



DOMINIK BALAZKA

PHD STUDENT IN SOCIOLOGY AND METHODOLOGY OF SOCIAL RESEARCH
University of Milan — University of Turin

ABOUT ME

I have a background in [quantitative sociology](#), with a specific focus on culture and religion. I'm currently working on [non-religion](#) and [non-religious discourses](#) in the West. Formerly I collaborated with the University of Trento, Tilburg University and Bruno Kessler Foundation.

MY INTERESTS

- Culturalized Religion
- Non-Religion Studies
- Secularity
- Non-Religious Discourses
- Big Data & Text Mining
- Quantitative Methods

CONTACTS

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EXPERIENCE

Junior Researcher

May 2020 - October 2020 | Bruno Kessler Foundation

Junior researcher affiliated to the Center for Information and Communication Technology and to the Center for Religious Studies. I worked on a project on religious nones and (non)religious beliefs in the West exploring the potential benefits of Big Data usage in the academic study of non-religion.

Affiliated Fellow Researcher

October 2019 - December 2019 | Bruno Kessler Foundation

Affiliated fellow of the Center for Religious Studies. I worked on the projects "Critically Connected" and "Atlas of Religious or Belief Minorities Rights 2019-2021" co-developed by FBK, Fscire and Confronti.

Data Analyst

July 2019 - December 2019 | University of Trento

Quantitative and qualitative data analysis in collaboration with the Department of Sociology and Social Research and with the Department of Information Engineering and Computer Science.

Research Consultant

December 2018 - June 2019 | Anne Barrett

Research on aging in Trentino-Alto Adige (Italy).

Collaborator

October 2018 - March 2019 | Mediatrainers

Preparation of a network of information documents for "Istituti Clinici Scientifici Maugeri".

European Values Study 2017 trainee

February 2017 - May 2017 | Tilburg University

Trainee of the EVS 2017 methodology group. Focus on international classifications, questionnaire design, preliminary data analysis of CRONOS and fieldwork preparation.

CATI Interviewer and Academic Assistant

April 2016 - February 2017 | University of Trento

Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews and data cleaning.

EDUCATION

Joint PhD in Sociology and Methodology of Social Research

2020 - current | University of Milan/University of Turin

Master Degree in Sociology and Social Research

2015 - 2019 | University of Trento

Culture and Communication program

Supervisors: Salvatore Abbruzzese, Ruud Luijkx, Loek Halman

Thesis: [Religious Beliefs in the Age of Pluralization: A Comparative Analysis of 23 Countries \(1990-2010\)](#)

Grading: 110/110

Bachelor Degree in Sociology

2012 - 2015 | University of Trento

Supervisor: Gabriele Pollini

Thesis: [Razionalità, razionalizzazione e disincantamento del mondo: Max Weber agli occhi della contemporaneità](#)

Grading: 110L/110

LANGUAGES

Italian

Bilingual proficiency

English

Full professional proficiency

Slovak

Native

Czech

Bilingual proficiency

POSITION-RELATED SKILLS

During my master degree and successive work activities in Italy and abroad I gathered experience with [survey design](#), [web surveys](#), [statistical analysis](#) and various [qualitative techniques](#). Following my relatively recent interest in [Big Data](#) and computational social science, I'm currently starting to work on [textual data](#). I'm comfortable with [critical thinking](#) and [theoretical reflection](#).

DIGITAL SKILLS

Proficient [Stata](#) and [Atlas.ti](#) user experienced with other software and programming languages frequently used in social research such as [LimeSurvey](#), [SurveyMonkey](#), [Python](#), [Ucinet](#), [Mendeley](#), [CharmStatsPro](#), [queXS](#) or [Zoiiper](#). Hard at work to improve my usage of R and Python.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed

Balazka, D., & Rodighiero, D. (2020). Big Data and the Little Big Bang: An Epistemological (R)evolution. *Frontiers in Big Data* 3, 31: 1-13. DOI: 10.3389/fdata.2020.00031.

Conferences and webinars

Balazka, D., & Rodighiero, D. (2021, February 24). Was Blumer Right? Religious Values and Quantified Self in the Petabyte Age. *Artificial Intelligence and Religion 2020/21*, Trento, Italy.

Projects and data repositories

Rodighiero, D., & Balazka, D. (2020). Cartography of Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network. (work in progress)

Reports and popular press

Balazka, D. (2020, September 21). Big Data, Big Faith? About Beliefs and Biases in Algorithmic Decision-Making. *FBK Magazine*.

Balazka, D. (2020, September 1). La Non-Religione nel Mondo. *FBK Magazine*.

Balazka, D. (2020). Mapping Religious Nones in 112 Countries: An Overview of European Values Study and World Values Survey Data (1981-2020). Prot. 8 / 07-2020, Fondazione Bruno Kessler.