

Curriculum Vitae

INFORMAZIONI PERSONALI

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Cognome PUDDU
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AMBITI DI RICERCA

Curriculum Vitae

Luca Puddu

First name: Luca

Family name: Puddu

Nationality: Italian

E-mail: luca.puddu@unipa.it

Current positions

- Associate professor of African history and Institutions, Department of Political Sciences and International Relations, University of Palermo.

Professional background

- 2022-2025: Assistant professor of African history and Institutions, Department of Political Sciences and International Relations, University of Palermo
- 2023-2024: Research P.I., EU project "The history of the relationship between the EU and Eritrea, 1995-2023" commissioned by Conseil Santé.
- 2024: Visiting scholar, Faculty of History, Oxford University.
- 2022: Lecturer, "Africa and the Africans in Global History", Cluster "Global History and Governance", Scuola Superiore Meridionale, Naples.
- 2021-2022: Senior post-doctoral fellow, Cluster "Global History and Governance", Scuola Superiore Meridionale, Naples.
- 2021: Lecturer of African modern and contemporary history, Department of History, Culture and Civilizations, University of Bologna.
- 2020-2021: Senior post-doctoral research fellow, Cluster "Global History and Governance", Scuola Superiore Meridionale, University Federico II, Naples.
- 2020: Lecturer of African Political Systems, Department of Social Sciences and Communication, Sapienza University of Rome.
- 2019: Senior Research Fellow, History Department, King's College, London.
- 2019: Lecturer of African Political Systems, Department of Social Sciences and Communication, Sapienza University of Rome
- 2019: Lecturer of African History, Faculty of Humanities, Sapienza University of Rome
- 2019: Lecturer of African economic history, Summer School in African History and Anthropology, Mekelle University (Ethiopia).
- 2018- 2019: Research fellow in African history, Department of History, Culture and Civilizations, University of Bologna.

- 2018: Lecturer of African economic history, Summer School in African History and Anthropology, Mekelle University (Ethiopia).
- 2018: Lecturer of African History, Faculty of Humanities, Sapienza University of Rome
- 2018: ASA Visiting Scholar, Centre for African Studies, University of Leiden.
- 2017-2020: Head of research, Horn of Africa and Southern Africa Desk, Centre for Strategic Studies, Italian Ministry of Defence, Rome.
- 2017-2020: Head of Africa programme, Institute for Global Studies, Rome & Brussels.
- 2016: Research assistant, University of Cagliari.
- 2015: Visiting research fellow, Nordic African Institute, Uppsala.
- 2012-2015: Postdoctoral research fellow, Department of Social and Political Sciences, University of Cagliari.
- 2013: Junior visiting scholar, Woodrow Wilson Centre for International Scholars, History and Public Policy Program, Washington DC.

Selected Publications

Books and edited books:

- (edited) "Atti del convegno: la cooperazione allo sviluppo dell'Unione Europea e dell'Italia: il caso dell'Africa", Edizioni Fondazione Basso, Roma, 2018.
- (edited) "Governing the borders of the Horn of Africa", IGS Libri, 2019.
- *Competizione allo sviluppo: Armì, Aiuti e Diplomazia dell'Occidente nell'Etiopia di Hailé Selassié, 1941-1975*, IGS Libri, Roma, 2018.
- Tom Lavers with Fana Gebresenbet, Biruk Terrefe, Emanuele Fantini, Edegilign Hailu Woldegebrael, Luca Puddu, *Dams, Power, and the Politics of Ethiopia's Renaissance*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2024.

Articles

- *Terra e sviluppo nell'Etiopia imperiale* (2013), in "Afriche e Orienti", AIED Editore, 1, 2.
- *State building, rural development, and the making of a frontier regime in north-eastern Ethiopia, c. 1944-1975* (2016), in "The Journal of African History", Cambridge University Press, 57, 1.
- *Centro e Periferia nell'Etiopia Imperiale: governare la frontiera nord-occidentale nel bassopiano di Gondar* (2016), in "Antropologia", Ledi Edizioni, 3, 2.
- *Border diplomacy and state building in north-western Ethiopia, c. 1965-1977* (2017), in "Journal of Eastern African Studies", Routledge, 11, 2.
- *Eredità coloniali: il movimento indipendentista eritreo e il ruolo dell'Italia* (2019), in "Afriche e Orienti", AIEP Editore, 21, 1.
- *A contested internal frontier: the politics of internal and international borders in north-western Ethiopia* (2020), in "Afriche e Orienti", AIEP Editore, 2, XXII.
- *Of capital and power: Italian late colonial policies in Eritrea at the onset of the federation with Ethiopia* (2021), in "Journal of European Economic History", Bancaria Editrice, 1.
- *A contested financial frontier: banking and Empire building in Eritrea, c. 1952-73* (2021), in "Africa: Journal of the International African Institute", Cambridge University Press, 91, 5.
- *A pragmatic high modernism? Rural development and state building in the Ethiopian lowlands, 1960-2019*, in "Critical African Studies", Taylor & Francis, 3, 2022.
- *Il Secolo della Crescita? Le Economie Africane nell'arena globale*, Paradoxa, 2, 2024.
- *Negotiating North-South relations: The World Bank's Grain Marketing Project in revolutionary Ethiopia, 1974-1978*, in "The International History Review", 2024, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/07075332.2024.2392518>

Chapters in edited books:

- *La corsa all'oro del XXI secolo: acquisizione di suolo etiopico da parte di multinazionali indiane*, in G. Calchi Novati (ed.) "L'alternativa Sud-Sud, chi vince e chi perde. Economia, politica, modelli culturali", Asia Major nuova Serie/5, Carocci, Roma, 2011.
- *La pirateria in Somalia tra politica e diritto internazionale*, (with Francesca De Gasperis), in "Studi in Onore di Alberto Sinagra" Aracne, Roma, 2013.
- *Il Nomos della terra nel bassopiano etiopico*, in: C. Fiamingo, L. Ciabbari, I. Van Aken (eds.), "I conflitti sulla terra: accaparramento, consumo e accesso indisciplinato", Altravista, 2015.
- *Ethiopia and International Aid: Development between High Modernism and Exceptional Measures* (with Emanuele Fantini), in T. Hagmann, F. Reyntjens, "Development without Democracy: Aid and Authoritarianism in Africa", ZED books, 2016.
- *Extraversion and Development in north-western Ethiopia: the case of the World Bank's Humera agricultural project from 1967 to 1975*, in T. Falola, M. Odey (eds.), "Poverty Reduction Strategies in Africa", Routledge, New York, 2017.
- *The Background to the Border Dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea*, in, J. Besenyo, V. Marsai (eds.) "The Dynamics of Conflict in Africa in the early 21st century", Dialog Campus, Budapest, 2018.

- *The International Labour Organization*, (with Daniel R. Maul and Hakeem Tijani), in Stefano Bellucci, Andreas Eckert (eds.) "The General Labour History of Africa, Twentieth Century", James Currey, Oxford, 2019.
- *Ragion di Stato e ragioni del capitale: il lungo crepuscolo della lira nell'Eritrea britannica, 1941-1952*. In K. Pallaver, G. L. Podestà (ed.), "Transizioni Monetarie in Africa orientale", Milano: Franco Angeli, 2020
- "We had to feed the people": the British occupation and the resilience of the Italian Lira in Eritrea. In: K. Pallaver, (ed.), "Monetary transitions: currencies, colonialism and African societies", Palgrave Macmillan, 2021.
- E. Fantini, L. Puddu, Edegilign Hailu, "Salini: an Ethio-Italian story", in Tom Lavers (ed.), *Dams, Power, and the Politics of Ethiopia's Renaissance*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2024.

Book Reviews

- Alex De Waal, *The Real Politics of the Horn of Africa*, in "Studies of Transition States and Societies", 9, 2, 2017.

Conference presentations

- *Modernizzazione e Tradizione nella Valle dell'Awash*, Conference of the Association for African Studies in Italy, Università l'Orientale di Napoli, October 2010.
- *Foreign land acquisitions and political centralisation in Ethiopian history*, Netherlands African Studies Association Conference, University of Leiden, October 2010.
- *Western modernization and land reform in imperial Ethiopia*, International Conference "Sub-Saharan Africa in the 1970s. Crises, Conflicts and Transformations", University of Bologna, January 2011.
- *L'industria tessile nell'Etiopia imperiale*, Scuola Italiana di Scienza Politica, University of Palermo, September 2011.
- *Extraversion and cotton development in Setit Humera*, International Conference "Poverty and Empowerment in Africa", University of Texas, Austin, US, April 2012.
- *Territorial enclosure and land settlement in Ethiopia*, Conference of the Association for African Studies in Deutschland, University of Cologne, June 2012.
- *Restructuring the imperial frontier: the financial penetration of Banco di Roma in Ethiopia, 1963-1971*, Conference of the Association for African Studies in Italy, University of Pavia, September 2012.
- *Transformation and continuity in the relationship between Ethiopia and international donors*, Conference of the European Association on African Studies, University of Lisbon, June 2013.
- *State building and large scale investments in agriculture in Ethiopia: a perspective of longue durée*, Conference of the Association of African Studies in Italy, University of Macerata, September 2014.
- *Frontiers, Borders and State formation in sub-Saharan Africa*, Panel Convenor, Conference of the Association of African Studies in Italy, University of Macerata, September 2014.
- *Guerra Fredda, Sviluppo e Diplomazia: la Banca Mondiale nell'Etiopia rivoluzionaria (1974-1977)*. Società Italiana di Storia Internazionale, National Conference, University of Bologna, June 2016.
- *The relationship between Imperial Ethiopia and Eritrea after the end of the federation: evidence from the archives of Banco di Roma (1962-1974)*, International conference of Eritrean Studies, University of Asmara, July 2016
- *High Modernism in imperial Ethiopia*, Conference "Is High Modernism Returning?", Central African Studies Symposium, University of Oxford, May 2017.
- *Stato e capitale in Africa*, Panel convenor, Italian Society of International History, University of Milan "La Statale", June 2018.
- *La diplomazia del Banco di Roma in Etiopia ed Eritrea, c. 1963-1975*. Italian Society of International History, University of Milan "La Statale", June 2018.
- *Borders and Frontiers in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa after 1941*, Panel convenor, International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, University of Mekelle, October 2018.
- *Corporate Diplomacy in the Horn of Africa: the trajectory of Banco di Roma in Eritrea and Ethiopia*, 13th Annual Meeting of the African Economic History Network "Transitions in Economic History", Bologna, 12-13 Ottobre 2018.
- Chair, panel *Trade and Production*, 13th Annual Meeting of the African Economic History Network "Transitions in Economic History", Bologna, 12-13 Ottobre 2018.
- *The border dispute between Ethiopia and Sudan and the Nile factor*, Conference "Governing Borders and Frontiers in the Horn of Africa", Institute for Global Studies e Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome, 21 October 2018.
- *Preparing for the end of the Empire: disordered monetary transitions in British Eritrea*, Seminar "Occupation and Empire", History Department, King's College, 23 May 2019.
- *Between Scylla and Charybdis: the World Bank's diplomacy in revolutionary Ethiopia*, European Conference of African Studies, University of Edinburgh, June 2019.
- *Diverging expectation for economic development: the World Bank in Imperial Ethiopia, 1950-1973*, Workshop "Experience and Expectations of Development", Humboldt University, Berlin, 24 august 2020.
- *Development for whom? The origins of the Development Bank of Ethiopia, 1950-1955*, Conference "Global History of State Enterprises: 1950 to present", Humboldt University, Berlin, 26-27 November 2020
- *Decolonising rivers and dams: an Ethio-Italian research on political economy and political ecology of Salini in Ethiopia, 1966-2018*, with E. Fantini e Edegilign Hailu, Panel "Disciplinary Trends in Africa", Conference "Africa Knows", Leiden University, January 2021.
- *The trajectory of government banking in imperial Ethiopia, 1943-1953*, Panel "History of State Enterprises in African States after Independence", Conference "Minorities, Cultures of Integration, and patterns of exclusion", Sixth European Congress on World and Global History, 14-19 June 2021.

- *Decolonizing credit in imperial Ethiopia*, International Winter School "Global Laboursapes", University of Pavia, 13-17 december 2021.
- *Slavery in precolonial Somalia* (discussant), PRIN Workshop "African Freedoms", University of Pavia, 3/05/2022
- *Multinazionali del petrolio e negoziazione della statualità nell'Ogaden, 1946-1949*, Paper presented at the Italian conference of African Studies ASAI "Afriche del Terzo Millennio nel mondo globale", Urbino, 29-30 June 2022.
- *Gli africani e gli altri, tra ingerenze postcoloniali e processi di costruzione dello stato indipendente*, Panel Convenor, Italian conference of African Studies ASAI "Afriche del Terzo Millennio nel mondo globale", Urbino, 29-30 June 2022.
- *Petrolio e costruzione dello stato nell'Ogaden, 1947-1957*, Paper presented at the Conference of the Italian Society for International History, University of Siena, 7-8 July 2022.
- *Connessioni post-coloniali: reti trans-imperiali e "agency" locali nel processo di decolonizzazione del continente africano*, Panel Convenor, Conference of the Italian Society for International History, University of Siena, 7-8 July 2022.
- *Oil, Trade, and Contested Economic Sovereignities in the Ethiopian-Somali borderlands*, Workshop "Economic Histories of the Horn of Africa", Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University, 12 January 2023.
- *International Business Networks and the Struggle for Sovereignty*, Panel Convenor, Conference of the Italian Association of Economic History and History of Economic Thought, University of Palermo, 2023.
- *Foreign investments, imperial connections, and state building in northeastern Ethiopia, 1945-1956*, Paper presented at the Conference of the Italian Association of Economic History and History of Economic Thought, University of Palermo, 19-21 October 2023.
- *Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi and the Italian postcolonial policy in Eritrea*, Conference of the Italian Society for International History, University of Rome "Sapienza" and University Roma Tre, 5-7 June 2024.
- *Banking, Development and state building in imperial Ethiopia*, Panel "Third World Internationalism and Nation Building in Africa", Conference of the Italian Association of African Studies, University of Messina, 12-14 September 2024
- Panel discussant, "African consumers in the 19th century", Conference of the Italian Association of African Studies, University of Messina, 12-14 September 2024
- Panel discussant, "International workshop for young scholars of the Italian Society of International History", University of Milan "Cattolica Sacro Cuore", 28 November 2024
- Panel convenor, "The business of statecraft: the diplomacy of oil concessions during the Eritrea-Ethiopia Federation c. 1952-1962", International Conference of Eritrean Studies, Asmara 6-7 January 2025.

Workshop and conference organization

- 20 November 2014, Workshop *The Italian foreign policy in the Horn of Africa*, Institute for Global Studies and Italian Cultural Institute, Addis Ababa.
- 16 March 2017, Workshop *The Regional Political Framework in the Horn of Africa*, Institute for Global Studies, Rome.
- 20 September 2017, Workshop *Secured without security: the political economy of peace enforcement in Somalia*, Institute for Global Studies, Rome
- 23 October 2018, Workshop *Governing Borders and Frontiers in the Horn of Africa*, Institute for Global Studies and Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome.
- 11-12 January 2023, Workshop *Economic Histories of the Horn of Africa*, Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University.
- 10 March-26 May 2023, Cycle of seminar and roundtables *Africa in the Global Setting*, Path of Excellence 2023, Master in International Relations, University of Palermo.
- 29-30 May 2023, XVII edition of the national seminar for PhD student of the Italian Society of Contemporary History *Storie in Corso 2023*, Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa.
- 18-20 October 2023, Conference of the Italian Associations of Economic History and History of Economic Thought, *Centres, peripheries, networks: movements of people, goods, and ideas in economic history*, University of Palermo.
- 3 June 2024, Workshop *Geopolitica degli spazi transfrontalieri nel Corno d'Africa*, University of Palermo
- 5-7 June 2024, National Conference of the Italian Association for International History, University of Rome "Sapienza" and University Roma Tre

Invited lectures

- 07/19/2012, *Extraversion and Political Islam in the Horn of Africa*, Institute for Mediterranean Studies.
- 10/17/2012, *Sviluppo rurale e costruzione dello Stato in Somalia*, University La Sapienza, Rome.
- 03/18/2013, *La demarcazione di un confine post-coloniale: Sudan ed Etiopia*, University of Pavia.
- 01/29/2014, *State building and large-scale investments in agriculture in Ethiopia: a perspective in the longue durée*, London School of Economics.
- 04/10/2014, *Land and labour along the Ethiopia-Sudan border*, University of Milano "Bicocca".
- 15/03/2015, *FDI and State building in the lowlands of Ethiopia*, Società Geografica Italiana.
- 12/01/2017, *Eritrea: flussi migratori tra politica internazionale e diritti umani*, University of Cagliari.
- 08/02/2017, *Security and Politics in Somalia*, ENI, Rome.
- 05/10/2017, *The Politics of Borders and Frontiers in Ethiopia*, University of Public Service, Budapest.
- 21/11/2017, *High Modernism and Counterinsurgency in Ethiopia*, Senate House, University of London.
- 26/03/2018, *Frontiers of capital in Imperial Ethiopia*, African Studies Centre, University of Leiden.
- 10/04/2018, *Mapping conflict in the Horn of Africa*, Institute for Peace Support and Conflict Management, National Defence Academy, Wien.
- 12/04/2018, *I fattori di crescita economica in Africa sub-Sahariana*, Centro per la Pace in Medio Oriente, Milan.

- 17/04/2018, *Sviluppi politici e di sicurezza nel Corno d'Africa*, Scuola PdCM, Rome.
- 22/05/2018, *I rapporti tra centro e periferie in Etiopia nel XX secolo*, Faculty of Communication Sciences, University La Sapienza of Rome.
- 29/05/2018, *La proiezione finanziaria Cinese in Africa sub-Sahariana*, University of Milan La Statale.
- 14/09/2018, *The geopolitics of conflict in the Horn of Africa*, Meeting "Pace e Sviluppo nel Corno d'Africa", Fiera del Levante, Bari.
- 20/10/2018, *The international politics of the Horn of Africa region*, lecture to selected members of the foreign affairs sub-committee of the Italian Parliament, Rome.
- 21/11/2018, *The World Bank in revolutionary Ethiopia*, University of Perugia for Foreigners.
- 06/03/2019, *Currency transitions in British Eritrea, 1941-1952*, University of Bologna
- 04/05/2020, *The decolonization of Italian East Africa*, University of Bologna.
- 27/01/2020, *"Horn of Africa: social and political prospects"*, Centro Alti Studi sulla Difesa, Roma.
- 20/11/2020, *"Verso la Guerra in Etiopia"*, Tavola Rotonda Online, Istituto Studi di Politica Internazionale, Milano.
- 1/02/2021, *"Horn of Africa: social and political prospects"*, Centro Alti Studi sulla Difesa, Roma
- 25/03/2021: *"The political economy of the Ethiopian-Sudanese border in the longue durée"*. Roundtable *Ethiopia at war from a regional perspective*. University of Naples "L'Orientale".
- 30/03/2021: *"Ethiopia: state building and the challenge of ethnic cohabitation"*. University of Genova,
- 26/04/2021: *"La decolonizzazione dell'Africa Orientale Italiana"*. University of Bologna.
- 23/02/2022: *"The trajectory of banking in imperial Ethiopia and the role of Italian banks"*, Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University.
- 04/04/2022: *"Imperialismi a confronto: l'Etiopia e la decolonizzazione del Corno d'Africa"*, Università di Padova.
- 11/04/2022: *"Contested freedoms in Ethiopia's political transition"*, Università di Milano Bicocca, Milano.
- 18/04/2022: *"Borders and state building in north-western Ethiopia"*, University Federico II, Naples.
- 19/04/2022: *"Borders and state building in north-western Ethiopia"*, University Federico II, Naples.
- 24/05/2022: *"Business, development and state building in north-eastern Ethiopia"*, University Federico II, Naples.
- 13/10/2022: *"Trajectories of state building in the Horn of Africa"*, Scuola PdCM, Rome.
- 02/04/2023: *"Fattori globali e locali di conflitto in Etiopia"*, Dialoghi sull'Africa, Africa Rivista, Milano.
- 18/01/2024: *"Oil, trade and state building in the Ethiopian-Somali borderlands"*, Oxford University, Centre for African Studies.
- 15/04/2024, *"Italian banking and foreign policy in postcolonial Eastern Africa"*, University of Messina.
- 30/03/2025: *"Tensioni sul Corno d'Africa: tra interessi globali e competizione regionale"*, Dialoghi sull'Africa, Africa Rivista, Milano.
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Educational Background

- 2012: Summer School, Euro-Mediterranean diplomacy, "Institute for Mediterranean Studies"
- 2011: PhD, International History, University of Florence.
- 2010: Summer School of Euro-Mediterranean Diplomacy, "Centro di Ricerca per l'Oriente e il Mediterraneo", Ostuni.
- 2007: Summer School of Journalism, "European School of Economics", New York.
- 2007: Master of Arts in Diplomacy, "Società Italiana per l'Organizzazione Internazionale", Rome.
- 2006: Master of Arts in Law (major: International Law), University of Cagliari.

Language skills

Italian (Native language)

English (Fluent)

French (Working knowledge)

Spanish (Intermediate)

Amharic (Basic)

Academic memberships

Board of Directors of the Italian Society of International History (2023-25)

Board of Directors of the Italian Association for African Studies (2012-14).

Italian Society of International History

Italian Association for African Studies

History of International Organizations Network (2014-2022)

African Economic History Network

Italian Society for the Study of Contemporary History

African Studies Center in Leiden community

Editorial and peer-review assignments

Peer-reviewer, Journal of Eastern African Studies, Routledge.

Peer-reviewer, Northeast African Studies, Michigan state university press.

Peer-reviewer, African Economic History, University of Wisconsin Press.

Peer-reviewer, National Political Science Review, Routledge.

Peer-reviewer, Journal of International Relations and Diplomacy, David Publishing.

Peer-reviewer, Agricultural and Food Economics, Springer.

Peer-reviewer, Franco Angeli Publisher.

Peer-reviewer, Journal of Public Anthropology, Brill.

Peer-reviewer, Afriche e Orienti, AIEP.

Peer-reviewer, De Gruyter Publisher.

Peer-reviewer, Memoria e Ricerca: rivista di storia contemporanea, Franco Angeli.

Peer-reviewer, Rivista Italiana di Storia Internazionale

Peer-reviewer, Storia Economica.

Peer-reviewer, Journal of Asian and African Studies

Editorial Board, "Politica Africana" (2013-2015).

Editorial manager, Africamedioriente.com (2016-2019)

Editorial Advisory Board, Area Studies series, Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Editorial board, "Africa: Rivista Semestrale di Studi e Ricerche"

Editorial board, "Rivista Italiana di Storia Internazionale"