

## Achim Alan de MERLO

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### Education

- 4/2019 Exchange program at the Graduate Program in Global Studies, Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan.
- 9/2016 -Admitted Doctoral Program, Department of International History and Politics, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland.
- 6/2006 Certificate in cinema studies, University of Melbourne, Australia.
- 9/2005 MS in Geopolitics obtained, University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France.
- 9/2003 -Admitted Master program, University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France.
- 9/2002 MA in History, Society and Civilisation obtained, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium.
- 9/2001 -Admitted Master Program, European Institute, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium.
- 7/1999 BA (Hons) Politics and Sociology obtained, the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom.
- 9/1998 Exchange program at the Faculty of Social Science, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany.
- 9/1996 -Admitted Bachelor of social science program, the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom.
- 7/1994 Certificate in International business development, Profingest Business School, Bologna, Italy.
- 1/1990 Italian Army's Officer Candidates School, followed by 3 years of mountain infantry officer service. (current rank captain).

### Teaching and Academic experience summary

- 1/2020 - German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo. Visiting research fellow.
- 9/2016 - 4/2019 Graduate Institute for international and Development Studies, Geneva. Different academic positions as PhD

	candidate employment: student admissions office assistant, library clerk, graduate students recruitment evaluator for the interdisciplinary master program. Board member of the students professional development committee.
8/2010 - 8/2012	American University of Central Asia Assistant professor, department of European Studies. Courses: political science, European history, European Integration, media & European cinema studies, cultural & natural heritage, intercultural communication, eco-tourism ethics and development, internship & career preparation course. State exam course in French language. Academic advisor for sophomore students, department recruitment committee member. English and French as a Medium of Instruction
8/2010 -12/2010	Kyrgyz National University Assistant professor: Institute of International Relations. Courses “The EU relations toward the CIS and Central Asia, beyond a strategy” and “The EU-Asia relations”. English as a Medium of Instruction.
3/2010 - 6/2010	Bishkek Humanities University Lecturer: Faculty of western civilization. Course “History of European civilization”. English as a Medium of Instruction.

### Practitioner experience

#### **Full Time**

10/2014-6/2016	United Nations United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire (UNOCI), Abidjan. Peacekeeping Operations Officer at the Joint Operations Centre of UNOCI.
2/2008 - 7/2010	United Nations United Nations Development Program in the Kyrgyz Republic (UNDP), Bishkek. Country Programme Officer, head of the UN Volunteers program in Kyrgyzstan.
3/2007 - 7/2007	Centre for Development Studies and Development Promotion (DESCO), Lima. Mission to Peru as expert in sustainable tourism development, Community

Based Tourism (CBT), tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Fieldwork with the indigenous communities of the Oxapampa region.

10/2004 - 7/2005 United Nations  
 United Nations Educational and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Paris.  
 Resident Consultant (P3 grade) at the World Heritage Centre.  
 Delivered Cultural Heritage training programs in Sub-Saharan Africa (Chad, Gabon, Mozambique, Mali and Niger)  
 Assessment missions to Eastern Africa cultural heritage sites (Kenya, Ethiopia).

8/2000 - 08/2004 European Resource Centre for Restructuring and Development (CERRM), Brussels.  
 Program Assistant (entry level 8/2000)  
 Project Manager (from 9/2001)  
 Contracted Expert (from 12/2003)

4/2003 - 7/2003 Council of Europe, Strasbourg.  
 Technical Assistance Unit for Cultural Heritage  
 Programme assistant dispatched by the CERRM (above)

2/2000 - 7/2000 Council of the European Union, Brussels.  
 Education, Culture and Audio-visual policy department  
 Blue book in-service training

9/1999 - 1/2000 International Coalition for Development Action (ICDA), Brussels.  
 Intern (communication & conference organization)

**Part-Time**

10/2015 - 4/2016 Part-time monitor / evaluator for the Japanese public channel in English language “NHK World” (Activity performed from Africa by satellite programming). Beginner level: Japanese (Spring program, Sophia University, Tokyo)

### **Professional Research Associations and Societies**

- 2015 Member of the Italian Society for the International Organisation (till 4/2017)
- 2018 Member of the European Association of Development Research Institutes (EADI)
- 2020 Member of the European Union Studies Association of Japan (EUSA-Japan)
- 2020 Member of the University Association for Contemporary European Studies (UACES)
- 2021 Member of the European Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand (ESAANZ)
- 2021 Member of the European International Studies Association (EISA)
- 2021 Member of the Global Research Network (GRN)
- 2021 Appointed Academic Board Member of the China and East Asia Studies Initiative (CEAS)
- 2021 Appointed Governing Council Member of the Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe (FJME).

### **Awards**

- 1996 Birmingham City Council - Local Education Authority Scholarship (awarded 3 times)
- 1998 "Francis Brett" research grant of the University of Birmingham for fieldwork in Venezuela
- 2011 Faculty research grants by the American University of Central Asia (granted 3 times)
- 2018 Excellence scholarships of the Graduate Institute (awarded 3 times)
- 2019 Exchange scholarship of the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO)
- 2019 "Pierre du Bois" Foundation research travel grant to Japan
- 2019 "Henri Rieben" research grant of the Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe
- 2020 "Vibeke Sørensen" research grant of the Historical Archives of the European Union

## Research Experience

### I. Publications

#### **【Peer-reviewed Academic Journal Papers】**

1. MERLO A. BEORD T. (2017) “Orientalism in celluloid, the productions of the crazy years 1921-‘29” Social Research and Management Journal (SMRJ) Vol. 14 (2) Dec. 2017.
2. MERLO A. (2021) “The notion of Africa and the European identity evolution within EU official documentation since 1973 to the Nineties” The Greater European Magazine Volume 1, Issue 2, summer 2021.

#### **【Peer-reviewed Articles】**

1. “Cut in Tariffs likely to cut more forests”
2. “ACP-EU relations, going ahead with a new Lomé Convention”
3. “Seattle 1999, the contradictions of Globalisation”
4. “Food Security and the WTO”
5. “Animal Welfare”
6. “Estonia, changing gender realities in the job market”
7. “Eco Labels Sticking in Germany”
8. “Bending the EU banana import regime”
9. “An ambition EU-Mexico free trade agreement”  
Published by ICDA Update, issue N.16, Brussels 2000.
10. MERLO A. "Ecotourism development in the district of Villa Rica, Oxapampa" original title “El desarrollo eco-turístico en el distrito de Villa-Rica, Oxapampa” “Raicés” magazine, issue May, June, Peru 2007

## II. International conferences

### 【Oral Presentations】

1. “The UN Security Council” during the UN simulation exercise at the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Academy, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan 2010/4/20 - 4pm.
2. “The problem of migrations: consequences on the economic and social aspects” original title “Le problème des migrations: conséquences sur l'économie et les aspects sociaux” lecture in French language during the CIFE Summer University 2013 at the Bioterra University in Slobozia, Romania 2013/07/16 - 10am.
3. “Cultural heritage and the cultural landscape” original title “Patrimonio cultural y el paisaje cultural” Public lecture in Spanish language for the local eco-tourism development of the Monleras village, province of Salamanca in Spain 2014/8/24 - 6pm.
4. “Liberalism and anti-systemic movements” during the Europeum Graduate Workshop at the Charles University in Prague 2017/2/16 - 11.45am.
5. “Jean Monnet, inspiration in action” during the International Students of History Association (ISHA) Conference at the University of Lausanne 2017/6/30 - 2.30pm.
6. “The “mistero della continuità” - Caesarism from the Roman Republic to the cinematic Fascist propaganda in “Scipione l'Africano” (1937)” during the Annual Europeum Classics Colloquium at the University of Bologna 2017/11/23 - 5.15pm.
7. “The notion of Africa and the European identity evolution within EU official documentation since 1973” during the Europeum Oxford Spring School 2021/4/22 -3.30pm.

8. “Invading boundaries, international sanctions, media and conflict narratives in and around Crimea”, Conference: “Beyond Borders and Boundaries: Europe, Eurasia and Asia” European Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand (ESAANZ) at the University of Melbourne 2021/11/26 -10.45am.
9. “How western media framed sanctions against Russia as a source of conflict” 10th Eurasian Peace Science Conference “Peace Science in Times of Pandemic” at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2022/01/13 - 10am.
10. “Visions, Values and Venues, the idea of Europe on the way to the Maastricht Treaty (1985-1993)”, Workshop: “The 30 years of the Maastricht Treaty” at ESSCA School of Management & EU\*Asia Institute, Angers, 8 February 2022 .
- 11 “Conceptualizing EU-Central Asia relations outside the Chinese BRI narrative: theoretical and geopolitical approach as a world system”, Workshop: “The European Union in Central Asia: An Uninvited Guest in China’s and Russia’s Backyard” at the University of Groningen, 20 May 2022.

### **III. Others**

#### **Projects documents as author:**

- 1-“EU-CHINA Cities Network on Coal Areas Restructuring and Local Sustainable Development – European Union Asia-Urbs program” CERRM, Brussels 2002.
2. “The options for bilateral relations and cooperation between the Lorraine French region and the Hubei Chinese Province” Proposition for a decentralised cooperation by the Regional Council of Lorraine to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France” CERRM, Brussels 2003.

3. "Portfolio of cooperation projects between the Chinese Province of Hubei and the French Lorraine Region in the framework of the European Union cooperation program Asia-China" CERRM, Brussels 2003.
4. "Terms of reference for the Integrated Rehabilitation Project Plan / Survey of the architectural and archaeological heritage (IRPP/SAAH) – Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South East Europe 2003 - 2005" Council of Europe, Strasbourg 2003.
5. "Terms of Reference for the Local Development Pilot Projects (LDPP) - Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South East Europe 2003 - 2005" Council of Europe, Strasbourg 2003.
6. "Sustainable tourism development for local mountain communities in Eastern Africa: Mount Rwenzori, Mount Kenya, Mount Kilimanjaro, Sirmen Massive" UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris 2005.
7. "Orientation document and ecotourism development plan for the municipality of Villa Rica" original title "Documento de orientación y plan de desarrollo eco-turístico por la municipalidad distrital de Villa Rica, Oxapampa" DESCO, Lima 2007.
8. "Strengthening Kyrgyzstan's capacity to address Disaster Risk Reduction strategies and Mitigation at the Community Level through the volunteer medium" UNV, Bishkek 2008.
9. "Volunteerism for cultural heritage and poverty reduction in local communities" UNESCO National Commission, Bishkek 2008.
10. "Improve living conditions in Uranium Tailings-affected areas of Kyrgyzstan by strengthening participatory community development through the volunteer medium" UNV, Bishkek 2009.



11. “Strengthening school students' capacity to address environmental land resources as mitigation factor for disaster risk prevention” UNV, Bishkek 2009.
12. “Vulnerability reduction by enhancing awareness and capacity to disaster risk management” UNDP, Bishkek 2009.
13. “Community based development in the Uranium Tailings affected settlements of Kyrgyzstan” original title “Развитие  
общинных сообществ на территории урановых хвостохранилищ Кыргызстана” UNDP, Bishkek 2009.
14. “Awareness raising and capacity building in waste recycling for urban households, companies and schools” UNDP, Bishkek 2010.

**Projects documents as co-author:**

1. “Operationalizing Good Governance for Social Justice” European Union / United Nations Joint Programme, Bishkek 2008.
2. “Rehabilitation of Kyrgyzstan’s Riparian Forests” UNV, UNDP, Bishkek 2009.
3. “Raising cross-border awareness on refugees and human rights through local governance initiatives” UNV, UNDP, UNHCR, Bishkek 2009.
4. “Cross-border natural resources and conflicts” UNV, UNDP, Bishkek 2009.
- 5, “Participatory Integrated Watershed Management” UNV, FAO, Bishkek 2009.

**List of Major Educational / Research Projects and Other Business Achievements**

**Education and Research Project Achievements**

1. “TransCONVER project” [http://www.opf.slu.cz/tc/package\\_6/modul\\_3.pdf](http://www.opf.slu.cz/tc/package_6/modul_3.pdf) Duration: 9/2000 ~ 9/2003

Outline: Pilot project aimed to transfer social development and economic restructuring know-how from the Ruhr and Lorraine coalmines basins in Germany and France to the Silesian industrial district of Poland and the Czech Republic.

Members: CERRM Brussels, University of Duisburg, Silesian University - School of Business Administration Karvina, Business Support Centre Swidnica,

My Role: CERRM Project Manager

External Support: 59,986,267¥ Sponsoring Organization: European Union “Leonardo Da Vinci” Action programme.

2. “From the Silk-Road to Nabucco - Foreign policy across the Central Asian chessboard”

Duration: 1/2011~ 6/2011

Outline: Developed a geopolitical teaching guide to analyse energy issues in Central Asia. Practical students in-class media analysis exercises with articles excerpts from the newspaper “Times of Central Asia” <https://www.timesca.com/>

Members: American University of Central Asia

My Role: Individual Granted Researcher Support: 158.353¥ Sponsoring Organization: American University of Central Asia

3. “Wallerstein or World System Theory”

Duration: 1/2012~ 6/2012

Outline: Research on the world system theory and analysis developed by American sociologist Immanuel Wallerstein (1930-2019).

Members: American University of Central Asia

My Role: Individual Granted Researcher Support: 158.353¥ Sponsoring Organization: American

University of Central Asia

**Industry-Government-University Project Experience**

1. “Regions Enterprises European Transnational Co-operation Actions Programme (REACTE)“

Duration: 8/2000 ~ 7/2004

Outline: The project aimed to reinforce the links between small/medium enterprises and regional development through a targeted use of the European structural funds (ESF)

Members: CERRM Brussels (leading) with several regional governments, academic institutions, business schools and innovation incubators (about 20) from all EU member states

My Role: Programme officer in charge for the public grants database, program development, events organization and publications at the program’s secretariat in Brussels.

External Support: 159,935,190¥ Sponsoring Organization: European Union SME Programme.

2. “Bilateral cooperation project between Chinese Hubei province and French Lorraine region”

Duration: 8/2000 ~ 7/2004

Outline: research on organizations and programs established between France and China in the fields of culture, vocational training and entrepreneurship.

Members: Local Governments of Hubei and Lorraine

My Role: Research specialist and reporter.

External Support: 3,450,260¥ Sponsoring Organization: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France - decentralized cooperation.

3. "UNESCO field missions for the preservation and conservation of cultural heritage in Africa"

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/125>

Duration: 10/2004 ~ 6/2005

Outline: 1- Urban rehabilitation of the old town of Lamu in Kenya

2- Return of the Axum obelisk to Ethiopia.

Members: UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Ethiopian Government, Kenyan Government, Italian Government and several appointed academic specialists from the Universities of Venice and Rome "la Sapienza" (archaeologists, geophysicists, hydraulic engineers, public health specialists).

My Role: Organiser and team member of the preliminary assessment missions.

External Support: 12,001,885¥ Sponsoring Organization: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy.

### **Regional Studies Surveys**

"Economic and Social Committee of Lorraine, Wallonia, Luxembourg, the Saarland and Rhineland Palatinate Assessment study on the "Grand Region" <https://www.grande-region.lu/portal/>

Duration: 6/2003 ~ 7/2004

Outline: Quantitative and Qualitative analysis of the joint economic and social situation.

Members: CERRM, Governments of Lorraine (France) Wallonia (Belgium) Luxembourg, the Saarland and Rhineland-Palatinate (Germany)

My Role: Research specialist assessing demography, vocational training, and entrepreneurship.

External Support: 46,655,986¥ Sponsoring Organization: GECT - European Territorial Cooperation "Grand Region".

## **Business Achievements**

1. “Market survey in the packaging machines sector in India”

Duration: May - June 1995

Outline: Market analysis / business intelligence.

Members: Profingest Business School / European Social Fund / IMA Corazza JSC (KK)

My Role: Market analyst on mission to India.

External Support: 1,682,000¥ Sponsoring Organization: IMA Corazza JSC (KK)

2. “International business development of four different manufacturing companies based in the Italian industrial districts of Veneto and Emilia Romagna”

Duration: 8/1993 ~ 8/1996

Outline: Market opening missions to Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines and Indonesia.

Members: CTV Plc and Ritmo JSC (KK) Padua, Corazza JSC (KK) and Minerva JSC (KK) Bologna.

My Role: Export officer / market analyst for field missions in Europe, North America and South East Asia.