

Gabriele Volpato

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PROFILE

Anthropology, Human Ecology, Food Systems, Biocultural Diversity, Ethnobiology, Pastoral Systems, Human-Animal Relationships

EDUCATION

Post-doc	Ecological and Anthropological Sciences , University of Georgia (US). 2015
Ph.D	Social Sciences and Anthropology , Wageningen University. October 2014
M.Sc./Bachelors	Biological Sciences , University of Padova. 2000. Specializations in Botany and Plant Ecology

LANGUAGES

Italian - native, English - fluent (TOEFL Score 2009: 8.5), Spanish - fluent, French - fair, Swahili - basic

SUMMARY OF SKILLS

- Interdisciplinary research program and project design and implementation, and publication/dissemination of results
- Conceptualization and investigation of human-nature relationships and social-ecological systems
- Interdisciplinary literature reviews, use of qualitative research software, qualitative and quantitative ethnographic and anthropological methods for analyzing knowledge transmission and change and natural resource management
- Ethnobiological methods and analysis
- Teaching and courses on the above themes

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow, University of Gastronomic Sciences (Pollenzo, Italy)

- 2018-ongoing: Research grant within the project 'Sheep-up, sheep biodiversity of Veneto' funded by the Veneto Region for a research about the traditional foods obtained from sheep of four local breeds of the Veneto region and the valorization of these foods and associated breeds and husbandry systems.

- 2017-2020: Research grant within the project ‘Sustainable Food Systems and Sustainable Development: Creating Synergies between research and international and African processes’ funded by “Fondo Integrativo Speciale per la Ricerca (FISR), CUP H42F16002450001.” In the context of an expanding commodity frontier in the Kenyan Rift Valley, the research focused on the one hand on the strategies of food procurement by migrant workers at the flower farms of Naivasha, and on the other hand on the impacts of this expansion on local Maasai pastoralism, mobility, and livelihoods, and on ensuing adaptations.

Post-doc, CICR (Centre for Integrated Conservation Research), University of Georgia, Athens (US), with fieldwork in Kenya, 2015-2016, funded by National Science Foundation CNH 1313659

Post-doc research grant that included the design and development of a research study on environmental change and livelihood adaptation about the adoption of dromedary camels by Maasai pastoralists of Laikipia (Kenya) in response to environmental and socio-economic changes and on the consequences of this adoption at household and community level. The research also addressed changes in beekeeping practices in the community.

Ph.D. Student, Department of Social Sciences, Wageningen University, 2005 – 2014

Design, writing and implementation of a PhD research project, with fieldwork in Western Sahara and in the Sahrawi refugee camps of Tinduf (Algeria), about Sahrawi refugees’ recovery and adaptation of desert- and camel-associated subsistence practices and ethnobiological knowledge from exile.

Research Fellow, Department of Social Sciences, Wageningen University, 2003-2005

Design, writing and implementation of a research project, with fieldwork in rural and urban Cuba, about: 1) conservation and change in the traditional ethnobotanical knowledge of Haitian immigrants in the Province of Camagüey, Cuba; and 2) the role and significance of traditional foods and medicinal plants in the context of the Cuban economic crisis and food transition of the 1990s and 2000s.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Visiting professor at the University of Gastronomic Sciences (Pollenzo, Italy), 2015-2020, teaching the following courses:

- ‘Applied Anthropology for Sustainable Food Systems’ at the Master Program in Food Innovation and Management;
- ‘Human Ecology and Gastronomic Heritage’ at the Master Program in Food Innovation and Management;
- ‘Food Biodiversity and Human Ecology’ at the Undergraduate Program in Gastronomic Sciences;
- ‘Sustainable novel foods’ at the Undergraduate Program in Gastronomic Sciences and Cultures;
- ‘Food and Cultural Ecology’ at the Master of Ecology, Creativity and Innovation;
- ‘Human-animal relations’ at the Master of Ecology and Human Sustainability;
- ‘Human ecology of African pastoralism’ and ‘Entomophagy’ at the Master of Gastronomy.

MAIN PUBLICATIONS

PhD Dissertation

- Volpato, G. 2014. *Exile, Camps, and Camels: Recovery and Adaptation of Subsistence Practices and Ethnobiological Knowledge among Sahrawi Refugees*. Wageningen University, the Netherlands.

Masters (Laurea) Thesis

- Volpato, G. 2000. *Studio floristico e fitosociologico per valutare l'impatto delle attività agricole ed estrattive sulla vegetazione ripariale del fiume Brenta, Nordest Italia* [Floristic and Phytosociological Survey to Evaluate the Impact of Agricultural and Extracting Activities on Riparian Vegetation along the Brenta River, Northeast Italy]. Department of Biology, University of Padova, Italy.

Books and book chapters

- Volpato, G., Rossi, D. 2014. *Badiya – Los Nómadas Saharauis en los Territorios Liberados del Sáhara Occidental* [Badiya – Sahrawi nomads in the liberated territories of Western Sahara]. Smashwords Editions.
- Volpato, G. 2008. *Plantas Medicinales Saharawi* [Sahrawi medicinal plants]. Africa 70, Milano. (2010. Arabic version).
- Volpato, G., A. Ahmadi Emhamed, S. M. Lamin Saleh, A. Broglia and S. di Lello. 2007. Procurement of traditional remedies and transmission of medicinal knowledge among Sahrawi people displaced in south-western Algeria refugee camps. In Pieroni, A. and I. Vandebroek (editors), *Traveling Cultures and Plants: the Ethnobiology and Ethnopharmacy of Migrations*, Berghahn Books, Oxford, pp. 245-269.
- Volpato, G., Godínez, D. 2006. Medicinal foods in Cuba: Promoting health in the household. In Pieroni, A. and L.L. Price (editors), *Eating and Healing: Traditional Food as Medicine*, Haworth Press, Binghamton, NY, USA, pp. 213-235.

Articles in Refereed Journals

- Volpato G., Benegiamo M., Ellena R. 2022. The long reach of commodity frontiers: social reproduction and food procurement strategies among migrant workers in Kenya's flower farms. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*.
- Volpato G., Ellena R. 2022. The relational and dynamic nature of biocultural diversity. Foods and gastronomic knowledge in multi-ethnic migrants' settlements in Naivasha, Kenya. *Food, Culture & Society*, 1-23.
- Delpero A., Volpato G. 2022. Integrated pond aquaculture and regional identity: ethnobiology of the golden humped tench of Poirino highlands, Northwest Italy. *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine* 18, 31.
- Volpato, G., Fontefrancesco, M.F., Gruppuso, P. et al. 2020. Baby pangolins on my plate: possible lessons to learn from the COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine* 16, 19.
- Zocchi, D.M., Volpato, G., Chalo, D. et al. 2020. Expanding the reach: ethnobotanical knowledge and technological intensification in beekeeping among the Ogiek of the Mau Forest, Kenya. *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine* 16, 57.
- Boscolo, A., Fontefrancesco M.F., Volpato G. 2020. La gastronomia della nutria: specie aliene, trasformazioni ambientali, ibridazioni culturali e sperimentazioni culinarie. *Antrocom Online Journal of Anthropology*, 16(1): 21-29.

- Volpato, G., King, E.G. 2019. From cattle to camels: trajectories of livelihood adaptation and social-ecological resilience in a Kenyan pastoralist community. *Regional Environmental Change*, 19, 849–865.
- Mattalia, G., Volpato, G., Corvo, P., Pieroni, A. 2018. Interstitial but resilient: Nomadic shepherds in Piedmont (Northwest Italy) amidst spatial and social marginalization. *Human Ecology*, 46(5):747-758.
- Volpato, G., Dioli, M., Di Nardo, A. 2017. Piebald camels. *Pastoralism*, 7
- Volpato, G., Di Nardo, A. 2017. The role of *Nucularia perrinii* Batt. (Chenopodiaceae) in the camel-based Sahrawi social-ecological system. *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine*, 13
- Volpato, G., Lamin Saleh, M.S., Di Nardo, A. 2015. Ethnoveterinary of Sahrawi pastoralists of Western Sahara: camel diseases and remedies. *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine*, 11
- Volpato, G., Howard, P. 2014. The material and cultural recovery of camels and camel husbandry among Sahrawi refugees of Western Sahara. *Pastoralism: Research, Policy and Practice*, 4(7).
- Volpato, G., Puri, R.K. 2014. Dormancy and revitalization: The fate of ethnobotanical knowledge of camel forage among Sahrawi nomads and refugees of Western Sahara. *Ethnobotany Research & Applications*, 12:183-210.
- Volpato, G., Waldstein, A. 2014. *Eghindi* among Sahrawi refugees of Western Sahara. *Medical Anthropology: Cross-Cultural Studies in Health and Illness*, 33(2):160-177.
- Volpato, G., Rossi, D., Dentoni, D. 2013. A reward for patience and suffering: Ethnomycology and commodification of desert truffles among Sahrawi refugees and nomads of Western Sahara. *Economic Botany*, 67(2): 147-160.
- Volpato, G., Di Nardo, A., Rossi, D., Saleh, S.M., Broglia, A. 2013. 'Everybody knows', but the rest of the world: The case of a caterpillar-borne reproductive loss syndrome in dromedary camels observed by Sahrawi pastoralists of Western Sahara. *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine*, 9:5.
- Volpato, G., Kourková, P., Zelený, V. 2012. Healing war wounds and perfuming exile: The use of vegetal, animal, and mineral products for perfumes, cosmetics, and skin healing among Sahrawi refugees of Western Sahara. *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine*, 8:49.
- Van Andel, T., Mitchell, S., Volpato, G., Vandebroek, I., Swier, J., Ruyschaert, S., Rentería Jiménez, C.A., Raes, N. 2012. In search of the perfect aphrodisiac: Parallel use of bitter tonics in West Africa and the Caribbean. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, 143:840-850.
- Volpato, G., Godínez, D., Beyra, A., Barreto, A., 2009. Uses of medicinal plants by Haitian immigrants and their descendants in the Province of Camagüey, Cuba. *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine*, 5:16.
- Volpato, G., Godínez, D., Beyra, A., 2009. Migration and ethnobotanical practices: The case of *tifey* among Haitian immigrants in Cuba. *Human Ecology*, 37:43-53.
- Godínez, D., Volpato, G. 2008. Plantas medicinales que se venden en el mercado El Río, Camagüey, Cuba [Medicinal plants that are sold in the market of El Río, Camagüey]. *Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad [Mexican Journal of Biodiversity]*, 79:243-259.
- Volpato, G., Godínez, D. 2004. Ethnobotany of pru, a traditional Cuban refreshment. *Economic Botany*, 58(3):381-395.
- Hernández, J., Volpato, G. 2004. Herbal mixtures in the traditional medicine of Eastern Cuba. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, 90:293-316.

- Volpato, G., R. Marcucci, N. Tornadore and M.G. Paoletti. 2004. Domestication process of two *Solanum* section *Lasiocarpa* species among Amerindians in the Upper Orinoco, Venezuela, with special focus on Piaroa Indians. *Economic Botany*, 58(2):184-194.
- Pieroni, A., Howard, P., Volpato, G., and R.F. Santoro. 2004. Natural remedies and nutraceuticals used in ethnoveterinary practices in inland Southern Italy. *Veterinary Research Communications*, 28:55-80.

REVIEWER FOR SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

- Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine (Editorial Board)
- Economic Botany
- Human Ecology
- Current Anthropology
- Population and Environment
- Ethnobotany Research & Applications
- Etnoecológica

CONFERENCES

- Oral presentation at ESA (Ecological Society of America) Annual Meeting 2016, August 7 - 12, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Title: Livelihood adaptation to climatic, ecological, and social transitions: Camel adoption among the Laikipia Maasai of Kenya. Authors: Volpato G, King E. URL: <https://eco.confex.com/eco/2016/webprogram/Paper59263.html>
- Oral presentation at the International Conference 'Taste of City Conference', September 1st 2016, Belgrade. Title: Taste and dignity in refugee camps: desert foods versus food aid among Sahrawi refugees of southwest Algeria. Author: Volpato G
- Participation as co-author to a presentation at ESA (Ecological Society of America) Annual Meeting 2017, August 6 – 11, Portland. Title: Coupling ecosystem services and human adaptive capacities in the study of livelihood transformations. Authors: King, E, Nelson, D, McGreevy, J, Volpato, G, German, L, Isbell, F. URL: <https://eco.confex.com/eco/2017/webprogram/Paper66088.html>
- Oral presentation at the Second Joint Meeting Société Zoologique de France and Unione Zoologica Italiana, Torino 18-23 September 2017. Title: Edible insects, the hidden crop of African agroecological systems. Author: Volpato, G