



ALLA MAGNIFICA RETTRICE  
DELL'UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO

COD. ID: 7080

Il sottoscritto chiede di essere ammesso a partecipare alla selezione pubblica, per titoli ed esami, per il conferimento di un assegno di ricerca presso il Dipartimento di Filosofia Piero Martinetti \_\_\_\_\_

Responsabile scientifico: \_\_\_\_\_ Prof Andrea Borghini \_\_\_\_\_

[Sahar Tavakoli]

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### INFORMAZIONI PERSONALI

Cognome	TAVAKOLI
Nome	SAHAR

### OCCUPAZIONE ATTUALE

Incarico	Struttura
PhD candidate	Department of Science and Technology Studies, Cornell University, USA

### ISTRUZIONE E FORMAZIONE

Titolo	Corso di studi	Università	anno conseguimento titolo
Laurea Magistrale o equivalente	1. History and Philosophy of Science 2. Science and Technology Studies	1. University of Sydney 2. Cornell University	1. 2015 2. 2018
Specializzazione			
Dottorato Di Ricerca	Science and Technology Studies	Cornell University	2025 (dissertation defence scheduled for 10 January, 2025)
Master			
Diploma Di Specializzazione Medica			
Diploma Di Specializzazione Europea			
Altro			



## ISCRIZIONE AD ORDINI PROFESSIONALI

Data iscrizione	Ordine	Città
2015-2025	Society for the Social Studies of Science	Falls Church, Virginia, USA
2018-2025	European Association for the Study of Science and Technology	Aarhus, Denmark
2012-2018	Australasian Association for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science	Melbourne, Australia



## LINGUE STRANIERE CONOSCIUTE

lingue	livello di conoscenza
English	Native
Persian	B2
Italian	B1

## PREMI, RICONOSCIMENTI E BORSE DI STUDIO

anno	Descrizione premio
2024	Cornell Research Assistantship (Cornell University); one semester research fellowship covering full tuition and living stipend
2018	Marvin Carlson Award for best graduate-level paper in the subject of Performance studies (Department of Performing and Media Arts, Cornell University)
2017	Abraham Boczkowski Award for Teaching Excellence, awarded for course: <i>Science, Technology, and Science Fiction</i> (Department of Science and Technology Studies, Cornell University)
2016	Sheila Jasanoff Prize for Academic Excellence, awarded for best research paper within the department of Science and Technology Studies (Cornell University)
2015	Sage Fellowship (Cornell University); two-year fellowship including full tuition, living stipend, and summer support
2014	Langham Prize for best graduate-level paper presentation (Australasian Association the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science)
2013	Visiting Fellowship (Cornell University)
2012-2015	Australian Postgraduate Award (Government of Australia); three-year fellowship covering full tuition and living stipend

## ATTIVITÀ DI FORMAZIONE O DI RICERCA

descrizione dell'attività
<p><b>Research Activities:</b></p> <p>First trained in Microbiology before receiving graduate level training in the History and Philosophy of Science and, later, the Sociology of Technology, I completed my PhD in the interdisciplinary field of Science and Technology Studies with a minor in Performing and Media Arts. In 2018, I began my PhD candidacy, completing my dissertation, titled <i>Feeding People</i>, in late 2024. My research explores how geographically indicated (GI) foodstuffs contribute to the construction of national identity, both as geographic territory and embodied population. Through case studies of three foodstuffs in northern Italy – one seeking GI certification, one certified, and one rejecting certification – I explored how food operates as both a material and conceptual or semiotic artifact within debates about authenticity, tradition, and innovation.</p> <p>In the completion of this work, I conducted archival research as well as ethnographic research. The latter of these approaches included interviews with representatives of organisations such as Slow Food, as well as participant observation in sites of food production and consumption. My approach bridges sociological frameworks such as the Social Construction of Technology and the Sociotechnical Imaginary with concepts originating in philosophy, such as those of ontology, hauntology, and the metaphysical properties of food.</p>



Finally, my thesis draws upon scholarship from the field of Performance Studies, such as disidentification and 'performance remains'. I brought these approaches together to analyse how historical artifacts such as recipes, manuscripts, and prose fiction composed prior to the advent of the modern Italian state are mobilised as the narrative foundation of the contemporary nation, its food systems, its governance, and its collective identity. Furthermore, I show how – in the process of obtaining, maintaining, or, indeed, refuting GI – aspects of an altogether more intangible cultural history are crystalised in material practice. The skills I developed in the process of writing this PhD thesis constitute, I feel, a firm foundation for further study of the visual and verbal narratives that not only mediate social cohesion, education, and public engagement, but which reinforce cultural heritage.

Research conducted in the completion of my Masters' degrees and in preparation for PhD candidacy diverge somewhat from the subject of food heritage but maintain some relevance in their each demonstrating concern with the construction, identification, and stabilisation of populations, communities, or identities through engagement with mundane technological artefacts and/or daily practice. My first Master's explored the ways in which medical gowns – particularly those worn by inpatients in public hospitals in the Australian context – themselves function as kinds of organisational devices, establishing both actor roles and hierarchies within the clinical setting. My second Master's degree explored how medical training models, particularly gynaecological models, not only articulate modes of practice, but constrain ways of seeing, both as seeing would refer to patient bodies in the present, and our presumptions about patient bodies in the past. Between the two, I completed a research project in which I addressed the epistemological qualities undergirding the biological sciences concept of the 'model organism,' by drawing such organisms into an analogous relationship with the contemporary practice of Elvis impersonation. Within this particular project, one particular insight – one that served as early inspiration for my PhD work – was that characteristic habits of eating are able to stand as synecdoche for population or individual. The 'authentic' Elvis impersonator is not only that individual who looks, sounds, or moves like Presley, but who eats like Presley: itself a suggestion that we not only 'are what we eat,' but that by eating, we might become that which we aspire to be.

Beyond my dissertation research, I have experience managing collaborative, interdisciplinary projects. I have organised stakeholder meetings (in both academic and publically-facing spheres), coordinated multi-institutional workshops for international conferences such as the Society for the Social Studies of Science, co-organised conference panels on a variety of topics under the broader umbrella of Science and Technology Studies, and facilitated discussions across academic, governmental, and NGO sectors (such as the Technisches Museum Wien and Slow Food, and participated in the meetings of the META (Social Science and Humanities for Science and Technology) research unit at the Politecnico di Milano. These efforts have further developed my ability to synthesise diverse perspectives and communicate complex ideas effectively, skills that are invaluable to devise strategies for aligning existing food ontologies as well as setting forth guidelines for future ontologies. My training positions me to contribute meaningfully to the RELISH project's objectives. By drawing on my expertise in food systems theory and practical stakeholder engagement, I aim to help foster and sustain connections between food and cultural identity, in particular those that recognise the significance of traditional recipes in the generational transmission of EU culinary intangible heritage.

## Teaching Activities (Lead Instructor):

I have broad teaching experience across institutions and subjects, at both graduate and undergraduate levels. In 2020 and 2021, I developed and delivered courses on Graduate Research Methods for the department of History and Philosophy at the University of Sydney. In this role, I organised and led graduate-level seminars, compiled teaching materials, and graded student performance and assessment. In 2016 and again in 2017, I developed and delivered two undergraduate level seminar courses for the department of Science and Technology Studies and the Knight Institute for Writing at Cornell University. Here, I composed two distinct syllabi, organised and led writing seminars, and graded student performance and assessment. In performance in this role, I was awarded the Zito Boczkowski Award for Teaching Excellence.

In 2022 and 2023, I acted as a teaching assistant (Supporto alla didattica) in the Department of Design at the Politecnico di Milano. Though nominally a teaching assistant position, my duties in this role included, in 2022, the composition of four of the course's 12 seminars, and, in 2023, half of all seminars. In 2023, moreover, I participated in the construction of the course syllabus and the redesign of the course's



assignment structure.

## Teaching Activities (Teaching Assistant):

Like my experience in leading instruction, my experience as a teaching assistant is expansive both in breadth of subject and site of instruction. I have provided teaching assistance in undergraduate and graduate level courses concerned with the social dimensions of science and technology. Specifically, I have acted as an assistant for courses titled *Life Science and Society* (Cornell University, undergraduate level, 2024), *The Social Shaping of Technology* (Politecnico di Milano, graduate level, 2022, 2023), and *Innovation Cultures and Theories* (Politecnico di Milano, graduate level, 2022, 2023). In subjects of (bio)ethics, I have been assistant for courses such as *Ethics for Technology* (Politecnico di Milano, graduate level, 2022, 2023), *Bioethics* (University of Sydney, undergraduate level, 2019, 2020), *Ethical Issues in Health and Medicine* (Cornell University, undergraduate level, 2018 and University of Sydney, undergraduate level, 2019, 2020, 2014, 2013). In philosophy and the philosophy of science, I have been assistant for the courses *Critical Thinking* (Macquarie University, undergraduate level, 2020), *What is this Thing Called Science?* (University of Sydney, Undergraduate, 2019). Finally, in subjects concerned with the history of science and technology, I have been an assistant for *The Birth of Modern Science* (University of Sydney, undergraduate level, 2020, 2021)

## ATTIVITÀ PROGETTUALE

Anno	Progetto
	<p>I have extensive experience in organising projects within academic contexts. In 2017, I co-organised the Anniversary Meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science at Cornell University. My responsibilities included coordinating meeting venues and events, reviewing conference submissions, assigning session panels, and producing the conference program. In 2018, I co-organised the Northeastern Science and Technology Studies conference; a graduate conference attended by participants from MIT, RPI, York University, the University of Pennsylvania, Cornell University, and the University of Toronto.</p> <p>Though I have thus far outlined my organisational experience in academic settings, I have also worked in the organisation of large-scale, general-audience projects in non-academic settings. From 2023 to 2025, I collaborated with Ben Freeman (artist name: Ben Ditto) on a series of filmed documentaries, first screened for private audiences and later released for public viewing on YouTube. While credited as a research assistant, my role encompassed coordinating meetings between media agencies, producers, and interview subjects, as well as contributing to editing through narrative development, proofing, and closed captioning. I also crafted promotional materials for public and media circulation, prepared research outlines for potential funding bodies, and compiled associated research documents.</p> <p>My media work occasionally takes a creative turn. As house obituarist for the nonprofit <i>The Stopgap</i>, I reimagine the obituary format to include objects, events, and non-human animals. This has intersected with themes of national identity and food, such as my obituary for Patty Burghy, the former mascot of the panineria Burghy. My writing on food and its symbolic 'deaths' has been cited by NPR and VinePair.</p>

## TITOLARITÀ DI BREVETTI

Brevetto



--

## CONGRESSI, CONVEGNI E SEMINARI

Data	Titolo	Sede
2022	Future, Present, Pasta: Stabilising National Identity with Flexible Practice	Society for the Social Studies of Science (Cholula, Mexico)
2022	Butta La Pastiche! Camp Visions and National Palates	Vienna Workshop on STEM Museums, Gender and Sexuality (Technisches Museum Wien)
2019	The Butcher, the Baker, the Policy Maker	Society for the Social Studies of Science (New Orleans, United States)
2018	50,000,000 Elvis Fans Cannot be Wrong: The Making of a Model Organism	Society for the Social Studies of Science (Sydney, Australia) (Panel Co-organiser)
2018	Standardising (Eternal) Bodies in the Clinic: Muslim Patients in Exposed Gowns	International Sociological Association, World Congress of Sociology (Toronto, Canada)
2016	Some Things to Talk About: STS and the Place of Mundane Artefacts in Research	Society for the Social Studies of Science Anniversary Meeting (Ithaca, United States) (Event Co-organiser)
2015	The Hospital Gown in the Construction of the Hospital Patient	Society for the Social Studies of Science (Denver, United States) (Panel Co-organiser)
2014	Constituting Identities Through Technology: The Hospital Gown in the Construction of the Hospital Patient	Australasian Association for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science (Katoomba, Australia) (Panel Co-Organiser)
2013	Medical Dressing for Injured Pride: The Hospital Gown in the Development of Patient-Doctor Relationships in Australia	Society for the History of Technology (Portland, United States)

## PUBBLICAZIONI

Contributi in Volume
Tavakoli, S, Hesselbein, C. "Urbane Warfare: The Discursive Construction of 'Terrorist' Weaponry". In I. Chilwa, G Tiripelli <i>Discursive Constructions of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict</i> . Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. 2026 (forthcoming)
Tavakoli, S, Hesselbein, C. "Denaturalising the Natural History Museum: Performing Activism in Sites of Conservation". In: N. Tchernykh (ed.) <i>Redefining the Museum Through Activist Interventions</i> . London, Routledge. 2025 (forthcoming)
Tavakoli, S. "The Empire Strikes Through: The Drawing and Redrawing of Political Maps in the British Museum". In: M. Brusius, A. Stevenson, N. Hassan, B. E. Dadzie (eds.) <i>One Hundred Histories of One Hundred Worlds in One Object</i> . 2021 ( <a href="https://100histories100worlds.org/">https://100histories100worlds.org/</a> ) (forthcoming in print, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. 2026)



## Articoli su riviste

Tavakoli, S. "Butta La Pastiche! Camp Visions and National Palates". *insightOut: Journal on Gender & Sexuality in STEM Collections and Cultures*, 1, 30-36. 2021

Tavakoli, S. "Rear Window: The patient-worn gown in the organisation of the clinic". *Journal of the Australasian Association for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Science*, 53. 2014

## Atti di convegni

## ALTRE INFORMAZIONI

Le dichiarazioni rese nel presente curriculum sono da ritenersi rilasciate ai sensi degli artt. 46 e 47 del DPR n. 445/2000.

Il presente curriculum, non contiene dati sensibili e dati giudiziari di cui all'art. 4, comma 1, lettere d) ed e) del D.Lgs. 30.6.2003 n. 196.

**RICORDIAMO** che i curricula **SARANNO RESI PUBBLICI sul sito di Ateneo** e pertanto si prega di non inserire dati sensibili e personali. Il presente modello è già precostruito per soddisfare la necessità di pubblicazione senza dati sensibili.

Si prega pertanto di **NON FIRMARE** il presente modello.

Luogo e data: \_Ithaca, NY\_\_\_\_, \_05/01/2025\_\_