

Mentor: Marcello Mogetta

Last revised: 3-9-2022

Mentoring Statement

Mentoring Philosophy

I welcome students of all backgrounds who are seeking to develop analytical and communication skills through primary research activities in any of my areas of scholarly interest. In working closely with graduate students, I always expect to learn a great deal from interaction both within and outside of the classroom, and particularly appreciate the opportunity to learn from them and educate myself, thus expanding my expertise both in terms of subject matter and best practices for student success. To that end, I actively encourage and support research projects that reach beyond my comfort zone, and whose design is tailored to meet the student's personal intellectual curiosity and their professional growth, emphasizing the importance of interdisciplinary studies. I am also committed to offering equal opportunities for access to the fieldwork programs I direct and strive to foster a collaborative culture based on the ability of all students to work as part of a team and toward a shared research and publication agenda.

As an international student who came to the US with limited knowledge of the local academic system and a young family to support, I was fortunate enough to experience first-hand how crucial a role mentors play: in helping mentees acclimate to graduate school, navigate expectations, and negotiate the unwritten rules of academia (e.g., demystifying program requirements and other administrative tasks such as committee formation); opening doors and establishing connections to build research and career prospects (e.g., providing reference letters; identifying fellowship opportunities); and transferring project management and problem-solving competencies (e.g., assisting with manuscripts- and grant-writing); all the while recognizing the efficacy and importance of work-life balance and emotional support. These are precisely the values that inspire my mentoring.

My main goals as a mentor are the following: to facilitate the progress to graduation, implementing flexible accommodations whenever necessary, but balancing the competing demands, needs, and interests of both parties; and to help students shape diverse career paths. By offering my perspectives for potential success in academia, however, I also acknowledge the challenges and demands that the increasingly precarious nature of the job market is posing for PhDs in the Humanities. Throughout the relationship, I engage mentees in open dialogue to identify both academic and professional outcomes; communications will be based on honest assessment, candor, mutual respect, and ethical behavior. I consider my office (both the physical and the virtual ones) to be a safe space where students can express their concerns, knowing that personal matters that affect performance will be kept confidential (unless otherwise mandated by the University).

My preferred system of communication is via email. I will strive to answer messages within 24 to 36 hours on weekdays. On weekends and holidays, I look at my emails more infrequently. If you need urgent assistance, I will be available via text or phone call.

Mentoring Contract

My mentoring relationships are built on an agreed upon set of reasonable expectations and responsibilities, discussed early in the process (normally during the first semester of residency).

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The following template will be used to identify outcomes and define availability and contributions:

- 1) **Goals** (i.e., what you hope to achieve as a result of the mentoring relationship; e.g., clarify program expectations, procedures, and criteria for evaluation; explore career opportunities and/or alternatives; assistance with job market; learn about organizational culture at colleges and universities; networking; professional development; psychosocial support, etc.)

- 2) **Steps to achieving goals** (e.g., establishing regular meetings; reviewing manuscripts and grant proposals; collaborating on research projects; path to achieving independence, etc.)

- 3) **Meeting frequency** (frequency, duration, and location of meetings; who will be responsible for scheduling the meetings; what will meeting topics include; time to respond to queries, etc.)

- 4) **Confidentiality:** Any sensitive issues that we discuss will be held in the strictest of confidence. Issues that are off limits for discussion include:

- 5) **Plan for evaluating relationship effectiveness and adjust expectations** (e.g., annual review of mentorship meeting minutes, goals, and outcomes/accomplishments).

- 6) **Duration:** This mentorship relationship will continue as long as both parties feel comfortable with its productivity or until.....

Mentor's signature and date

Mentee's signature and date