

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### **Mara Nicosia**

*Postdoctoral Research Fellow*

5/11/2021

Ghent University  
Faculty of Arts  
Department of Literary Studies  
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Born in Catania, 22/01/1992

### **EDUCATION**

- Nov 2016 – Oct 2019      Ph.D. in Asia, Africa and Mediterranean Studies, Semitic Philology  
University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’ (IT)  
Thesis: *Tradition and Technical Vocabulary of Syriac Rhetoric between the Greek World and the Arabic Reinterpretation* (thesis in English)  
**Defended on June 10, 2020, cum laude**  
Supervisor: Prof. Riccardo Contini  
Co-Supervisors: Prof. Roberta Denaro, Prof. Roberto Velardi
- Oct 2013 – Dec 2015      M.A. in Oriental Languages and Civilizations  
University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’ (IT)  
Thesis: *Aspects of Evidentiality in Semitic Languages* (thesis in English)  
Subject: Semitic Philology  
Tutor: Prof. Riccardo Contini  
Mark: 110/110 *cum laude*
- Oct 2010 – Jul 2013      B.A. in European, Euro-American and Oriental Languages and Cultures  
University of Catania (IT)  
Dissertation: *La soghitha di Maria e di Giuseppe: un dramma liturgico cristiano orientale tra siriano e tradizione greca* (The Soghitha of Mary and Joseph: an Eastern Christian Liturgical Poem between Syriac and Greek Traditions)  
Subject: Semitic Philology  
Tutor: Prof. Marco Moriggi  
Mark: 110/110 *cum laude*
- Sept 2005 – Jul 2010      Liceo Classico Statale “Mario Cutelli”, Catania (IT)

High School leaving diploma in Classical Studies  
Mark: 100/100

## EMPLOYMENT

Apr 2021 - Apr 2023                      Postdoctoral Research Fellow

**ERC Consolidator Grant Project: *Novel Echoes* (819459)**  
Subproject: *Greek and Near Eastern Story-Telling: Contacts and Reception in the Eastern Mediterranean in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages*  
Ghent University, Faculty of Arts, Department of Literary Studies

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books:

Nicosia, Mara (forthcoming). *Testi legali aramaici da Elefantina* (Testi del Vicino Oriente Antico), Turin: Claudiana Editrice. [eng: 'Aramaic Legal Texts from Elephantine']

### Journal Articles (peer-reviewed):

Nicosia, Mara 2021. 'Reassessing Antony of Tagrit: When Did He Actually Live?', *Oriens Christianus* 104, 68-89.

Nicosia, Mara 2021. 'Greek Influences in Syriac and Contact-Induced Changes. Reflections on a Recent Book', *AIOO (Annali, Sezione Orientale)* 81, 175-186.

Nicosia, Mara 2020. 'From Antony of Tagrit to the Arabic Version: the Syriac Technical Vocabulary of Rhetoric and the Migration of Words', *Hugoye* 23/1, 61-97.

Contini, Riccardo and Nicosia, Mara 2020. 'Western Neo-Aramaic as an Islamic Language? A Look at some Sociolinguistic Issues', *Eurasian Studies* 18/1, 88-105.

### Book Chapters:

Nicosia, Mara 2019. 'La *Rhétorique* d'Aristote dans les milieux syriaque et arabe : histoire d'un épisode de transmission intellectuelle dans l'antiquité tardive', in E. Fiori – H. Hugonnard-Roche (eds), *La philosophie en syriaque* (Études Syriaques 16), Paris : Geuthner, 267-286.

### Conference proceedings (peer-reviewed):

Nicosia, Mara 2020. 'Christianity in the Gulf: Vestiges of the East Syrian Presence in Late Antiquity', in C. Coppini – F. Simi (eds), *Interactions and New Directions in Near Eastern Archaeology, Broadening Horizons* 5, vol. 3 (West & East, Monografie 4), Trieste: Edizioni Università di Trieste, 371-383.

Nicosia, Mara 2019. 'Catastrofi e ricorsi storici: tentativi di spiegare le calamità ricorrenti nella Cronaca di Zuqñīn', in T. Gasbarro - D. Testa (eds), *Tempo. Tra esattezza e infinito*, vol. II,

Rome: UniversItalia, 105-118. [eng: ‘Catastrophes and Historical Returns: Attempts at Explaining the Recursive Calamities in the *Chronicle of Zuqnin*’]

Encyclopedic entries:

Farina, Margherita and Nicosia, Mara (forthcoming, 2021). ‘Rhetoric and other Language Sciences in Syriac’, in F. Woerther – J. Ross – R. Copeland – P. Mack (eds), *Cambridge History of Rhetoric*, Volume 2, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**AWARDS AND GRANTS**

July 2019            Winner of the Gorgias Book Grant, 2019 edition, given by Gorgias Press, Piscataway (NJ)

26/06/2016        Winner of the Special Award ‘Excellent Graduate’ of the Paolo Iannotti award, given by Ateneapolis

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

2021-2022            Universiteit Gent, Co-lecturer of the undergraduate course *Antieke retoriek*

Feb 2021 on-            “Cultrice della Materia” in Semitic Philology, University of Catania

Nov 2016 on -            Teaching assistant at the University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’.  
“Cultrice della Materia” from May 2020

**TEACHING ASSISTANT IN:**

Semitic Philology, B.A. (2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020, 2020/2021). Subjects: ‘Introduction to Semitic Languages and Ancient North-Arabian Epigraphy’, ‘Introduction to Semitic Languages and the Atlante Linguistico Mediterraneo (ALM)’, ‘Introduction to Semitic Languages and the Arabian Expedition of the Academy of Sciences in Vienna’, ‘Introduction to Semitic Languages and Elephantine Aramaic Language and Literature’, ‘Introduction to Semitic Languages and Christian Palestinian Aramaic Language and Literature’.

Semitic Philology, M.A. (2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020). Subjects: ‘Syriac Language and Literature’, ‘Sabaic Language and Inscriptions’, ‘The Jewish Neo-Aramaic Dialect of Arbel’, ‘Neo-Aramaic Dialectology of Tur Abdin’.

**CO-SUPERVISOR OF M.A. THESIS**

Ambrosa, A.D., “Aspetti del lessico nautico e ittionimico della città di Suez (*Al-Suwais*)”, July 24, 2020, Department of Asia, Africa and Mediterranean Studies, University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’.  
[eng: *Aspects of the Nautical Terminology and Names of Fishes from the City of Suez (Al-Suwais)*]

Cipolla, L. “Semantica delle radici reduplicate in arabo d’Egitto”, July 24, 2020, Department of Asia, Africa and Mediterranean Studies, University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’. [eng: *Semantics of Reduplicated Roots in Egyptian Arabic*]

#### TEACHING SEMINARS

‘Variazioni comunitarie nei dialetti neoaramaici occidentali’, University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’, 21.05.2021. [eng: ‘Communal Variations in Western Neo-Aramaic Dialects’]

‘L’accadico e le altre lingue semitiche’, University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’, 29.11.2018 and 12.04.2021. [eng: ‘Akkadian and the Semitic Languages’]

‘I temi derivati nelle lingue semitiche’, University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’, 16.12.2019 and 26.11.2020. [eng: ‘Verbal Stems in Semitic Languages’]

‘L’antico nordarabico’, University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’, 19.10.2020. [eng: ‘Ancient North Arabian’]

‘Le scritture semitiche: inquadramento generale e storia della trasmissione dei saperi scribali’, University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’, 4.11.2019 and 12.10.2020. [eng: ‘Semitic Scripts: General Overview and History of Transmission of the Scribal Knowledge’]

‘Le donne di Elefantina: storia femminile attraverso i papiri giuridici egiziani in aramaico d’Impero’, University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’, 9.12.2019. [eng: ‘Women in Elephantine: Female History through Egyptian Legal Papyri in Official Aramaic’]

#### INVITED TALKS AND SEMINARS

2020 (postponed) “*Dove c’è danza c’è il diavolo*”: polemiche e condanne del ballo nel cristianesimo tardo antico, Conference “Danza nel mondo antico e tardo antico”, University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’, date to be rescheduled due to COVID-19 outbreak (originally: May 13-15, 2019). [eng: “Where there is Dance there is the Devil”: Polemics and Condemnation of Dancing in Late Antique Christianity’]

2021 ‘Syriac Rhetoric between Greek and Arabic: A Look at its History and Technical Vocabulary’, TeTra Joint Research Seminars, 21.09.2021

2017 ‘Il Cristianesimo nel Golfo Persico: vestigia della presenza siro-orientale nella tarda antichità’, University of Padua. [eng: ‘Christianity in the Persian Gulf: Vestiges of East Syrian Presence in Late Antiquity’]

#### CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

- 2022 Riccardo Contini & Mara Nicosia, organizers of the *atelier: Lexicologie et lexicographie syriaque*, to be held at the 13<sup>th</sup> Symposium Syriacum in Paris, date to be rescheduled.
- 2022 *Lexiques rhétoriques : l'intermédiaire syriaque vers la ḥiṭāba arabe. Perspectives et hypothèses*, 13<sup>th</sup> Syriac Symposium, Paris, date to be rescheduled.
- 2021 *Graeco-Aramaica: A Look at Greek Words in Christian Palestinian Aramaic*, International Online Workshop “Christian Palestinian Aramaic. Not quite the right ‘Syriac’”, Organized by Syriaca – Ricerche siriache in Italia, July 3rd
- 2019 Riccardo Contini & Mara Nicosia: *Western Neo-Aramaic as an Islamic Language? A Look at some Lexical and Sociolinguistic Issues*, International Conference ‘Le Lingue Islamiche’, University of Roma Tre, July 2-3.
- 2018 *From Antony of Tagrit to the Arabic Version: the Syriac Technical Lexicon of Rhetoric and Word Migrations*, 48<sup>th</sup> ARAM International Conference on Syriac Christianity, University of Oxford, July 11-13.
- 2017 *Catastrofi e ricorsi storici: tentativi di spiegare le calamità ricorrenti nella Cronaca di Zuqnān*, IX Convegno interdisciplinare dei dottorandi e dottori di ricerca dell’Università di Tor Vergata, University Rome Tor Vergata, June 14-16. [eng: ‘Catastrophes and Historical Returns: Attempts at Explaining the Recursive Calamities in the *Chronicle of Zuqnān*’]
- 2017 *Christianity in the Arabian/Persian Gulf: Vestiges of the East Syrian Presence in Late Antiquity*, Broadening Horizons V, University of Udine, June 5-8.

#### DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

- ‘Il saggio Ahiqar: tradizioni siriana e neoaramaica a confronto’, University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’, November 5, 2019. [eng: ‘The history of Ahiqar: Comparison between Syriac and Neo-Aramaic Traditions’]
- ‘Influssi greci in aramaico: riflessioni su *Language Change in the Wake of Empire* di Aaron M. Butts’, University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’, April 9, 2019. [eng: ‘Greek Influences on Aramaic: Reflections on Aaron M. Butts’ *Language Change in the Wake of Empire*’]
- ‘Cristianesimo nel Golfo: il caso del Beth Qaṭraye’, University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’, January 9, 2017. [eng: ‘Christianity in the Gulf: The Case of Beth Qaṭraye’]

#### FURTHER EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING

- Oct 2018 – present day Member of the research team of the University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’ revising the Atlante Linguistico Mediterraneo (ALM), for the North-African area.  
Lexical material in charge of: Alexandria of Egypt.

4/11/2017 – 4/6/2018 Visiting Ph.D. student at École Pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE), Paris (FR).

10-21/07/2017 Leiden Summer School in Language and Linguistics – Semitic Program (Ugaritic and Linguistic History of Arabic) (NL).

## LANGUAGES

	<b>speaking</b>	<b>writing</b>	<b>reading</b>
Italian	native	native	native
English	proficient	proficient	proficient
French	fluent	good	excellent
Spanish	fluent	good	excellent
Arabic	intermediate	intermediate	good
German	beginner	beginner	beginner
Dutch	beginner	beginner	beginner

**Other Semitic languages:** Egyptian and Palestinian Arabic, Maltese, various Neo-Aramaic dialects (Christian WNA of Ma'lūla, Muslim WNA of Bax'ā and Jubb'ādīn, Jewish NENA of Betanure, Jewish NENA of Arbel, Mosul Plain Sureth).

## ANCIENT LANGUAGES STUDIED

**Semitic languages:** Akkadian, Ancient North Arabian (including Taymanite and Safaitic), Aramaic (including Syriac, Biblical Aramaic, Elephantine Aramaic, Christian Palestinian Aramaic), Biblical Hebrew, Classical Arabic, Ancient South Arabian (including Sabaic and Minaic), Ugaritic.

**Others:** Ancient Greek, Latin.

## MEMBERSHIPS

**Centro di Studi sull'Oriente Cristiano (CSOC)**, from March 2019

**Société d'études syriaques**, from November 2018

**Syriaca**, Associazione di Studi Siriacy in Italia, from June 2018

## TOOLS AND SOFTWARES – DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Classical Text Editor, LaTeX Reledmac, TEI, MS Office suite, Lexique Pro.

