



Vesuvius series by Andy Warhol 1985, commissioned by Neapolitan gallerist Lucio Amelio.

Let me introduce myself!

I was born on the slopes of Mount Vesuvius in 1977, on the celebration day of Saint Januarius (San Gennaro), the patron saint of Naples.

If that's not an auspicious start...I don't know what it is!

My mother has always said I'm a miracle.

I've never argued with her, but I'm still waiting for conclusive evidence...



I don't remember much about my early years. Fortunately, the family photo album does. In an astonishing number of pictures, I'm holding a glass of wine!

I've always had a clear sense of priorities!



What do you say in situations like this?

Sa Gennaro, take care of it (of me)!





Many, many years ago, I received my M.A. Degree in Conservation of Cultural Heritage with a specialization in underwater archaeology from the University Suor Orsola Benincasa in Naples.

Until 2010, I participated in numerous terrestrial and underwater archaeological excavation campaigns across several Italian regions, including Campania, Sicily, and Tuscany. **In 2011**, I joined the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa as an archaeologist, where I took part in the *Thesaurus* project—*Techniques for Underwater Exploration and Archaeology through Swarms of Autonomous Vehicles (AUVs)*—funded by the Tuscany Region and directed by Professor Salvatore Settis. I continued my work at the Scuola Normale Superiore until 2013.

- This was me when I received the job offer from the Scuola Normale Superiore. I was about to move to Pisa to pursue the opportunity of a lifetime and dedicate myself fully to the work I am most passionate about.





After two and a half intense years at the Scuola Normale, filled with hard work and dedication, my contract came to the end. However, my research team and I still had to complete the project's publications. Without a salary to support staying in Pisa, I took on a series of temporary jobs before to apply for a position at the University of Pisa's Enrico Piaggio Research Center, where, originally, I would contribute to the dissemination of results from European research projects.

I spent **nearly nine years** at the Enrico Piaggio Reserch Center, moving from one type of contract to another: for many years as external collaborator (co.co.co), then as fixed-term contract ad administrative technician, and finally as a permanent administrative staff. Over those years, I found myself doing a little bit of everything:

managing research projects, processing travel reimbursements, organizing meetings and conferences, taking care of the administrative procedures, secretarial duties, repainting office walls, or even cleaning the communal fridge, and solving whatever unexpected problem had landed on my desk that morning.

It was a period when I had to pay my dues. But looking back, it was also **an extraordinary training period!**



Abrusci – Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia



UBORA EU PROJECT



Open Biomedical Engineering
e-Platform for Innovation
through Education



During the long period at the Enrico Piaggio Research Centre, I managed several European and national collaborative research projects funded through competitive programs.

These projects spanned a range of fields, including biomedical engineering, social robotics, environmental robotics, and Europe–Africa international cooperation initiatives.

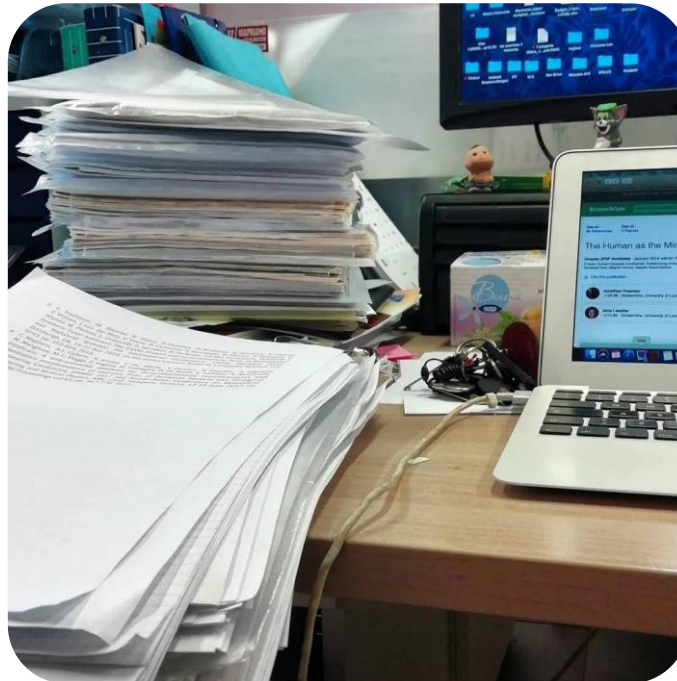


Enrico Piaggio Research Center taught me flexibility, **resilience**, **strength**, and the value of approaching every challenge with the same commitment, whether it involved a complex research project or a paint roller.

This was my life... this was me, halfway through my ninth year of work, and this, unbelievably, was what I considered a good day at the office...



In 2022, ready for a new challenge, I thought, ***Why not?*** and I applied for a Technologist position in the Research and Valorization of Knowledge Directorate.



I have been working as a research technologist at the Research and Valorization of Knowledge Directorate **for four years now!**

As the photo—and the raised glasses—clearly show, **I think I found my people!**



These are my colleagues. As you can see, we have our priorities straight: **work... and aperitivo!**

Director

Mauro Bellandi



The Directorate supports the University of Pisa's academic community in all aspects of the research including:

- national and european project funding, management, and reporting;
- enhancement and assessment of research quality;
- technology transfer;
- graduate employability;
- doctoral education.

It also oversees open access to research outputs, research ethics, and animal welfare.

In addition, the Directorate coordinates the University's academic units, including departments and university centers, on matters related to scientific research.

The Directorate is organized into four units:

Attività per la Formazione Dottorale e per i Relativi Finanziamenti;

Servizi per la Ricerca; *I am part of the Research Services Unit under a contract as Research Technologist (temporary contract appointed under Article 24-bis of Italian Law No. 240/2010);*

Valorizzazione delle Conoscenze e Career Service;

Sezione Etica e Benessere Animale

Research Services Unit

Coordinator

Marina Mazzoni

This unit is structured into four sub-units:

1. Unita' di Progetto Finanziamenti Straordinari alla Ricerca

Interim Head: Marina Mazzoni

The Unit is responsible for the management and reporting of externally funded projects involving the University as part of formalized partnerships, including projects funded under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), financed by the NextGenerationEU funds.

Contacts: pnrr@unipi.it

2. Unita' Gestione della Ricerca

Head: Elena di Stefano

The Unit provides support and advice to researchers and administrative staff on the management and financial reporting of research projects funded by national, European, and international institutions and organizations. It also promotes tools and initiatives, including information and training activities, to share best practices in research project management.

Contacts: ricercaeuropea@unipi.it



3. Unita' Promozione e Progettazione della Ricerca

Interim Head: **Marina Mazzoni**

The Unit provides support during the project application, the pre-award phase by: providing information, training, and advisory services on funding opportunities and programme requirements; disseminating information on funding opportunities; offering one-to-one administrative and technical support for proposal preparation and submission; supporting institutional initiatives that promote participation in European research programmes, including the management of the University's dedicated financial incentive schemes.

Contacts: progettazione.ricerca@unipi.it

4. Unita' Valutazione della Ricerca

Head: **Giuseppe Bagnato**

The Unit is primarily responsible for managing the administrative procedures related to the Research Quality Assessment (VQR) carried out by ANVUR, the University's rating system, and the IRIS-ARPI repository. It also provides support to academic staff in preparing and submitting applications for the National Scientific Qualification.

Contacts: valutazionericerca@unipi.it

The National Recovery and Resilience Plan is approaching its conclusion, and the projects in which I was involved—coordinating and supervising researchers and university departments—have now been completed. I am currently working on the final administrative and reporting stages of the projects I managed.

Looking ahead, the Research Directorate has decided to assign me to a new unit that will be responsible for the centralized management of European-funded projects.

Finally, I will return to the work I enjoy most!

My role will focus on supporting the implementation and management of European-funded research projects

Main responsibilities:

- provide technical, financial, administrative, and operational support to scientific coordinators and research teams;
- collaborate with researchers, university departments, consortium partners, and funding bodies;
- ensure compliance with European, national, and institutional funding regulations;
- prepare and monitor project budgets and oversee financial and management reporting;
- coordinate administrative procedures, including procurement, recruitment, and contract management;
- deliver training to departmental administrative staff on the financial and administrative management of research projects;
- monitor the financial activities of project consortia and support the preparation of consolidated financial reports;
- contribute to the successful implementation and delivery of research and innovation projects.

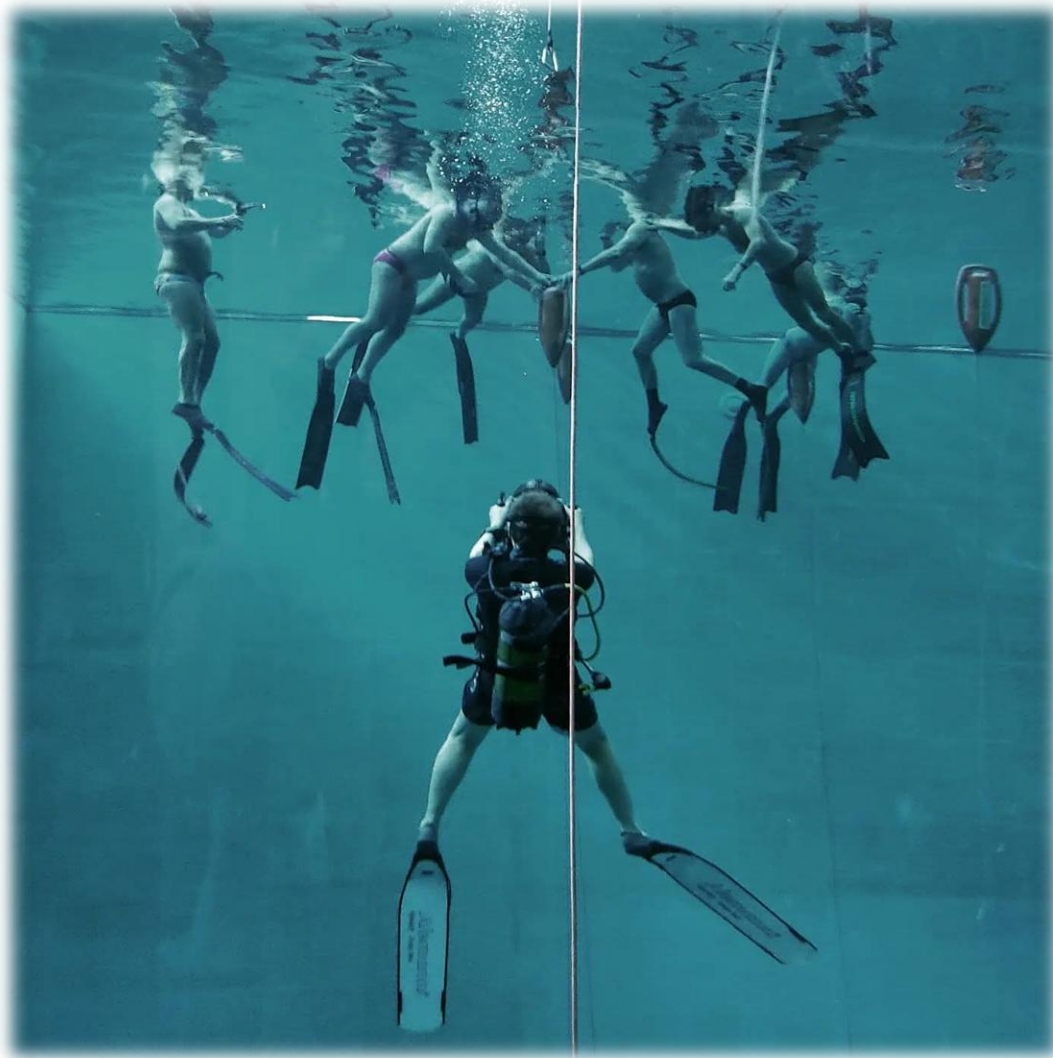


Over the years, I have developed a genuine interest for my new work—carried out both independently and within teams—while never losing sight of my identity as an archaeologist. I have combined my expertise in managing publicly funded research projects with my academic background in archaeology and cultural heritage conservation. Since 2020, I have taught the course *Public Funding for Culture and Cultural Heritage* as part of the *APRI* (Archaeology, Profession, Enterprise) Level II Master's programme at the University of Suor Orsola Benincasa in Naples, where I share my expertise in research funding and project management with the next generation of cultural heritage professionals.



Everything you do in life has value; no experience is ever wasted. Every step, every challenge, and every milestone helps shape who you are. I hope to have thousands upon thousands of new experiences still ahead of me.

Yet, among all these images, the one that truly represents me is the final photo on the following "Thank You" slide....



Thank you for your attention, and to everyone who has collaborated with me, thank you for your patience and support!

If need to get in touch, you can contact me at carla.papa@unipi.it