

## PAOLO BOCCAGNI – SHORT CV (June 2026)

**PAOLO BOCCAGNI** is Full professor of Sociology, Dpt. of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento [[paolo.boccagni@unitn.it](mailto:paolo.boccagni@unitn.it) | [Academia](#) | [Scholar](#) | [homing.soc.unitn.it](http://homing.soc.unitn.it)].

He has recently been the PI of ERC StG HOMInG (2016-22) and of other nationally funded projects in migration and refugee studies. He currently lectures in Sociology for social work and Intercultural relations (BA in Social Work), Qualitative Research Methods (MA in Global Affairs), Ethnography and social research (PhD in Sociology). Over the last fifteen years he has done multi-method and comparative research on migration, integration and transnational family life, as well as on the lived experience of home, with a particular focus on mobile and forcibly displaced people. He has published mainly in migration, home, diversity and social welfare studies, mostly with a qualitative and ethnographic background. He is the (co)author of over 120 publications, including 50 articles in international peer-reviewed journals, 15 book chapters and 10 special issues and edited collections. Recent books include *Death in Migration: Foregrounding Grieving, Memory and Loss out of Place* (coauth., 2026), *Undoing Nothing: Waiting for Asylum, Struggling for Relevance* (OA, 2025), *Vite ferme: Storie di migranti in attesa* (2024), the *Handbook on Home and Migration* (ed., 2023), *Migration and Domestic Space: Ethnographies of Home in the Making* (coed., 2023), *Thinking Home on the Move* (co-auth., 2020), *Migration and the Search for Home* (2017). The journals in which he has published articles include *Sociology*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Global Networks*, *Housing Studies*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Environment and Planning-D*, *Mobilities*, *Social Politics*, *International Migration Review*, *Population, Space and Place*, *Cultural Studies*, *Anthropological Theory* and the *British Journal of Social Work*.

Most recently, Boccagni has worked on questions of nothingness, ambivalence, relevance, categorization, care, memorialization, future-making, absence, and death. Starting from everyday life, his fieldwork tries to scale up and out local insights and findings by way of comparison, resonance, metaphor, and functional equivalence. His emerging research concerns include the practice of homing, the production and scaling of relevance and memory, and the ways of coping with absence, distance and disappearance.

## RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Since obtaining his PhD (2008), Boccagni has published a number of monographs, special issues and edited collections, as well as single or co-authored articles. As of June 2026, according to Google Scholar, his work has been cited about 8,260 times. His H-index is 48 and i10-index is 101. Over the same period, he has been invited as a speaker in about 70 scientific events in 20 different countries in Europe, America, the Middle-East, East Asia and Australia [list available upon request]. He has also been an Invited professor at the University of Western Australia - UWA (2019) and an Invited fellow at the Netherlands Institute of Advanced Studies - NIAS (2021) and at the Institut Convergences Migrations (ICM) in Paris (2023). In 2022, his name was included in the Stanford University List (AD Scientific Index) of “World 2% top scientists” by last 5 years’ ratios on total ratios.

Overall, Boccagni's research has mainly impacted on the interdisciplinary study of migration, displacement, diversity, care and home. His scientific contribution could be summed up as follows:

- in migration studies he has contributed to a research agenda on migrant transnationalism as a diverse set of attitudes, ties and practices that vary in reach and intensity over time, along the life course, given the external structures of opportunities, the demographics of migrants and their counterparts, and the resources accessible to them;
- in social welfare and care studies his work has shed light on the moralities and mutual obligations underpinning care, in proximity and over a distance, by taking into account forms of care-related vulnerabilities, no less than forms of active care provision;
- in social work, his lecturing and research activities have contributed to an approach to social work practice in diversity, including migration-related one, in ways that escape methodological "groupism", while acknowledging intersectional vulnerabilities and oppressions in the conditions and careers of welfare clients, including minority ones;
- in housing and built environment studies, his research has invited a more nuanced, processual and multi-sited understanding of the views of home, and of the associated practices and material cultures, underlying the dwelling experience across groups and cultural settings;
- methodologically speaking, his fieldwork and writings have contributed to a better appreciation of the limits of social action at-a-distance (relative to social action-in-proximity), and of the mixed impact of the natural and built environment on people's ways to make themselves at home, particularly for immigrant newcomers and members of minority groups.

## **RESEARCH CAREER**

Paolo Boccagni graduated in Sociology in 1999, with a MA thesis in the sociology of globalization. After spending some years doing research and translation activities about social welfare, third sector and immigration, he started his PhD at the University of Trento in 2004. During his doctoral studies he specialized in ethnographic fieldwork on the lived experience of migration in everyday life, seen through the interactions between migrant individuals and families and their counterparts in the countries of origin. This led to his thesis on transnationalism among Ecuadorian migrants in Italy (2008).

Based on this, Boccagni published a monograph in Italian ('Transnational tracks – Lives in Italy and homeward projections among Ecuadorian migrants') and a dozen articles in migration and transnational studies. After spending one year as consultant in the evaluation of local policies for social inclusion, he gained a postdoctoral position on the construction of measures and indicators of immigrant integration in Italy.

Boccagni was then recruited as a lecturer in the Department of Sociology, University of Trento, in 2010. Key subsequent developments include his contribution to set up IMASP – International migration and social protection, within the European Network IMISCOE; the awarding of a major EU grant (ERC StG HOMInG); the prize for the best paper in Sociology of migration of the International Sociological Association – RC 31.

Boccagni has then been appointed Associate (2017) and eventually Full professor (2019) at the University of Trento. His teaching activities have been primarily in Applied Sociology and Intercultural relations (BA in Social work), Sociology of

migration (MA in Sociology), Qualitative research methods (MA in Global and local studies), Ethnography (PhD in Sociology and social research). His research activities have been based on original and collaborative fieldwork, data analysis, writing and publications in sociology, migration studies, transnationalism, care, diversity, social welfare and home studies. Over time Boccagni has done empirical research and developed collaborative networks in different countries in Europe (Italy, UK, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands) and Latin America (Ecuador, Peru). Between 2016 and 2022 he has led ERC-StG HOMInG, a large-scale comparative study of home and homemaking among different immigrant and native groups. Besides his activities as social researcher, lecturer and invited speaker, Boccagni has been an independent evaluator in local and international research schemes and funding agencies.

## **GRANTS**

Boccagni has been awarded, among other grants, a European Research Council Starting Grant (ERC StG) from the European Commission (HOMInG – the home-migration nexus: Home as a window on migrant belonging, circulation and integration, 2016-22, Euro 1.5 million) and, parallel to that, a dedicated and competitive grant from the Italian Ministry of University (HOASI: Home and Asylum seekers in Italy, MIUR-FARE, 2017-22, Euro 200,000).

Over the last few years, Boccagni has been PI of a local research unit in the national project ASIT - DEBORDERING - Activities and citizenship from below of asylum seekers in Italy (MIUR-PRIN, 2019-22, Euro 130,000). More recently, he gained two new research grant under the same national scheme with the projects MIGREM - Migrant remittances and transnational ties: care, social change and development across borders (MIUR-PRIN, 2021-2024, Euro 125,000); and SHARE\_DIV: Unveiling the social lives of shared housing between strangers in Italy (MIUR-PRIN, 2023-2025, Euro 145,000).

## **RESEARCH SUPERVISION AND REVIEW**

Boccagni has so far supervised 40 Master students (Sociology, Social Research, Social Work), 2 PhD students (Sociology) and 15 post-doc researchers (Sociology, Anthropology, Development and Social Work). Moreover, he has been invited to sit in Doctoral Juries in the following universities: Amsterdam, Barcelona Autònoma, Birmingham, País Vasco, European University Institute, Ghent, Groningen, Liège, Leuven, Lisbon, Milano Bicocca, Nottingham, Padova, Pisa, Gottingen, Newcastle, Torino and Vrije (Amsterdam). He has also served as an external evaluator for PhD dissertations at the universities of Genova, Madrid Complutense and Helsinki. Moreover, he has been an independent assessor for recruitment and academic promotions at the universities of Genova, Urbino, Tel Aviv, Cyprus, Sussex and Southampton. He has also served as Expert in evaluating funding applications for a number of institutions, including the following: Swiss National Science Foundation (2026); Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR) (2023); European Commission (since 2018 – MCSF, AMIF, ERASMUS+); Norway Research Council (2022); MIUR-VQR (2021, 2025); NordForsk (2019); National Science Centre, Poland (2017); DAAB, Bonn (2016); Estonian Science Foundation (2012).

Moreover, Boccagni is or has been a member of the Scientific board of the following international research projects: ReRoot (Arrival Infrastructures as Sites of Integration for

Recent Newcomers, funded by the European Commission, 2021-25); YMAP (Youth Mobilities, Aspirations & Pathways, Australian Research Council, 2017-22); HoMi (Home and (dis)continuity: Foster care for children with migrant backgrounds, Research Council of Norway, 2020-23); MIG-AGE (Do migrants in Europe age well?, Volkswagen Foundation, 2023-2017); Contesting urban borderscapes in Latin America (Dutch Research Council, 2023-27); ERRANT (Inequality reproduction in and through housing, 2026-27). From 2017 onwards, Boccagni has co-convened the International Summer School in Ethnography that has attracted to Trento, over the years, dozens of PhD students and postdoctoral researchers from Europe and beyond. He has also promoted about 50 conferences, symposiums and seminars, mostly on themes of international migration, development studies, social policy, social work, housing and home. Moreover, he has served as an anonymous reviewer for about 50 academic journals across the spectrum of social sciences, with a main focus on migration, welfare, home, diversity and transnational studies.

### **MEMBERSHIPS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES**

Boccagni has been a member of the International Sociological Association, RC 31 – Sociology of Migration (2010-2018); of the IMISCOE Research network (since 2009); of MITRA – Migrant Transnationalism, an IMISCOE Research Committee (2019-2024). He is a member of the Advisory Board of *Comparative Migration Studies* and of the Editorial Boards of *Belonging*, *Nordic Journal of Migration Research*, *Migration Letters* and *Mondi Migranti*.

### **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Books**

- *Death in migration: Foregrounding loss, grieving and memory out of place* (coauthored), Bristol University Press, 2026
- *Undoing nothing: Waiting for asylum, struggling for relevance*, University of California Press, 2025
- *Vite ferme: Storie di migranti in attesa*, Il Mulino, 2024
- *Handbook on home and migration* (edited), Edward Elgar, 2023
- *Migration and domestic space* (coedited), Springer, 2023
- *La lotta per il tempo: temporalità contestate nell'esperienza dei richiedenti asilo in Italia* (coauthored), Meltemi, 2023,
- *Thinking home on the move* (coauthored), Emerald, 2020
- *Transnational return and social change* (coedited), Anthem, 2019
- *Migration and the search for home: Mapping domestic space in migrants' everyday lives*, Palgrave, 2017
- *Il lavoro sociale con le persone immigrate* (coauthored), Maggioli, 2017 – 2nd edition, 2024.
- *Tracce transnazionali: vite in Italia e proiezioni verso casa tra i migranti ecuadoriani*, Angeli, 2009.

#### **Journal articles and book chapters**

- On the (past) verge of death: private memory or public concern? From the untold to the visible through ethnography as care, *Cultural Studies*, 2026

- What *Undoing Nothing* does: Dilemmas and developments in researching racialized waithood in place, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 2026
- More than money. Unpacking the moral economy of remittances through the online advertising of Western Union, *Nordic Journal of Migration Research* (coauthored), 2026
- ‘Remittances’ in question. Circulating money and non-circulating words among multi-generational Palestinians in Italy, *Current Sociology* (coauthored), 2026
- YouTubing remittances, revealing (dis)connectedness. Copresence as fiction, ideal and heuristic on the YouTube channel of Western Union, *Global Networks* (coauthored), 2025
- Challenging ungrievability for people missing at sea. Search infrastructures, spaces of public mourning, and claims for justice, *Ethnic and Racial Studies* (coauthored), 2025
- Migration, borders and “debordering” in pandemic times: Voices as interlocution from quarantine ships in Italy, *Journal of Borderland Studies* (coauthored), 2024
- Dreaming of a remittance house. Understanding transnational housing aspirations, *International Migration Review* (coauthored), 2024
- Integration and the struggle to turn space into “our” place: Homemaking as a way beyond the stalemate of assimilationism vs transnationalism, *International Migration* (coauthored), 2023
- Homing: a category for social research on space appropriation and “home-oriented” mobilities, *Mobilities*, 2022
- Home in question: Uncovering meanings, desires and dilemmas of non-home (coauthored), *European Jrl. of Cultural Studies*, 2022
- Do objects (re)produce home among international migrants? Unveiling the social functions of domestic possessions in Peruvian and Ecuadorian migration (coauthored), *International Journal of Intercultural Studies*, 2022
- Of home-comings and home-scales: Reframing return migration through a multiscalar understanding of home (co-authored), *Global Networks*, 2022
- Domestic religion and the migrant home: the private, the diasporic and the public in the sacralization of Sikh dwellings in Italy (coauthored), *Ethnicities*, 2022
- Calibrating home, hospitality and reciprocity in migration (co-authored), *Anthropological Theory*, 2022
- Transnational migration and homemaking. In B. Yeoh, F. Collins (eds.) *Handbook on transnationalism*, 2022
- Exposing the private, engaging in the public: Asylum seekers, intimate publics and normative performances of public participation (coauthored), *Environment and Planning D*, 2022
- ‘Stayhome’ as a youtube performance: Representing and reshaping domestic space under the 2020 covid lockdown in Italy (co-authored), *European Societies*, 2022
- ‘You’re always in transit, but the house stays’: Remitting, restoring and remaking home in a migrant family house in Cuenca, Ecuador (coauthored), *Housing, Theory and Society*, 2022
- Entering into domestic hospitality for refugees: a critical inquiry through a multiscalar view of home (co-authored), *Identities*, 2022
- International students and homemaking in transition: Locating home on the threshold between ascription and achievement (co-authored), *Home Cultures*, 2022
- Transnational Perspectives in Social work (coauthored), *Oxford Biographies in Social Work*, 2022
- Selling a house, staging a dream: Real estate agencies and transnational housing between Spain and Ecuador (co-authored), *Migration and Development*, 2022
- Homemaking in superdiverse public space. In F. Meissner et al. (eds), *Oxford Handbook of superdiversity*, 2022
- At home in the centre? Spatial appropriation and horizons of homemaking in reception facilities for asylum seekers. In L. Beeckmans et al. (eds), *Making home(s) in displacement*, 2022
- A place migrants would call home: Open-ended constructions and social determinants over time among Ecuadorians in three European cities (coauthored), *Comparative Migration Studies*, 2021
- Two houses, one family, and the battlefield of home: a housing history of home unmaking in rural Punjab (co-authored), *Geoforum*, 2021
- The Neighbourhood as Home Away from Home? Potentials and dilemmas of homemaking in the public among the Somali Swedes in Rinkeby, Stockholm (coauthored), *Anthropological Journal of European Cultures*, 2021.
- At home in the gurdwara? Religious space and the resonance with domesticity in a London suburb, (co-authored), *Religion*, 2021.
- Homemaking in the public: on the scales and stakes of framing, feeling and claiming extra-domestic space as ‘home’ (coauthored), *Sociology Compass*, 2021.

- Feeling at home across time and place. A study of Ecuadorians in three European cities, *Population, Space and Place* (coauthored), 2021.
- So many houses, as many homes? Transnational housing, migration and development. In T. Bastia, R: Skeldon (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Migration and Development*, 2020.
- Fixed places, shifting distances: Remittance houses and migrants' negotiation of home in Ecuador, *Migration Studies* (coauthored), 2021
- For a comparative sociology of home: Relationships, cultures, structures, *Current Sociology* (co-authored), 2020
- On the theoretical potential of 'remittance houses': toward a research agenda across immigration contexts, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 2020
- At home in the restaurant: Familiarity, belonging and material culture in Ecuadorian restaurants in Madrid, *Sociology* (coauthored), 2020
- Social work with refugee and displaced populations in Europe: (Dis)continuities, dilemmas, developments (coauthored), *European Journal of Social Work*, 2020
- Ambivalence and the social processes of immigrant inclusion (co-authored), *International Jrl. of Comparative Sociology*, 2019
- Multi-sited ethnography. In P. Atkinson et al. (eds.), *SAGE Research Methods Foundations*, Sage, 2019.
- At home in home care? Contents and boundaries of the 'domestic' among immigrant live-in care workers in Italy, *Housing Studies*, 2018.
- At the roots of home, away from it. In H. Ghorashi et al. (eds.), *Contested belonging*, Emerald, 2018.
- Participant observation in migration studies (coauthored). In R. Zapata, E. Yalaz (eds.), *Qualitative research in European migration studies*, Springer, 2018.
- La casa di chi? Da territorialità esclusive verso territorialità inclusive: rileggere il lavoro di comunità in contesti di nuova immigrazione (coauthored), *Sociologia Urbana e Rurale*, 2018
- Addressing transnational needs through migration?, *Global Social Policy*, 2017.
- Aspirations and the subjective future of migration, *Comparative Migration Studies*, 2017.
- Immigrants and home in the making: Thresholds of domesticity, commonality and publicness (co-authored), *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment*, 2017.
- Transnationalism. In B. Turner (ed.), *The Wiley Encyclopedia of Social Theory*, Wiley, 2017.
- From the multi-sited to the in-between, *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 2016.
- Transnational Politics as Cultural Circulation (coauthored), *Mobilities*, 2016.
- Searching for wellbeing in care work migration, *Social Politics*, 2016.
- (Super)Diversity and the Migration-Social Work Nexus, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 2015
- Urban multiculturalism beyond the "backlash" (coauthored), *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, 2015
- Burden, Blessing or Both? *International Sociology*, 2015 – ISA 31 "Best article" award, 2016
- Emotions on the move (coauthored), *Emotion, Space and Society*,
- The difference diversity makes. In T. Matejskova, M. Antonsich (eds.), *Governing through diversity*, Palgrave, 2015.
- Blurred rights, local practices, *British Journal of Social Work*, (co-authored), 2014
- What's in a (migrant) house?, *Housing, Theory and Society*, 2014
- Care (and) circulation revisited (coauthored). In L. Baldassar, L. Merla (eds.), *Transnational families, migration and the circulation of care*, Routledge, 2014
- "Whom should we help first?", *International Migration*, 2013
- Mapping social remittances (coauthored), *Migration Letters*, 2013
- Practising motherhood at a distance, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 2012
- Rethinking transnational studies, *European Journal of Social Theory*, 2012
- Even a transnational social field must have its boundaries. In C. Vargas-Silva (ed.), *Handbook of Research Methods in Migration*, Edward Elgar, 2012.
- From rapport to collaboration ... and beyond?, *Qualitative Research*, 2011
- Public, private or both? In R. Baubock, T. Faist (eds.), *Diaspora and transnationalism*, AUP, 2010.