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Cristina Soraci

Curriculum vitae et studiorum

SSD 2024: STAN-01/B Storia romana, GSD 2024: 10/STAN-01 Storia greca e romana

Synopsis of the *Curriculum Vitae*

Professor Cristina Soraci has accumulated more than two decades of experience in research and teaching at the University of Catania.

Teaching Activities

- Since her appointment as Assistant Professor (February 2005), Professor Cristina Soraci has continuously taught courses offered by the University of Catania, not only at the Catania campus but also at the campuses of Piazza Armerina (for three years) and Syracuse (for two years). She has also taught Roman History at the Kore University of Enna (for two years). Most recently (see Department Council resolution of 16 June 2026), she agreed to deliver six undergraduate courses during the 2026/27 academic year, for a total of 180 teaching hours, prioritizing **core** and **characterizing** courses in accordance with the University Guidelines of 5 June 2026.
- She is the only member of the University of Catania teaching staff to offer a course in English within the field of Classical Studies (*History of Ancient Sicily*).
- As evidenced by student evaluations, Professor Soraci's teaching is particularly appreciated for its clarity of presentation and for its ability to stimulate interest in the subjects she teaches.
- She has delivered seminars for undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and postgraduate specialization students in Italian, French, German, and Spanish at several leading Italian and European universities. She has also organized foundation and remedial courses, as well as lectures and workshops within teacher-training programmes.
- She has served on examination boards for numerous academic disciplines, avoiding—except during the COVID-19 pandemic—the use of remotely administered online tests as a means of assessing student performance.

As an Assistant Professor, she waived remuneration for certain teaching activities (for example, the course in *History of Christianity* taught during the 2008/09 academic year) and did not request reimbursement of travel expenses for courses taught away from the main campus (such as those delivered in Syracuse for two years). Furthermore, she has never included her own publications among required course readings for personal financial benefit. In the case of the volume *Roman Sicily*, she transferred the copyright to the Department of Educational Sciences. Other publications included in course syllabi have always been distributed free of charge to students, made available in open access, or uploaded to the University of Catania's Studium platform.

Supplementary Teaching and Student Support Activities

- She has supervised a very large number of undergraduate and master's theses.
- She has organized numerous seminars for the benefit of students beyond the official teaching hours allocated to individual courses, including seminar series on the history of Ancient Sicily and the seminars organized during Autumn 2025.
- She served as academic tutor for students enrolled in the Degree Programme in Tourism Operator Training and in Tourism Studies and has been actively involved in both incoming and outgoing student guidance activities, including presentations of the Department's educational offer to secondary schools and career-orientation initiatives aimed at facilitating graduates' entry into the labour market.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, she designed and implemented several supplementary educational initiatives for students.

- She served as a member of the internship committees of the Degree Programmes in Tourism Operator Training, Tourism Studies, and Educational Sciences, acting as academic tutor for numerous internship pathways. She also served as Chair of the latter committee.
- She is currently responsible for six Erasmus agreements and acts as academic tutor for both incoming and outgoing Erasmus students.

Scientific Activities

- Professor Soraci has promoted and coordinated international academic exchanges with several European universities, fostering research cooperation, staff mobility, and the development of joint teaching and research activities.
- Among her most significant achievements is the conception, scientific direction, organization, and coordination of the international webinar series *Optimus Status Civitatis*, an academic initiative that has brought together scholars from prestigious universities and research institutions across different countries. The series has provided a forum for discussion on topics related to ancient history, society, economy, and law, enhancing the international visibility of her institution and promoting long-term academic networks. The programme attracts an average audience of approximately 280 participants per year (around 40 participants per webinar), including students, doctoral candidates, and, above all, academics from numerous Italian and international universities. Through this initiative, Professor Soraci has demonstrated strong leadership in fostering intellectual exchange and strengthening the international dimension of research and higher education. The webinar series has reached its fifth edition, while the sixth edition is currently in preparation.
- She is a member of the **EAEN – Engendering Ancient Economies Network** and belongs to several of the principal scholarly associations connected with the disciplinary area of Greek and Roman History.
- She serves as Editor-in-Chief of two academic book series:
    - *Bibliotheca Aperta – Studi di storia antica* (published by *L'Erma di Bretschneider*);
    - *Chiesa e società in Sicilia. Collana di studi e ricerche dell'Arcidiocesi di Catania* (published by Carocci).
- She previously served as Secretary of the Editorial Board of *Quaderni Catanesi di Studi Antichi e Medievali*. She is currently Managing Editor of the series *Analecta Humanitatis* and of the journal *Annali della Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione – Università di Catania*, a member of the Editorial Board of *IVRA*, and a member of the Scientific Boards of the series *DIVTVRNA CIVITAS* and the journal *ASSO*.
- She received the **"Principe della Cultura 2026" Award** in the category *Culture–History*. The award recognized the excellence of her research activity, the quality of her scientific communication, and the exemplary role she has played in promoting the values of honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility among younger generations.
- She has presented papers at a large number of national and international conferences, delivering contributions in Italian, English, and French.

Research Output

Professor Soraci's publications are widely cited by both Italian and international scholars. A preliminary indication of the impact of her research may be obtained from her Academia.edu profile, which records more than 52,000 views and over 800 citations and mentions.

Collaborative Agreements

Professor Soraci is currently responsible for three institutional collaboration agreements:

- with the Archaeological Park of the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento;
- with the Archdiocese of Catania;
- with the Italian Archaeoclub Association (*Archeoclub d'Italia*).

Third Mission and Public Engagement

Since 2005, Professor Soraci has carried out an intensive and continuous programme of Third Mission and public-engagement activities, aimed particularly at promoting the historical, archaeological, and cultural heritage of Ancient and Late Antique Sicily. She has delivered numerous public lectures, seminars, outreach activities, and guided visits at cultural institutions, associations, schools, third-sector organizations, and training bodies, addressing audiences ranging from primary and secondary school students to teachers and the wider public.

She has regularly participated in initiatives devoted to the dissemination of scientific culture, including the European Researchers' Night (*SHARPER*), and has been actively involved in student orientation programmes, teacher training, and projects promoting dialogue between schools, universities, and local communities.

She has also engaged in scientific communication through radio and television interviews, popular articles, and contributions to newspapers, magazines, and digital platforms, thereby disseminating research findings to a broader audience.

Particular prominence has been given to her initiatives concerning the figure of *Iulia Florentina* and the origins of Christianity in Sicily. These activities culminated in the scientific and outreach programmes associated with the return to Catania of the inscription formerly housed at the Louvre Museum. The initiative received extensive coverage in major regional and national media outlets and significantly contributed both to the promotion of local historical and cultural heritage and to strengthening the relationship between academic research and society.

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ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AND CAREER PROGRESSION

- On 5 November 2001, she was awarded a Degree in Classical Studies (*Laurea in Lettere Classiche*) by the University of Catania, graduating with full marks (110/110 *cum laude*) and receiving the distinction of publication recommendation (*dignità di stampa*) for her thesis in Roman History entitled *Alimenta between State Welfare and Christian Charity*.
- She was awarded a doctoral scholarship in *History of Mediterranean Europe from Antiquity to the Contemporary Age* (University of Potenza) and obtained her Ph.D. on 31 March 2005 with a dissertation entitled *The Granaries of Rome: A Study of Sicily in Cicero's Verrines (2.3) and of Egypt in the Imperial Period*.
- On 22 July 2004, she was appointed Researcher (SSD L-ANT/03 – Roman History) following a national competitive selection procedure. She was confirmed in this position with effect from 1 February 2008 (Rectoral Decree no. 10833, 10 October 2008). Since February 2005, she has served within the Faculty (now Department) of Educational Sciences at the University of Catania.
- On 28 October 2014, following the unanimous positive evaluation of the examination committee, she obtained the Italian National Scientific Qualification (*Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale*) for the position of Associate Professor in Ancient History (Academic Recruitment Field 10/D1).
- By Rectoral Decree no. 1198, protocol no. 44381, dated 29 March 2018, she was appointed Associate Professor in Ancient History (Academic Recruitment Field 10/D1; SSD L-ANT/03 – Roman History), with legal effect from 3 April 2018.
- On 19 September 2022, she obtained the Italian National Scientific Qualification for the position of Full Professor in Ancient History (Academic Recruitment Field 10/D1).

Membership in Scholarly Societies

- Italian University Council for Greek and Roman History (CUSGR);
- "Eugenio Manni" Sicilian Institute for Ancient History (ISSA);
- Society of Homeland History for Eastern Sicily (SSPSO);
- Constantinian Historical and Legal Academy (ASGC);
- Italian Archaeological School of Carthage (SAIC), Honorary Member.

Leadership and Management Activities

- Since June 2020, she has served as Editor-in-Chief of the book series *Bibliotheca Aperta – Studi di storia antica*, published by *L'Erma di Bretschneider* (peer-reviewed and made available in open access after a 12-month embargo period).
- From September 2020 to October 2024, she served as Vice-Director of the Catania branch of the association *Scienza & Vita*. Since 21 January 2025, she has held the position of Vice-Director of the Catania branch of *Movimento per la Vita*.
- Since 4 November 2024, she has served as Editor-in-Chief of the series *Chiesa e società in Sicilia. Collana di studi e ricerche dell'Arcidiocesi di Catania*, published by Carocci.
- Principal Investigator of the University Research Incentive Programme (PIA.CE.RI.) 2024–2026 project entitled *CLAP – Cities and Collective Learning Spaces: Transdisciplinary Perspectives* (*Città e spazi coLlettivi di APprendimento: prospettive trans-disciplinari*).

Collaboration Agreements

- She served as Principal Investigator and Academic Coordinator of a collaborative research agreement between the University of Catania and the Valley of the Temples Archaeological Park for research on Roman Sicily and the enhancement of the archaeological heritage of the city of Agrigento (2016–2018; renewed for the period 2018–2020).

- She is Principal Investigator and Academic Coordinator of a collaboration agreement with the Archdiocese of Catania (2025–2028), aimed at advancing historical research on the Christian presence in the Catania area within the framework of cultural heritage legislation.
- She is Principal Investigator and Academic Coordinator of a collaboration agreement between the University of Catania and the Archeoclub d'Italia concerning studies, excavations, and archaeological research on the acropolis and surrounding territory of Paternò (2026–2029).
- She is Principal Investigator and Academic Coordinator of a collaboration agreement between the University of Catania and the Valley of the Temples Archaeological Park concerning the history of Agrigento during the Roman period and the interpretation of the relevant literary, epigraphic, and documentary sources, within the framework of cultural heritage enhancement legislation (2026–2029).

Awards and Honors

- Professor Cristina Soraci was awarded the "Principe della Cultura 2026" Prize in the *Culture–History* category (Pozzallo, 29 May 2026). The award recognized the excellence of her scholarly research, the quality of her scientific communication, and the exemplary role she has played for younger generations in promoting the values of integrity, fairness, respect, and responsibility in professional practice.
  Further information:
  - University of Catania Magazine article
  - Interview in Prospettive.eu
  - TeleSud video report
  - Instagram reel
- Professor Cristina Soraci's commitment to the education of younger generations and to the promotion of historical knowledge had previously been recognized through the success of the student video project *The Brothers Who Escaped the Flames: The Story of Two Catanian Heroes*. Produced under her scientific supervision, the project won the 2024 edition of the national competition Scripta Legamus 2024.
  - Winning video project

Membership in Committees of Significant Importance

- By Mayoral Decree No. 115 of 25 June 2025, Professor Cristina Soraci was appointed a member of the Steering Committee established to support the nomination of the Feast of Saint Agatha as an item of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (*"The Feast of Saint Agatha in Catania"* UNESCO nomination).
  Relevant milestones:
  - Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (6 June 2025): University of Catania Magazine article
  - Establishment of the Steering Committee (30 June 2025): CataniaToday article
- By Decree No. 257, fol. 243, of 1 September 2025, Professor Cristina Soraci was appointed a member of the Diocesan Committee for the celebrations of the Ninth Centenary of the Translation of the Relics of Saint Agatha, within the *Cultural Activities and Events* section. She was entrusted with the organization of scientific conferences devoted to historical and art-historical studies on Saint Agatha and her cult from Late Antiquity to the contemporary era.

Academic Appointments and Service

- On 10 October 2018, Professor Cristina Soraci received the highest number of votes in the election of faculty representatives to the Joint Faculty–Student Committee (*Commissione Paritetica*) of the Department of Educational Sciences for the remainder of the 2016–2020

term. She was formally appointed to the Committee on 29 October 2018 (Rectoral Decree, Protocol No. 145802) and served until its renewal in November 2020.

- She also served on the Internship Committees of the degree programmes in *Training of Tourism Operators* (from the 2007/08 academic year until the programme was phased out; subsequently reappointed with the same responsibilities in the Degree Programme in Tourism Studies from the 2019/20 academic year until September 2023) and in *Educational and Training Sciences* (from the 2018/19 academic year until 31 October 2022). On 9 December 2021, she was appointed Chair of the latter Committee, a position she held until 31 October 2022.
- Since March 2024, she has served as the Director's Delegate for the journal *Annali della Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione – Università degli Studi di Catania*.
  Further information: Department of Educational Sciences – Director's Delegates
- Since 21 January 2025, she has been designated as the University of Catania representative within the AIME Network for the thematic area of *Digital Humanities*.

Research Funding

Principal Investigator of University Research Projects (PRA)

Professor Cristina Soraci served as Principal Investigator of the following University Research Projects (*Progetti di Ricerca d'Ateneo – PRA*):

1. *Sicily as a Roman Province* (Academic Year 2004–2005);
2. *Sicily from the First to the Fourth Century AD: Productivity, Commercial Exchange, and Contacts with Rome* (Academic Year 2006);
3. *Reciprocity and Conjugal Partnership in the Roman World* (Academic Year 2007);
4. *Historical and Comparative Reflections on the Term "Stipendiarius"* (Academic Year 2008).

Participation in Funded Research Projects

- Member of the 2014 FiR (*University Research Funding*) project: *BD-Rom – Digital Romanistic Library. Electronic Archive of Romanistic Literature, Volumes IV and V*.
- Recipient of funding under the 2017 FFABR (*Fund for the Financing of Basic Research Activities*), awarded on the basis of the evaluation of her scientific publications.
- Member of the 2017–2018 FiRD (*Departmental Research Funding*) project: *Political-Institutional, Economic, and Socio-Cultural Relations in the Mediterranean from Antiquity to the Contemporary Age*.
- Member of the 2020–2022 PIA.CE.RI. (*University Research Incentive Plan*) project: *A.Ma.Vi. – Male Authority and Female Experiences between History and Psychology*.
- Member of the PRIN 2022 Project entitled *Municipal Promotions in Africa Proconsularis and Numidia between Caesar and Gallienus: Institutions, Society, Economy* (Principal Investigator: Antonio Ibba, University of Sassari), funded by Ministerial Decree No. 722 of 25 May 2023.
- Principal Investigator of the 2024–2026 PIA.CE.RI. project: *CLAP – Cities and Collective Learning Spaces: Transdisciplinary Perspectives* (*Città e spazi coLlettivi di APprendimento: prospettive trans-disciplinari*).

Maternity Leave

Professor Cristina Soraci took five periods of maternity leave:

- 27 April 2009 – 26 September 2009;
- 8 March 2011 – 6 August 2011;
- 17 April 2014 – 26 September 2014;
- 26 October 2016 – 26 March 2017;
- 23 January 2019 – 22 June 2019.

These periods were duly taken into account for the purposes of the Italian National Scientific Qualification (*Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale – ASN*). However, they were not considered in the rankings drawn up in January 2023 by the Department of Educational Sciences for the recruitment of Full Professors.

Professor Soraci subsequently contributed to the public debate on the relationship between academic careers and parenthood. Her reflections were featured in an interview published by *SudPress* (3 March 2024: https://www.sudpress.it/destinazione-news/post/223895/gestire-la-maternit%C3%A0-nel-contesto-lavorativo:-lapproccio-di-una-madre-modernadi-5-figli) and in an article published in *Avvenire* (5 May 2024: https://www.academia.edu/115706582/La_genitorialit%C3%A0_%C3%A8_veramente_valorizzata_Riflessioni_di_una_docente_universitaria_pluri_mamma_tra_proclami_accademici_e_realt%C3%A0_quotidiana).