

## Alberto Cossu CV (updated March 2013)

### Personal Information

Date of birth: 16 December 1980

Place of birth: Domusnovas (CI) - Italy

E-mail: alberto.cossu@unimi.it

Italian Citizenship

### Education

#### November 2011 – Current

PhD Student (XXVII Cycle) in Sociology at the Graduate School in Social & Political Sciences (GSSPS), University of Milan, Italy. Supervisors: Adam Arvidsson and Roberta Sassatelli. Currently enrolled in the Second Year.

#### April 2008 – April 2011

Master's Degree obtained in Theory of Communication, Faculty of Letters and Philosophy, Università degli Studi di Siena; marks: 110/110 and honours. Thesis title: "Italian Political Blogs in Prospect: A Study of the Democratic Potential of the On-line Public Sphere"; thesis advisor, Prof. Davide Sparti.

#### September 2008 – July 2009

Studied abroad as a part of the LLP-ERASMUS exchange program, at the Université Paris III – Sorbonne Nouvelle, in the Department of Communication. Exams completed in the following courses: Geopolitics of Information, Sociology of Public Space, Semiology of Images, Culture and Communication, Philosophy of Communication.

#### November 2004 – February 2008

Bachelor's Degree obtained in Communication Sciences (Curriculum: Mass Communications) at the Università degli Studi di Siena, 110/110 and honours. Thesis title: "Narration as the Practice of Distinction: The Case of 'Boredom' in Siena"; thesis advisor, Prof. Davide Sparti.

### Awards & Scholarships

#### October 2011

Awarded a 3-year PhD Scholarship by the University of Milan.

#### June 2010

Awarded € 4,000 for the organization of the seminar series "*Il lavoro Culturale*" by the University of Siena.

#### January 2009

Awarded "Merit Check" (*Assegno di Merito*), a scholarship check of € 6,000 by the Region of Sardegna, as a recognition of academic achievements.

#### September 2008

Winner of the LLP-Erasmus scholarship (€ 3,600) for the duration of the nine-month program.

## Conferences, Seminars and Summer Schools

### August 2013

Paper accepted at “Nordmedia 2013: Defending Democracy” conference to be held in Oslo, August 8-11, 2013.

### July 2013

Paper accepted at “SPT 2013: Technology in the Age of Information. 18th International Conference of the Society for Philosophy and Technology” held at ISEG, Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal July 4-6, 2013.

### April 2013

Paper accepted at the International Conference “Aestheticization of public space: issues, actors, perspectives” co-organized by Université Paris 8 and Sofia University St Clément d’Ohrid, Bulgaria.

### December 2012 – May 2013

Participant and Paper Giver in the cycle of seminars “Paris Torino 2012/2013” co-organized by the Doctoral Schools in Political Science of the University of Turin and University of Paris I – Sorbonne Pantheon and titled “Is Representative Democracy in Crisis? Research Review and Research Perspectives in France and Italy” (Coordinators: Daniel Gaxie and Alfio Mastropaolo).

### August 2012

Speaker at “Societing Summer School” (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) – *Transmutation. The Next Mediterranean Way: Global Solutions, Social Innovation, Augmented Reality* –Cava de’ Tirreni (SA), Italy August 19-25.

### July 2012

Participant at the “Berlin Summer School in Social Sciences” co-organized by the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences (BGSS – Humboldt University) and the WZB, titled “Linking Theory and Empirical Research”, July 15-27. Faculty: Mark Bevir (UC Berkeley), Donatella Della Porta (EUI), Ronald Inglehart (University of Michigan), Peter Bearman (Columbia University), Craig Calhoun (NYU/LSE), Delia Baldassarri (Princeton/NYU), Henry E. Brady (UC Berkeley).

### July 2012

Paper “Italian Political Blogs in Prospect: A Study of the Democratic Potential of the On-line Public Sphere” presented at ECPR Graduate Conference, Bremen, July 4-6.

### May 2011

Attended the “5<sup>th</sup> training course for the software NVivo 8. Issues and perspectives of qualitative analysis and grounded theory” organized by the Faculty of Science of Education (Prof. R. Cipriani), Università degli Studi “Roma Tre”, Rome, May 23-27.

### January 2011 – June 2011

Promoter and organizer of the seminar series “Il lavoro culturale: lo sguardo delle scienze umane sul presente”—responsible for the forum “Web 2.0: Changes and Expansions of the Public Sphere”. Project awarded a grant by the Università degli Studi di Siena within a student competition for cultural and social activities ([www.lavoroculturale.org](http://www.lavoroculturale.org)).

## **Research and Teaching**

### **October 2012 – September 2013**

Teaching Assistant for the Courses: Political Sociology (Prof. Mauro Barisione), Analysis of Public Opinion (Prof. Barisione), New Media & Communication (Prof. Arvidsson).

### **January – December 2010**

Research activity (virtual ethnography, surveys and content analysis) regarding the Italian blogosphere, finalized in the compilation of the Master's thesis.

### **September 2007 – January 2008**

Ethnographic research (participant observation, in-depth interviews) finalized in the compilation of the Bachelor's thesis.

## **Linguistic Competence**

**Italian:** Mother tongue.

**English:** Owner of Certificate of Advanced English – CAE – issued by the University of Cambridge (Level C1 within the European Framework of Reference for Languages).

**French:** Written and oral proficiency.

## **Research Software**

Good knowledge of SPSS (19) and STATA (11).

Good knowledge of NVivo (8 and 10).

Sufficient knowledge of Gephi and Digital Methods Tools (Issue Crawler, Scrapers etc.).