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She is currently Associate Professor of Chinese Religions and Philosophy and of Society and Culture of China, and Coordinator of the Double Degree in "World Religions and Philosophy" and in "Cultural Heritage, Religion and Society" (with the Department of Religious Studies of Fu-Jen University, Taipei) of the Department of Philosophy, Social Sciences and Education (Fissuf) of the University of Perugia. She is also Quality Assurance Office – Fissuf Departmental Referent and member of the Board of the Deputy's Rector for internationalization and international cooperation at University of Perugia. She is member of the research group "Culture, Languages, Practices (CLIPRA) at the Philosophy Department of the University of Perugia (Italy), is external associated researcher of the Groupe Sociétés, Religions, Laïcités CNRS-EPHE, research fellow of the Wutai International Institute of Buddhism and East Asian Cultures (since 2016), and a contributor of the Research project "Chinese Buddhism in Globalization: States, Communities, and Practices of Religion" (directed by Yoshiko Ashiwa and David Wank, Founded by the Henry Luce Foundation; 2020-). Her studies focus on the religions of China, particularly on Buddhism; her research is centered on Sino-Tibetan Buddhism, Chinese Buddhist monasticism, the revival of Buddhist monastic discipline and, more recently, the rediscovery of early meditation techniques and the spread of Theravāda Buddhist Model in modern Chinese Buddhism.

Ester Bianchi is the author of *The Iron Statue Monastery, Tiexiangsi: A Buddhist Nunnery of Tibetan Tradition in Contemporary China* (Firenze, Olschki, 2001), of a general book on the history, practices and cultural traditions of Daoism (Milano: Electa 2009), and of the first Italian translation of the *Gaoseng Faxian zhuan (Faxian: un pellegrino cinese nell'India del V secolo*, Perugia: Morlacchi 2013). Her co-edited volumes include: *Facets of the Tibetan Religious Tradition and Contacts with Neighbouring Cultural Areas*, co-edited with A. Cadonna (Firenze: Olschki 2002), *Sino-Tibetan Buddhism Across the Ages*, co-edited with Shen W. (Leiden: Brill 2021), and *"Take the Vinaya as Your Master": Monastic Discipline and Practices in Modern Chinese Buddhism*, co-edited with D. Campo (Leiden: Brill 2023).

Her main publications include the following articles: "Yogācāra Bodhisattva Precepts in Twentieth Century China: Reevaluating Rules and Commitments in the Light of Modernity" (in E. Bianchi, D. Campo eds., *"Take the Vinaya as Your Master"*, Leiden, Brill, 2023, pp. 193-229); "Reading Equality into Asymmetry: Dual Ordination in the Eyes of Modern Chinese Bhikṣuṇīs" (*Religions*, 2022, 13/10, 919); "Revisiting Impurity in Republican China: An Evaluation of the Modern Rediscovery of Bujing guan 不淨觀", in *Religion* 12, 903, 2021; "The Combined Practice of Vinaya and Tantra in Nenghai's Path to Liberation" (in E. Bianchi and W. Shen eds., *Sino-Tibetan Buddhism Across the Ages*, Leiden, Brill, 2021, pp. 225-252); "Lama Nenghai's Imprint on Mount Wutai: Sino-Tibetan Buddhism among the Five Plateaus since the 1930s" (in S. Andrews, J. Chen, and Guang Kuan eds., *The Transnational Cult of Mount Wutai. Historical and Comparative Perspectives*, Leiden, Brill, 2020, pp. 255-287). "The Puhuasi 普華寺: Longing for Trustworthiness and Recognition. Transformations in the Religious Identity and Institutional Affiliation of the Chinese Buddhist Temple in Prato" (*Journal of Chinese Buddhist Studies*, 2020, 33, pp. 171-202), "Understanding jielü 戒律: The Resurgence and Reconfiguration of Vinaya-Related Concepts in Modern China" (in G. Scott, S. Travagnin eds., *Critical Concepts and Methods for the Study of Chinese Religions II: Intellectual History of Key Concepts*, Berlin, De Gruyter, 2020, pp. 55-80), "Transmitting the Precepts in Conformity with the Dharma': Restoration, Adaptation, and Standardization of Ordination Procedures" (in Zhe Ji, G. Fisher, A. Laliberté eds., *Buddhism after Mao: Negotiations, Continuities, and Reinventions*, Honolulu, University of Hawaii Press, 2019, pp. 152-170); "Teaching Tibetan Buddhism in Chinese on Behalf of Mañjuśrī: "Great Perfection" (dzok chen / dayanman 大圓滿) and Related Tantric Practices among Han Chinese and Taiwanese Believers in Sertar and Beyond" (in F. Jagou, ed., *The Hybridity of Buddhism. Contemporary Encounters between Tibetan and Chinese Traditions in Taiwan and the Mainland*, Paris, EFEO, 2018, pp. 109-131); "Yi jie wei shi 以戒為師: Theory and Practice of Monastic Discipline in Modern and Contemporary Chinese Buddhism" (*Studies in Chinese Religions*, 3/2, 2017, 111-141), "Sino-Tibetan Buddhism: Continuities and Discontinuities. The Case of Nenghai 能海's Legacy in the Contemporary Era" (in Y. Bentor, M. Shahar eds., *Chinese and Tibetan Esoteric Buddhism*, Leiden: Brill, 2017, pp. 300-318), "Subtle erudition and compassionate devotion: Longlian (1909-2006), the most outstanding bhiksuni in modern China" (in D. Ownby, V. Goossaert, Ji Zhe eds., *Making Saints in Modern China*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016-2017, pp. 272-311), "Chinese Chantings of the Names of Mañjuśrī: The *Zhenshi ming jing* 真實名經 in Late Imperial and Modern China" (in V. Durand-Dastès ed., *Empreintes du Tantrisme en Chine et en Asie Orientale. Imaginaires, rituals, influences*, Leuven-Paris-Bristol: Peeters 2015, pp. 117-138), "A Religion-Oriented 'Tibet Fever'. Tibetan Buddhist Practices Among the Han Chinese in Contemporary PRC" (in Dramdul and F. Sferra eds., *From Mediterranean to Himalaya. A Festschrift to Commemorate the 120th Birthday of the Italian Tibetologist Giuseppe Tucci* - 从地中海到喜马拉雅: 意大利著名藏学家朱塞佩·图齐 诞辰120周年纪念文集, Beijing: China Tibetology Publishing House 2014, pp. 347-374), "Yamāntaka-Vajrabhairava in Modern China. Analysis of 20th Century Translations from Tibetan" (in G. Orofino, S. Vita eds., *Buddhist Asia 2*, Kyoto: Italian School of East Asian Studies 2010, pp. 99-140), "The 'Chinese lama' Nenghai (1886-1967). Doctrinal tradition and teaching strategies of a Gelukpa master in Republican China" (in M. Kapstein ed., *Buddhism Between Tibet and China*, Boston: Wisdom Publications 2009, pp. 295-346), "Protecting Beijing: The Tibetan Image of Yamāntaka-Vajrabhairava in Late Imperial and Republican China" (in M. Esposito ed., *Images of Tibet in the 19th and 20th Centuries*, Paris: L'École Française de l'Extrême Orient 2008, pp. 329-356), and "The Tantric Rebirth Movement in Modern China. Esoteric Buddhism re-vivified by the Japanese and Tibetan Traditions" (*Acta Orientalia Academiae Scientiarum Hungarica* 57, 1, 2004, pp. 31-54).

Detailed scientific curriculum: <http://www.unipg.it/pagina-personale?n=ester.bianchi>