

Ophelia Nicole-Berva (she/her)

Postdoctoral researcher – University of Geneva, Institute of Citizenship Studies

activism, borders, emotions, feminist theory · ethnography, qualitative methods, research ethics

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EDUCATION

2020 – 2025	PhD researcher in political and social sciences, European University Institute Dissertation “Feeling the Border. Everyday Solidarity Activism at the Internal Borders of Europe”. Committee: Jeffrey Checkel (supervisor), Martin Ruhs (co-supervisor), Donatella della Porta and Kim Rygiel (externals)
2017 – 2019	Master’s degree in political science (political theory), University of Geneva Thesis “Territory: political theory and indigenous claims. An essay on the coloniality of territory”, under the supervision of Prof. Matteo Gianni
2018	Exchange in the Universidad de Chile, Santiago (1 semester)
2013 – 2016	Bachelor’s degree in political science, University of Geneva
2015	Exchange in the Universidad católica Argentina, Buenos Aires (1 semester)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2024 –	Postdoctoral researcher, Horizon Europe project DEMETRA , University of Geneva
2020 – 2021	Research assistant, university of applied sciences in management, Geneva Study on sexism, sexual harassment and LGBTphobia in higher education, HEG-Geneva
2019 – 2020	Coordinator of the doctoral program in political science, University of Geneva
2019 – 2020	Teaching assistant, “ethics and public policies” (M. Gianni), University of Geneva

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2024	European University Institute Workshop “Introduction to field research” for PhD students, Session on “emotions and self-care” (lead: Gabriella Sanchez; teaching time: 1h30)
2023	European University Institute Workshop “A Life Cycle of Fieldwork” for PhD students, session on “preparing fieldwork” (co-organised with W. Minatti and S. Ritholtz, teaching time: 1h30)
2023	School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute Workshop “Ethnography” for master’s students (teaching time: 6h)

TRAININGS & SUMMER SCHOOLS

2023	APSA mini course on critical research ethics, online
2023	Teaching training, EUI
2023	Advanced Qualitative data analysis, ECPR online winter school
2022	Qualitative data analysis, ECPR online summer school
2022	Introduction to NVivo, ECPR online winter school
2021	How to do political philosophy: methods and methodology, ECPR online summer school
2021	Ethnodoks workshop on ethnography, university of Vienna
2016	Qualitative methods and grounded theory, summer school, university of Pisa

PUBLISHED WORK

(unless specified, co-authored is equally authored)

Peer-reviewed articles	<p><i>Forthcoming</i></p> <p>Co-editor (with J. Checkel, M. Both and J. Saetre) of a Symposium for QMMR on “Multi-sited research in political science”, including a collective <i>Introduction</i> and a single-authored piece.</p> <p>della Croce, Y., & Nicole-Berva, O. (2023). Civil Disobedience in Times of Pandemic: Clarifying Rights and Duties. <i>Criminal Law and Philosophy</i> 17, 155-174.</p> <p>Fernández Guzmán Grassi, E., & Nicole-Berva, O. (2022). How Perceptions Matter: Organizational Vulnerability and Practices of Resilience in the Field of Migration. <i>VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations</i>, 33(5), 921–935.</p>
Book chapter	<p>Fernández G.G., E., Nicole-Berva, O., & Nadler, A.-L. (2021). Organisational Solidarity in Switzerland Across Fields: Interlinkage Between Immigration and (Un)employment. In C. Lahusen, U. Zschache, & M. Kousis (Eds.), <i>Transnational Solidarity in Times of Crises. Citizen Organisations and Collective Learning in Europe</i> (pp. 235–270). Palgrave Macmillan.</p>
Policy reports	<p>Fagnoli, V., Latina, J., Nicole-Berva, O., & Puig, G. (2021). Sexisme, LGBTphobie et harcèlement sexuel au sein de la HES-SO Genève : quelles influences sur les parcours professionnels et de formation ? [Link]</p> <p>Moreno Russi, P., & Nicole-Berva, O. (2018). Switzerland Report. WP2 Report. Integrated report on socio-cultural, institutional and legal framework (SIRIUS – Skills and Integration of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Applicants in European Labour Markets) No. 770515 (pp.371–438). [Link]</p>
Other	
<i>Commentary</i>	<p>della Croce, Y., & Nicole-Berva, O. (2024). Duties of healthcare institutions and climate justice. <i>Journal of Medical Ethics</i>.</p>
<i>Blog post</i>	<p>Viswanath, R., Prokhorova, A., & Nicole-Berva, O. (2023, November 22). Rethinking ethics review from a decolonial perspective [EUI Ideas]. Rethinking Ethics Review from a Decolonial Perspective. [link]</p>
<i>Non peer-reviewed article</i>	<p>Nicole-Berva, O., & Lavanchy, A. (2021). Svizzera. Dalla politica allo spazio pubblico: una panoramica dei femminismi storici e contemporanei. <i>DWF</i>, 129–130(1–2), 100–105. [Link]</p>

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW OR IN PROGRESS

Special Issue co-editor, ongoing	Co-editor (with W. Minatti) of a Special Issue for <i>Qualitative Research</i> on “Vulnerability and fieldwork in political science”. First articles published in 2024.
Article R&R	“Challenging assumptions: Vulnerability and epistemic injustice” (with A. Ušča). R&R, resubmission in March 2025.
Article In progress	“There are no mid-seasons anymore”: The seasonalities of Trieste as part of the “Balkan Route”, with Francesca Fortarezza and Noemi Bergesio Part of a SI on “Keywords of migration” in <i>Croatian Journal of Ethnology and Folklore Research</i> . Submission in July 2025.

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS PARTICIPATION

03/2025	Researching, Archiving, Memory-making – Seminar on the Border, Świnoroje (Poland) Presenter, with Noemi Bergesio: “Voice/silence: Solidarity, research and ethics of refusal at the border”
01/2025	Swiss Political Science Association, Geneva Presenter: Feeling the border: towards an emotional sensitivity in concept analysis
11/2024	Feminism as a method, Florence Presenter “Feeling the border: towards an emotional sensitivity in concept analysis”
07/2024	International Conference of Europeanists, Lyon Presenter, with Noemi Bergesio: “‘Speech is silver but silence is golden’: In-between spaces of everyday solidarity in Ventimiglia and Trieste”
05/2024	University of Geneva, Summer school on contentious politics Discussant
05/2024	European University Institute, Departmental seminar series Discussant: Erica Simmon’s talk “How Cases Speak to One Another”
04/2024	Keywording the European Irregularized Migration Regime, Zagreb Presenter: “Navigating Seasonalities in Ethnographic Fieldwork” (with Noemi Bergesio & Francesca Fortarezza)
02/2024	Conference “Nonviolence as Democratic Innovation”, EUI Presenter: “Can civil disobedience be silent? The case of solidarity crimes in border areas”
08/2023	APSA General conference, Los Angeles Presenter: “Following the Border, Connecting Research Sites” Panel co-organiser: “multi-sited research in political science”
07/2023	IPSA World Congress, Buenos Aires Presenter: “Following the Border, Connecting Research Sites” Chair: Panel “Addressing Forced Migration Governance”

- 06/2023 **IMISCOE General conference, Warsaw**
 Presenter: “The Privilege of Solidarity and the Potential of Allyship”
 Panel co-organiser and chair: “Critical perspectives on the criminalization of migrant solidarity”
- 06/2023 **International Conference of Europeanists, Reykjavik**
 Presenter: “Embodying borders: Emotions and ambivalences in activism in support of people on the move”
 Panel co-organiser: “The continuity of refugee solidarity movements in the context of (re)bordering”
- 09/2022 **APSA General conference, Montréal**
 Presenter: “Visible Interdependencies: Tools for Epistemic Justice in Research Designs”, (with Anete Ušča)
- 08/2022 **ECPR General conference, online**
 Presenter: “Visible Interdependencies: Tools for Epistemic Justice in Research Designs” (with Anete Ušča)
- 07/2022 **Workshop Moving in a divided world – Transnational crime, national borders and irregular Migration, Bielefeld University**
 Presenter: “Smugglers or “in solidarity”? Dynamics of social categorization along the migration journey”
- 04/2022 **European Graduate Network Conference, Florence**
 Presenter: “Solidarity as allyship? Theory and practice for social movements supporting migrants”
- 08/2021 **ECPR General conference, online**
 “Organizational transnational ties in support of migrants: a hyperlink network analysis of cross-border engagement”
- 08/2020 **ECPR General conference, online**
 “Organizational Discourse and Networks Within the New Swiss Labor-Migration Policy” (with Eva Fernández G.G.)

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS ORGANISED

- 05/2024 **[Alternative State of the Union](#) (3 days un-conference), EUI**
 Co-organiser and general coordination
- 05/2024 **Workshop “Comparing, Casing and Generalizing: Traditional Designs and Innovative approaches”**
 Co-organiser, guest teacher: Erica Simmons
- 02/2024 **Exhibition “Black Realities: Confronting Racism in Europe” (EUI)**
 Curation (led by Daphné Budasz)
- 2023 – 2024 **“Rethinking ethics review: decolonial thinking in praxis” (EUI)**
 Co-organiser of a series of 5 events
- 05/2023 **Workshop “smashing the ivory tower? Decolonial initiatives in European universities” (online)**
[Decolonial Europe Day](#), Co-organiser
- 05/2023 **Workshop “A Life Cycle of Fieldwork” (EUI)**
 Co-organiser
- 05/2022 **Workshop “Qualitative approaches to studying migration” (EUI)**
 Co-organiser

ACADEMIC SERVICE & WORKING GROUPS

Reviewer	<i>Swiss Political Science Review (SPSR)</i>
2024	European University Institute – Ethics review process Part of the taskforce to revise the ethics review process; focus on risk assessment and internal training
2021 – 2023	European University Institute Qualifie , qualitative and fieldwork working group Co-convener
2021 – 2024	European University Institute Decolonising Initiative Coordination (until 2023) and member
2021 – 2022	European University Institute Migration working group Co-organiser

TALKS, PRESENTATIONS & OUTREACH

12/2023	Giardino dei ciliegi, Florence Invited research presentation on the topic “Border, bodies and migration”, convegno “quali corpi contano”
11/2023	Il Conventino, Florence Invited research presentation on the topic ““Il confine, il migrante – ricercare le storie, andare aldilà delle categorie”, SPS in the City (organised by the EUI)
03/2022	University of Geneva Invited research presentation (with Yoann della Croce), on the topic “Désobéissance civile en temps de pandémie : droits et devoirs”
09/2021	Giardino dei ciliegi, Florence Invited research presentation on the topic “Svizzera. Dalla politica allo spazio pubblico: una panoramica dei femminismi storici e contemporanei”, Launch of the publication “international feminisms”
04/2021	University of Geneva, course on qualitative methods Invited research presentation (with Géraldine Puig) on “Study on sexism, sexual harassment and LGBTphobia in six universities of applied sciences in Geneva”
03/2021	HETS-Geneva, World social work day, Geneva Workshop (conducted with Anne Lavanchy) on “Dispossession/s: Rethinking social work in the light of global social movements”
01/2021	Information on communal voting rights, Geneva Information sessions on the communal voting rights for foreigners in Geneva, with Matteo Gianni & Victor Sanchez-Mazas

AWARDS & FUNDINGS

2020-2024	Scholarship for PhD at EUI, Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation
2019	Highest-ranking student, University of Geneva, Department of political science and IR
2015	Grant for international mobility (Argentina), Sesam Foundation

LANGUAGES

French (mother tongue), English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), Italian (fluent), German (basic conversation), Portuguese (basic conversation).

SOFTWARES

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