projection. (with A. Ferrari) Milan: ISPI/Ledizioni Publishing, April 2020

Russia and China: Anatomy of a Partnership. (with A. Ferrari) Milan: ISPI/Ledizioni Publishing, 2019

#### Book Chapters:

"Turkish public diplomacy in Central Asia: Actors, narratives and local perceptions" in Public Diplomacy Between Asia and the Middle East, edited by Francesca Frassinetti, Chiara Lovotti, Sook Jong Lee. Routledge, forthcoming

"Russia's health diplomacy after the invasion of Ukraine" (with S. Giusti), in L. Talani and A. W. Cafruny (ed.), The Political Economy of Global Responses to COVID-19, Palgrave Macmillan, 2023.

"War and Decarbonisation: EU-Russia Energy Relations in Crisis" (with M. Siddi), in A. Ferrari and E. Tafuro Ambrosetti (ed.) Environment in Times of War: Climate and Energy Challenges in the Post-Soviet Region. Milan: ISPI/Ledizioni Publishing, July 2022

"The EU-Russia zigzag relations" (with S. Giusti), in F. Bindi (ed.) The Foreign Policy of the European Union: Assessing Europe's

Role, Brookings Institution Press, ISBN 9780815738114

"Soft Power Made in Russia" in A. Ferrari and E. Tafuro Ambrosetti (ed.) Forward to the past? New/Old theatres of Russia's international projection. Milan: ISPI/Ledizioni Publishing, April 2020

"Partner, Spoiler or Both? European Perceptions of Russia's Role in the MENA Region" in Russia in The Middle East and North Africa: Continuity and Change. Routledge 2020

"Setting the Stage for Analyzing Russia's MENA "Return": A Historical Background" (with C. Lovotti and Y. Cherif) in Russia in The Middle East and North Africa: Continuity and Change. Routledge 2020

"Russia and China: Countering the Dominance of the West" (with A. Ferrari) in A. Ferrari and E. Tafuro Ambrosetti, Russia and China: Anatomy of a Partnership. Milan: ISPI/Ledizioni Publishing, 3 May 2019

"National-Populism in Russia: Ticking all the Boxes?" in A. Martinelli (ed.) When Populism Meets Nationalism. Milan: ISPI/Ledizioni Publishing, 11 December 2018.

"Russia: the limits of assertiveness" (with M. Laruelle), in G. Grevi and D. Keohane (ed.), Challenges for European Foreign Policy in 2014: The EU's extended neighbourhood, Madrid/Brussels: FRIDE, January 2014

#### Journal articles:

"Assessing Turkey's Role as an External Mediator in the Ukrainian Conflict", (with R.Gasco), Uluslararası ilişkiler, forthcoming

"La connettività come discorso: narrazioni russe e cinesi in Asia centrale" (with Giulia Sciorati), special issue «Italia-Asia Centrale (ITACA): Prospettive dinamiche su connettività e logiche infrastrutturali» del Centro di Ricerca Cooperazione con l'Eurasia, il Mediterraneo e l'Africa Subsahariana (CEMAS), Sapienza University

"Making the Best Out of a Crisis: Russia's Health Diplomacy during COVID-19". (with S.Giusti) Social Science. 2022, 11, 53. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci11020053>

"Italy and Russia: what changes is the narrative". Baltic Rim Economies, University of Turku, Issue 4, 2021

"Enhanced Sino-Russian Partnership: Implications for the EU", Turkish Policy Quarterly, Volume 18 Number 2, Summer 2019

"Linking Status with Soft Power: Call for a joint research agenda", All Azimuth, Volume 7, Issue 1, 2018, Pages 143 - 152

#### Policy Analyses (selection):

"Fact vs. Fiction: Understanding Russia's Influence in the Western Balkans" (with G.Fruscione). ISPI Policy Paper, May 2025.

"Bringing Peace to the South Caucasus? The EU in the Armenia-Azerbaijan Peace Process" (with A.Ferrari), ISPI Policy Paper, Dec 2024.

Russia and China's Influence in Italy" (with R. Pantucci), Emerging Insights, Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies (RUSI), August 2022

"Russia's Soft Power Sources in Africa", South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) Policy Insights No 126, March 2022

"Authoritarianism and Covid-19: Economies, Societies, International Competition" (with G. De Maio), ISPI Dossier, 07 July 2021

"Framing Russian Hybrid Warfare" (with S. Dominiononi), ISPI Dossier, 04 July 2020

"Frozen Conflicts in Post-Soviet Space: What Will 2019 Bring?" ISPI Dossier, 08 February 2019

"Russia-China: Security Ties Them Together?" (with A.Ferrari) ISPI Dossier, 21 December 2018

"Russia's Diplomatic Agenda: A Real Global Strategy?", ISPI Dossier, 12 March 2018

"Fatal Attraction? Russia's soft power in its neighbourhood", FRIDE Policy Brief, May 2014

"Can the EU help foster democracy in Russia?", FRIDE Policy Brief, October 2013

#### **IN THE MEDIA (FILE ON REQUEST)**

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Media presence in Italian and international media outlets, including the BBC, The Washington Post, Associated Press, AlJazeera, Rai (TV and Radio), La Stampa, El País, Carnegie's Strategic Europe, Euronews, Radio France International, Público, La Vanguardia.

ROMA, 14/01/2026

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

