Andrea Novellis

Research, Policy Analysis and Consulting

PhD in Political Science specialising in conflict, governance and international affairs. Experienced in academic research, policy analysis and interdisciplinary projects.

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Thesis defended : Mon 9 Nov 2026 university of milan italy

Core business

PHASE 1

Skill development

I developed my skills through doctoral training in Political Science, methodological coursework (including R and Stata), and fieldwork in Turkey, Iraq and Sri Lanka. Research appointments at L'Orientale and international research affiliations expanded my experience in academic and policy-oriented research. I strengthened my professional network by co-founding a scholarly association, organising conferences and collaborating with researchers internationally. Moving from civil-war research into early warning, food security and political risk has also allowed me to develop expertise applicable across different professional settings.

PHASE 1

Evaluation

I developed evaluation skills through academic research, journal editing and consultancy. Guest-editing a special issue required assessing scholarly contributions and their engagement with existing research. As a consultant for ACAPS, I reviewed a report on humanitarian risk in Syria and provided expert recommendations. My own publications have undergone peer review, requiring me to assess criticism, reconsider arguments and strengthen empirical evidence. I also evaluate the reliability of documents, interviews and secondary sources in my research.

PHASE 2

Information management

My doctoral and postdoctoral research involved collecting, organising and critically evaluating extensive documentary and interview evidence. I worked with academic databases, archival materials, institutional documents, media sources and fieldwork records across several countries. Comparative research required triangulating sources, tracking conflicting accounts and maintaining systematic records. I also developed expertise in handling sensitive research material under university-approved ethical procedures. Policy-oriented projects further strengthened my ability to retrieve, assess and synthesise information from different disciplines and institutions.

PHASE 2

Expertise and methods

My PhD and subsequent research developed expertise in comparative politics, international relations, political violence and governance. I use qualitative interviewing, process tracing, comparative case studies and documentary analysis, supported by training in quantitative methods, including R and Stata. Fieldwork in Turkey, Iraq and Sri Lanka strengthened my capacity to design and conduct empirical research in different political environments. I have applied these methods in peer-reviewed publications and interdisciplinary projects addressing early warning, political risk and food security.

Personal and

PHASE 2

relational qualities

Communication

I developed communication skills through university teaching, international conference presentations, academic publishing and policy writing. I taught a course on peace and conflict at the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies and contributed to teaching at the University of Milan. Consultancy for ARCI and the National Peace Council involved delivering staff training. Writing peer-reviewed articles, policy reports and public commentary has strengthened my ability to explain complex political issues to academic, professional and non-specialist audiences.

PHASE 2

Collaboration

My research career has involved sustained collaboration across universities, research institutes and civil-society organisations. I co-founded the Italian Network for Kurdish Studies (RISC), co-organised international conferences and contributed to collaborative research involving institutions in Europe and South Asia. Co-authored publications, edited volumes and interdisciplinary projects have required coordinating contributions, reconciling different perspectives and working toward shared outputs. These experiences have strengthened my ability to build and maintain international professional partnerships.

PHASE 2

Analysis, synthesis and critical thinking

Comparative political research has trained me to assess competing explanations, identify causal mechanisms and distinguish well-supported findings from uncertain claims. My publications examine rebel cooperation, political transformation and governance across different countries. Research on early-warning failures required critically assessing institutional assumptions and contrasting interpretations of political crises. Policy reports and consultancy assignments have further developed my ability to synthesise extensive and sometimes contradictory information into clear assessments and actionable conclusions.

PHASE 2

Open-mindedness and creativity

Working across different countries, institutions and disciplines has encouraged me to question established assumptions and adapt my analytical approaches. Fieldwork in Turkey, Iraq and Sri Lanka exposed me to different political and cultural perspectives. I have applied knowledge developed in civil-war research to new questions concerning early warning, political risk, food security and governance. Interdisciplinary collaborations and engagement with academic and practitioner communities have strengthened my ability to identify connections between different fields and develop new research questions.

PHASE 1

Commitment

Completing a multi-country doctoral research project required sustained independent work, extensive fieldwork and the coordination of complex research activities. I subsequently developed several academic and policy-oriented projects while maintaining an active publication record. These activities required meeting deadlines, responding to critical feedback and managing overlapping responsibilities in research, teaching, consultancy and conference organisation. I have continued expanding my expertise and pursuing international research collaborations beyond individual appointments.

PHASE 1

Integrity

Research involving political violence and sensitive political issues has made ethical responsibility central to my professional practice. My doctoral fieldwork received formal university ethics approval, and I developed procedures for informed consent, confidentiality and the responsible handling of interview material. In academic publishing and policy research, I apply careful source attribution, distinguish evidence from interpretation and acknowledge uncertainty. Collaborative publications and editorial work have reinforced my commitment to research transparency, intellectual honesty and appropriate recognition of others' contributions.

PHASE 1

Balance

Combining doctoral research, international fieldwork, teaching, consultancy and editorial responsibilities has required careful planning and prioritisation. I have developed ways to organise overlapping commitments, establish achievable milestones and adapt working schedules to changing research requirements. Working across several countries and institutional settings has also taught me to recognise the limits of my expertise, seek advice from colleagues

when necessary and allocate time according to the importance and urgency of different responsibilities.

PHASE 1 **Listening and empathy**

Fieldwork in Turkey, Iraq and Sri Lanka involved interviewing people with different political affiliations, experiences and perspectives. Conducting research on ethnic conflict and sensitive political questions required attentive listening, culturally appropriate communication and sensitivity to confidentiality concerns. I learned to formulate questions without imposing assumptions and to interpret accounts within their social and political contexts. Collaboration with researchers, civil-society organisations and local contacts further strengthened my ability to understand different priorities and communicate respectfully across cultural and professional boundaries.

Business management and value creation

PHASE 2 **Project management**

I developed project-management skills through doctoral and postdoctoral research, competitive grant preparation and academic event organisation. My doctoral project required coordinating fieldwork, interviews, archival research and analysis across several countries. I was the principal proposal writer for the competitively funded ITALIM research project and co-organised international conferences and workshops. These activities involved defining objectives, scheduling tasks, coordinating contributors, managing deadlines and delivering research outputs within institutional requirements.

PHASE 1 **Managing risks**

Research on political violence required assessing ethical, security and confidentiality risks associated with fieldwork and interviews in politically sensitive environments. My doctoral project underwent formal ethics review, and its implementation required attention to research access and the protection of participants. Separately, my work at L'Orientale and consultancy for ACAPS developed my expertise in identifying political and humanitarian risks, evaluating uncertain evidence and communicating limitations. These experiences strengthened my awareness of risk assessment in both research practice and policy analysis.

PHASE 1 **Decision-making**

Independent research has required making consequential decisions about case selection, methodological approaches, fieldwork priorities and the interpretation of incomplete evidence. I developed these capacities through doctoral research and subsequent projects on political risk, early warning and food security. Preparing publications, research proposals and policy reports has involved identifying feasible objectives, evaluating alternatives and making choices under time and resource constraints. Collaborative and editorial work has also strengthened my ability to justify decisions and reconsider them in response to new evidence.

PHASE 1 **Obtaining and managing funding**

I was the principal proposal writer for ITALIM, a competitive inter-university research project funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This experience developed my ability to formulate research objectives, establish the relevance and feasibility of proposed activities, and prepare a coherent funding application. I have also prepared applications for international research fellowships and grants, adapting research plans, methodologies and timelines to different funding requirements. These activities have strengthened my understanding of competitive research funding and project development.

PHASE 1 **Producing results**

I have translated independent and collaborative research into peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, policy reports and teaching activities. My publications include articles in Democratization and Civil Wars, alongside research on political risk and early warning. Consultancy for ACAPS, ARCI and the National Peace Council required delivering outputs tailored to practical needs, including expert assessments and staff training. These experiences

strengthened my ability to move from research design and evidence collection to completed outputs, incorporating feedback and adapting findings to different audiences.

Strategy and Leadership

PHASE 1 Strategy

Developing research projects and funding proposals has required identifying substantive priorities, assessing institutional opportunities and aligning activities with longer-term objectives. As principal proposal writer for ITALIM, I helped formulate a research project addressing the international politics of food security. My subsequent research has connected academic questions with wider policy concerns, including political risk, crisis anticipation and governance. These experiences developed my ability to identify research opportunities, formulate coherent objectives and consider the strategic relevance of proposed activities.

PHASE 1 Leadership

I co-founded the Italian Network for Kurdish Studies (RISC) and have contributed to organising international academic conferences and workshops. These initiatives involved mobilising professional networks, coordinating participants and developing shared scholarly activities. Guest-editing journal special issues required working with contributors and coordinating publication processes. Through these experiences, I developed the ability to initiate projects, bring people together around common objectives and support collective outcomes without relying on formal hierarchical authority.