

CV

Eleonora Rai, Ph.D
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PERSONAL INFORMATION

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6851-5797>

Date of birth: May 4th, 1986

Nationality: Italian

M-STO/02 - STORIA MODERNA

EDUCATION

01/01/2011-20/03/2014

PhD in Studi Storici e Documentari (età medievale, età moderna, età contemporanea), i.e. Historical and Documentary Studies (Middle Ages, Early Modern Age, Contemporary Age), granted by the *University of Milan*, (IT), and in **Histoire, Textes, Documents**, i.e. History, Texts, Documents granted by the *École pratique des hautes études* (FR): fully funded PhD joint program, Italy-France. Final Grade: *Magna cum Laude*

08/10/2008-05/07/2010

Master of Arts in History, University of Milan (IT). 110/110 cum laude

29/08/2005-16/07/2008

Bachelor of Arts in History, University of Milan (IT). 110/110 cum laude

CURRENT POSITION

20/12/2022 – Present

Assistant Professor in Early Modern History (RtdA), University of Turin (MUR Young Researchers SoE)

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

04/03/2019 – 19/12/2022

Research Associate (previously Postdoctoral Researcher), KU Leuven (B), Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, Research Unit History of Church and Theology (analysis of modern Jesuit theological disputes; FWO project G044621N)

01/03/2018-28/02/2019

Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Turin (IT), Faculty of Philosophy and Educational Sciences, ERC StG NeMoSanctI (analysis of modern legal texts and procedures of canonization)

20/06/2016-19/06/2017

Research Associate, The University of Western Australia (AU), Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions (“Jesuit Emotions” Project)

01/07/2015-30/06/2016

Postdoctoral Researcher, *Fondazione Fratelli Confalonieri* (IT) (study of Jesuit communication techniques in missions, 1600s-1700s)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2023

Compagnia di San Paolo (40000 EUR), grant for producing a historical documentary on sanctity

2022

MUR Young Researchers SoE (150000 EUR)

2022

Trapezio Grant from **Compagnia di San Paolo** (183473 EUR. Renounced)

2021

Research Grant from Research Foundation–Flanders (**FWO**), project G044621N “‘Knocking on Heaven’s Doors.’ Free will, money, and emotions in the theological systems of Leonard Lessius and Luis de Molina (late 16th-early 17th century)” (452250 EUR) (PI Wim François, Postdoc Eleonora Rai)

- 2017 The University of Western Australia, **Research Collaboration Award 2017**, Chief Investigator (23450 AUD) (PI John Kinder)
- 2017 **Associate Investigator Scheme 2017**—Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions (4000 AUD)
- 2016 **Travel Bursary** (2500 AUD) from the ARC Centre of Excellence for the conference *Emotions: Movement, Cultural Contact and Exchange*, 30th June–2nd July 2016, Berlin, Germany
- 2015 **Associate Investigator Scheme 2015**—Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions (3000 AUD)
- 2013 **Borsa di Studio—Centro Universitario Cattolico** (7000 €)
- 2009 **Premio NED 2009**—award for my Church history BA thesis (400 EUR)

CASUAL WORK

144 hours (in the period 20/06/2017–24/12/2017)

Casual Research Fellow Grade 1, Deakin University (AU), Faculty of Business and Law (assisting J. Taliadoros’ research for sources on the Church’s response to child abuse in the Middle Ages)

SUPERVISION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

15/07/2021–Present

Member of the supervisory committee for Shiri Roelofs’s PhD thesis *The early modern law and morality of the financial market. An in-depth analysis of Robertus Bellarminus’ and Leonardus Lessius’ teachings and writings ‘On Justice ad Law’* (KU Leuven)

01/02/2023–Present

Co-tutor of Federico Bonansea’s PhD thesis “Chiesa romana, chiese ispaniche e schiavitù atlantica. Pastorale e teologia di gesuiti e cappuccini fra XVII e XVIII secolo: alcuni casi di studio

22/02/2023–Present

Co-tutor of Marco Fassio’s MA thesis “Sante vive e affettata santità. Santità ed eresia in età moderna” (University of Turin)

22/01/2021–17/05/2022

Advisor and evaluator of Christopher Morris’s BA thesis “How does martyrdom of John Ogilvie reflect both the religious and political tensions of 17th century Scotland, and ways in which those tensions continue to be reflected in the culture of Scottish Catholicism?” (KU Leuven/Oscott College, UK)

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

25/09/2019–18/12/2019

Instructor for *The Crisis of Religion and the Problem of Roman Catholic Self-Definition* (KU Leuven, Research MA)—Belgium

01/09/2015–30/11/2015

Tutor for the subjects *Latin II; Myth, Art and Empire: Greece and Rome; Anthropology*; and *Greek I*, **Newman College** (residential college associated to the University of Melbourne)—Australia

15/09/2010–22/12/2015

Culture della materia—Member of the oral exam committee of *History of Church* (BA-MA) and *History of Christianity and Churches in the Early Modern and Contemporary Age* (MA), **University of Milan**—Italy

ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

Since January 2023

Member of organizational committee of Trivia (book presentation series), University of Turin

11/05/2023–13/05/2023

Organizer (with Wim François et al.) of the 12th Annual Reforc Conference 2023 (Leuven)

15/12/2021–17/12/2021

Organizer (with E. Frei) of *Profiling Saints. Understanding the Theological and Cultural Foundations of Catholic Hagiographical Models (1500s–*

1900s)—**On-line international conference**

14/03/2017-15/03/2017

Rai E., *La ‘Gran Macchina della Santità’. Strategie di canonizzazione da Pio IX a Giovanni Paolo II (1846-2005) and La Compagnia Martire. La fabbrica dei santi gesuiti tra Soppressione e Restaurazione (XIX secolo)*, Fondazione Firpo, Torino (IT), seminars **organized** with F. Motta

REVIEWING ACTIVITIES

01/08/2016-08/12/2016

Editorial Assistant at *Cromohs - Cyber Review of Modern Historiography*

29/04/2020-12/05/2020

Peer Reviewer of one article for *Studies in Church History*

2016

Rai E., **review** of E. Fontana Castelli, *Marianna d’Asburgo Lorena. Protagonista di una storia rimossa*, Gabrielli, Verona 2015 in *Archivum Historicum Societatis Iesu* 85, 170 (2016 II), 584-588

2015

Rai E., **review** of Christopher M. S. Johns, *The Visual Culture of Catholic Enlightenment* (University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2015) in *Journal of Religious History* 42(1), 138-140

2014

Rai E., **review** of E. Corp, *I giacobiti a Urbino (1717-1718). La corte in esilio di Giacomo III re d’Inghilterra*, Italian edition by Tommaso di Carpegna Falconieri, Il Mulino, Bologna 2013 in *Cromohs* 19 (2014), 173-180

MAJOR COLLABORATIONS

1. With **F. Motta** and **Michela Catto** (**University of Turin**, Italy), dissemination projects on therapeutical sanctity - ongoing
2. *Chiesa Cattolica e modelli di santità. Il martirio tra tardo medioevo ed età contemporanea*, led by **P. Giovannucci** (**University of Padua**, Italy) - ongoing
3. With **W. François** (**KU Leuven**, Belgium) and **W. Decock** (**UC Louvain**, Belgium), Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO), project G044621N “‘Knocking on Heaven’s Doors.’ Free will, money, and emotions in the theological systems of Leonard Lessius and Luis de Molina (late 16th - early 17th century)” - ongoing
4. *Vocazioni Illustri Project*, led by **P. Giovannucci** (**University of Padua**, Italy), on archival records on Jesuit vocations (ARSI, Hist. Soc. 176-177, *Vocationes Illustres*) - concluded
5. With **E. Colombo** (DePaul University, US), *Indipetae Project*: creation of online database of Jesuit archival sources, Boston College, Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies, US - concluded

CAREER BREAKS

15/06/2020-28/09/2020

Maternity leave

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

PEER REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES

Rai E., “Il sacrificio della carne. Donne a immagine di Cristo (XIX-XX secolo),” *Storicamente* 18 (2022), 1-37

Motta, F., **Rai, E.** “The Birth of Modern Sanctity: The 1622 Canonizations,” *Journal of Early Modern Christianity*, 9.2 (2022): 171-174

Motta F., **Rai E.**, “Jesuit Sanctity: Hypothesizing the Continuity of a Hagiographic Narrative of the Modern Age,” introduction to *The Factory of Jesuit Saints. Re-thinking ‘sainthood’ in Religious and Cultural History (16th-20th centuries)*, special issue of the *Journal of Jesuit Studies* 9 (2022), 1-14

Motta F., **Rai E.**, “Martyrs and Missionaries: Strategies of Jesuit Sainthood Between Suppression and Restoration (From the Seventeenth to the Twentieth Centuries),” in *The Factory of Jesuit Saints. Re-thinking ‘sainthood’ in Religious and Cultural History (16th-20th centuries)*, special issue of the *Journal of Jesuit Studies* 9 (2022), 95-124

Rai E., “A Strange Case of Co-Authorship. Humana industria, the Holy Spirit, and the Inspiration of the Scriptures according to Leonard Lessius (1500s-1800s),” *Annali di Storia dell’Esegesi*, 38.2 (2021), 407-436,

Rai E., “Spargere il sangue per Cristo. La vocazione al martirio missionario come elemento di identità gesuitica. Il caso di John Ogilvie (1579-1615),” *Rivista Storica Italiana*, 132.3 (2020), 1011-1031

Rai E., “Ex Meritis Praevis. Predestination, Grace, and Free Will in intra-Jesuit controversies (1587-1613),” *Journal of Early Modern Christianity*, 7.1 (2020), 111-150

Rai E., “Prophecies, eschatology, and the fall of the Pope. The prophetesses of Pusiano and the crisis of the Roman Church (19th century),” *Studi e Materiali di Storia delle Religioni*, 85.2 (2019), 709-723

Rai E., “La legge e il martirio. Morte e normativa nel processo di canonizzazione del “protomartire” gesuita Antonio Crimalini (XVI–XX secolo),” *LEXIA. Rivista di semiotica*, 31-32 (2019), 205-224

Ponzo J., **Rai E.**, “Heroicity and sanctity in Catholic thought from early modern to contemporary age,” *Ocula* (Dec. 2019), 1-26

Rai E., “«Come le Anime del Purgatorio». Le Emozioni dell’Attesa nelle *Indipetae* Italiane durante il Generalato di Jan Roothaan,” *Ricerche di Storia Sociale e Religiosa*, 88 (2017), 67-88

Rai E., “Between Augustine and Pelagius: Leonard Lessius in the Leuven Controversies, from 1587 to the 20th century,” *Journal of Baroque Studies* 4.1 (2016), 79-106

Rai E., “The ‘Odor of Sanctity’. Veneration and Strategies in Leonard Lessius’s Cause for Beatification (seventeenth-twentieth centuries),” *Journal of Jesuit Studies* 3.2, 2016, 238-258

Rai E., “All’ombra della Santa Parola. Dio, il Diavolo e il XIX secolo,” *Ricerche storiche sulla Chiesa Ambrosiana*, 31 (2013), 203-230

Rai E., “L’apocalittica come spiegazione ai «mali» del XIX secolo. Il caso di Giacomo Maria Montini (1874),” *Ricerche storiche sulla Chiesa Ambrosiana*, 27 (2009), 167-190

RESEARCH MONOGRAPH

Rai E., *La Santa Parola. Le veggenti di Pusiano e i loro seguaci* (Milan: Edizioni Biblioteca Francescana 2013) (215 p.) [ISBN] 978-88-7962-201-1. [The book retraces an unstudied case of **female simulation of sanctity** at the crossroads of politics, eschatology, and religious sentiment in the Italian 19th century]

Rai E., “*Knockin’ on Heaven’s Door.*” *The power of free will and the price of sanctity: Leonard Lessius (1500s–1900s)*—**forthcoming** Brepols 2023

CHAPTERS IN COLLECTIVE VOLUMES

Frei E., **Rai E.**, “Fantastic saints and where to find them: Why does Sanctity Matter? Preface to Profiling Saints,” *Profiling Saints Images of Modern Sanctity in a Global World*, Frei E., Rai E. eds (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2023), 13-19

Motta F., **Rai E.**, “The Birth of Modern Sanctity: The 1622 Canonizations,” preface to the special issue of the *Journal of Early Modern Christianity* 9.2 (2022), “Pillars of a Sacred World. The 1622 Canonizations and the Rise of Modern Catholic Sanctity

Rai E., Vanysacker D., “Early Modern Jesuit Spirituality and the Body: from Games and Sport to Diet,” in ‘*Hoghe minne es deen vor dander.*’ *Essays on the Christian Mystical Tradition in Honour of RF*, Arblaster J. et al., eds. (Brepols BRHE, **forthcoming 2023**)

Rai E., “Religious emotions in Italian *indipetae*. Novel perspectives of investigation on the desire for Indies in the Restored Society,” in *Litterae indipetae. Una fonte lunga cinque secoli*, Imbruglia G., Fabre P.-A. and Mongini G., eds. (Rome: Institutum Historicum Societatis Iesu), 230-237

Rai E., “God (fore)knows it all. Leonard Lessius and Luis de Molina: a silent story in the Age of intra-Jesuit soteriological debates (1580s-1610s),” in *Nos sumus tempora. Studies on Augustine and his reception offered to Mathijs Lamberigts*, Dupont A., François W., Leemans J., eds. (Leuven: Peeters, 2020), 499-516

Rai E., “A ‘martyred’ Society: the suffering of Suppression and the Jesuit factory of Saints (18th-20th centuries),” in *Narratives and Representations of Suffering, Failure and Martyrdom: Early Modern Catholicism Confronting de Adversities of History*, ed. Cohen L. (Lisbon: Catholic University of Portugal, 2020), 265-287

Rai E., “Spotless mirror, martyred Heart: The Heart of Mary in Jesuit devotions (17th-18th centuries),” in *The Feeling Heart in Medieval and Early Modern Europe: Meaning, Embodiment, and Making*, ed. Barclay K. and Reddan B., (Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter 2019), 184-202

EDITED VOLUMES

Motta F., **Rai E.**, *The Factory of Jesuit Saints. Re-thinking ‘sainthood’ in Religious and Cultural History (16th-20th centuries)*, *Journal of Jesuit Studies* 9 (2022)

Motta F., **Rai E.**, special issue of the *Journal of Early Modern Christianity* 9.2 (2022), “Pillars of a Sacred World. The 1622 Canonizations and the Rise of Modern Catholic Sanctity”

Frei E., **Rai E.**, “Profiling Saints. Images of Modern Sanctity in a Global World,” *Refo500 Academic Studies* (Gottingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2023)

TRANSLATIONS

Rai E., translation of Paola Vismara (**French to English**) “Moral Economy and the Jesuits,” *Journal of Jesuit Studies* 5.4 (2018): 610-630

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Rai E., Motta F., “Strategie di santità. La politica delle canonizzazioni dei gesuiti fra antica e nuova Compagnia (XVII-XX secolo),” in *A la Lux de Roma. Santos y Santidad en el Barroco Iberoamericano*, ed. Quiles García F. et al. (Rome: Pablo de Olavide, Roma Tre and Centro di Studi sulla Cultura e l’Immagine di Roma, 2020), 91-106

Rai E., “Il santo e l’eretico: attribuzione di santità e controversie teologiche nei documenti di Sant’Ufficio e Indice. Il caso di Leonardo Lessio (XVII-XX secolo),” in *L’inquisizione romana e i suoi archivi. A vent’anni dall’apertura dell’ACDF*, ed. A. Cifres (Roma: Gangemi editore 2019), 205-224

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

Rai E., *Angela Isacchi* and *Teresa Isacchi*, entries for “Ereticopedia”, on-line dictionary <http://www.ereticopedia.org/angela-isacchi>

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS AND SEMINARS

Rai E., plenary lecture “The salvation of the soul: Leonard Lessius’ theology of freedom and moral economy (1554-1623)”, Reforc Conference 2023, 11-13 May 2023, Leuven, **invited**

Rai E., with Michela Catto and Franco Motta, “Jesuit in law. Witchcraft, sanctity, and rites (1500s-1700s),” Toronto Jesuit History Research Group, 17th March 2023 (online), **invited**

Rai E., with Franco Motta, presentation of “Jesuits and sanctity,” special issue of the *Journal of Jesuit Studies* 9.1 (2022), Motta F. and Rai E. eds., at the online seminar series “Histoire des missions d’évangélisation” organized by P.-A. Fabre, M. Trento and H. Vu-Thanh, **invited**

Rai E., two lectures at the Summer School “Jesuit Heritage: Sanctity, Hagiography, Iconography”, titled: *Sanctity in the Society of Jesus: An Introduction and The Canonizations of Ignatius of Loyola and Francis Xavier, the first Jesuit Saints*, University of Antwerp, BE (online), 5th September 2022, **invited**

Frai E., **Rai E.**, *Unsuccessful ‘Saints’ of the Society of Jesus: Antonio Crimalini & Leonard Lessius (16th-20th centuries)*, University of Toronto, Canada (online), 28th January 2022, **invited**

Rai E., *Non Esiste l’Amore senza il Dolore. Donne e Stigmate nel Novecento Italiano*, University of Macerata, IT (online), 8th April 2022, **invited**

Rai E., *Anime Espianti. Martirio della Carne e Affettata Santità (secoli XIX–XX)*, University of Turin, IT (online), 29th April 2022, **invited**

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Rai E., *‘Knocking on Heaven’s Doors.’ Free will, money, and emotions in the theological systems of L. Lessius and L. de Molina (late 16th-early 17th century)*, 22nd April 2021, KU Leuven, BE, (online), **invited**

Rai E., *Leonard Lessius, Luis de Molina and God's Predestination. The Silent Story of a Soteriological Intra-Jesuit Debate (16th-17th Centuries)*, LECTIO conference *True Warriors? Negotiating Dissent in the Intellectual Debate (c. 1100-1700)*, 12th December, KU Leuven, BE, 2019, **call for papers**

Rai E., *At the expense of God? Leonard Lessius' 'anthropology' of Grace and Inspiration of the Scriptures (1554-1623)*, at *Sixteenth Century Society and Conference*, Saint-Louis, MO, USA, 17th October 2019, **call for papers**

Rai E. (with Motta F.), *Strategie di santità. La politica delle canonizzazioni nella Compagnia di Gesù restaurata (XIX-XX secolo)*, Università di Roma Tre, IT, at the conference *A la luz de Roma. Santos y santidad en el barroco iberoamericano*, 18th-20th September 2018, **invited**

Rai E., (with Ponzo J. and Rochini M.), *Curia Romana e comunità locali nella modellizzazione della santità (XVI-XX secolo)*, 23rd May 2018, University of Turin, IT, seminar, **invited**

Rai E., *Il santo e l'eretico: attribuzione di santità e controversie teologiche nei documenti di Sant'Ufficio e Indice. Il caso di Leonardo Lessio (XVII-XX secolo)*, at the conference *L'inquisizione romana e i suoi archivi. A vent'anni dall'apertura dell'ACDF*, IT, 15-17 maggio 2018, **invited**

Rai E., *A virtual community. Exile, Suppression and Jesuit rebirth in José Pignatelli's correspondence and life (1737-1811)*, at the conference *Prison/Exile. Controlled Spaces in Early Modern Europe*, 10th-11th March 2017, University of Oxford, UK, **call for papers**

Rai E., *The power of Words. Paolo Segneri Senior's Quaresimale and Giampietro Pinamonti's Il Sacro Cuore di Maria Vergine*, at the conference *Anzameds*, 7th-10th February 2017, Wellington, NZ, **call for papers**

Rai E., *The emotions of Conversion: Visual Techniques and Preaching in Paolo Segneri Senior's Missions (1655-1694)* at the conference *Emotions: Movement, Cultural Contact and Exchange*, 30th June-2nd July 2016, Berlin, D, **call for papers**

Rai E., *Feeling the Passion of Christ. Visual Objects and Emotions in Paolo Segneri Senior's and Leonardo of Porto Maurizio's Italian missions (1665-1750)* at the conference *Religious Materiality and Emotion*, University of Adelaide, 16th-18th February 2016, AU, **call for papers**

Rai E., *Learning About Salvation: Sin and Hope in the Leuven Controversies (1587)* at the conference *Passions for Learning in Religious Perspective*, ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions (Europe 1100-1800), The University of Western Australia, AU, 5th-6th November 2015, **invited**

Rai E., *The desire for holiness. The New Society of Jesus and the quest for sainthood (19th-20th centuries)*, The University of Western Australia, School of Humanities, 4th November 2015, AU, seminar, **invited**

Rai E., *'Il male del Paradiso': Women, Stigmata and the Simulation of Sanctity in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Italy*, The University of Western Australia, 28th October 2015, AU, seminar, **invited**

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Rai E., Interview for *Window Light*: "The Counter-Reformation Jesuit Theologian Leonard Lessius, on Free Will and Predestination", 9th June 2023, accessible via <https://windowlight.substack.com/p/interview-eleonora-rai>