

Irene BONO

Professor of Politics, Department of Cultures, Politics and Society, University of Turin (Italy)

- Born in Milan (Italy), 3 June 1981
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Irene Bono is Associate Professor of Politics at the University of Turin, Italy, and President of the Funds for the Analysis of Political Society (FASOPO), a French-based not for profit association that joins together an international network of researchers who share an approach of comparative historical sociology of politics to the study of the Global South. She currently teaches comparative politics and development politics, focusing on the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa) and Africa, as well as research design and methodology. PhD in Political Science (University of Torino, 2009), with a thesis on political participation and development policies in Morocco, she holds a European MA in Mediterranean Affairs (Ca' Foscari University, Montpellier University, Universitat Autònoma of Barcelona), and a Full University Degree (MA equivalent) in International Relations (University of Torino).

Before being hired at the University of Torino in 2012, she has been Research Fellow at the Center of International Studies - CERI at SciencesPO, Paris (2011-2012), Researcher at the Center of Social, Economic and Business Studies, CESEM/HEM, Rabat (2011-2013) and Research fellow at the Department of Political Studies, University of Torino (2009-2011). She collaborates on a regular basis with Hassan II University in Casablanca, Morocco, with the Center of International Studies - CERI at SciencesPO, Paris, where she was visiting in 2015, with the Mediterranean center of sociology, political science and history - Meshopolis at SciencesPO Aix-en-Provence, where she was visiting in 2022, and with SciencesPO Bordeaux. Between 2014 and 2019 she directed the double degree Master program in Comparative Analysis of Mediterranean Societies (COSM), jointly promoted by the University of Turin and the Mohamed VI Polytechnic University of Rabat.

Her main research interests are nationalism and State-making in post-colonial countries, unconventional forms of political participation, the changing paradigms of development policies and the government of inequalities. She approaches these subjects by problematizing the notion of “sources”, combining fieldwork methodology and archival research. Her principal area of expertise are Maghreb countries, and particularly Morocco. Her last monograph, on the discreet forms of political action which participates to the Nation-State formation is [*Un entrepreneur du national au Maroc. Ahmed Benkirane, traces et discretion*](#) (Karthala, Paris 2024). The website fondsahmedbenkirane.archiui.com makes accessible her research archive and presents the main results of her work through different formats of storytelling, podcasts and videos.

Parallel to her research, she also cultivates an open dialogue on the uneven political impacts of development initiatives with policy makers and international experts, notably with the French Agency of Development within the activities of FASOPO, with the City of Turin, as well as with several Italian NGO's working in the Mediterranean area.

Education

- 2009: PhD in Political Sciences, University of Torino, with full marks and honors.
- 2008: Master's Degree Program Crossing the Mediterranean: towards Investment and Integration (MIM), Ca' Foscari University, with full marks and honors.
- 2005: Graduated in International and Diplomatic Sciences at the University of Torino, with full marks and honors.

Academic record

- As of 2020: Associate Professor in Political Sciences, University of Torino.
- 2012-2020: Researcher in Political Sciences, University of Torino.
- 2011-2013: Researcher at Haute Ecole d'Etudes en Management (HEM), Casablanca.
- 2009- 2011: Post-Doc Research Fellow, University of Turin.

Visiting and international affiliations

- 2022: 1-month Visiting Fellow at the Mediterranean Center of Sociology, Political Science and History (MESOPOLHIS) Aix-en-Provence.
- 2015: 1-month Visiting Fellow at the Center of International Studies (CERI) Sciences Po, Paris.
- 2014-2017: Research affiliate at the Research Center on Economics Society and Cultures (CRESC) Mohamed VI Polytechnic University, Rabat.
- 2011-2014: Research affiliate at the Moroccan Center of Social Sciences (CM2S), Hassan II University, Casablanca.
- 2011-2012: 6-month Visiting Fellow at the Center of International Studies (CERI) Sciences Po, Paris, with grant from the French Embassy in Italy.

Institutional appointments

- As of 2015: Responsible of the Erasmus + partner countries project of the University of Torino in Morocco.
- As of 2014: Member of the scientific board of the PhD Program in Social and Political Change (University of Torino, University of Florence).
- 2018-2021: Scientific coordinator of the Visiting attraction strategy, Project of Excellence, Department CPS, University of Torino.
- 2017-2021: Delegate for Internationalization, Department CPS, University of Torino.
- 2017-2019: Member of the scientific board of the Master Program in Management of Development (University of Torino- ITC/ILO).
- 2014-2018: Director of the Double Degree Master Program in Comparative Analysis of Mediterranean Societies (COSM), University of Torino, Mohamed VI Polytechnic University.
- 2013-2014: Coordinator of the Double Degree in Political Sciences, University of Torino-Sciences Po Bordeaux.

At the Department CPS, member of the following research clusters:

- - Centre for Documentation and Research on Foundations and Civil Society
- - Centre for Research in Ethnopsychiatry and Anthropology of Migration - CREtAM
- - CPS Africa

Teaching appointments

- Undergraduate courses: Political science; Public policy analysis. Around 50 BA students supervised for final dissertation in the last 5 years.

- Master courses: Methodology, Comparative Politics across Mediterranean, Politics and Development in Africa. Around 60 MA students supervised for final dissertations in the last 5 years.
- PhD courses: Political sciences, Methodology. In the last 10 years, 5 PhD thesis supervised on politics of memory in South-Africa, on political elites in Italian banking foundations, on the transformations of political intermediation in Tunisia, on demilitarization of in French Polynesia, on the legalization of cannabis in Morocco.

Editorial appointments

- Sociétés Politiques Comparées, Director of the Publication.
- Middle East Critique, Member of the Editorial board.
- Meridiana, Member of the Editorial board.
- Politique Africaine, Member of the Editorial board 2019-2022.
- Referee: Teoria Politica, Rivista Italiana di Scienza Politica, Revue Tiers Monde, Urban Studies, Review of African Political Economy, African Journal of History and Culture, Oriente Moderno, Politique africaine, Recherches Qualitatives, Revue Internationale de Politique Comparée.

Membership

- Fonds d'Analyse des Sociétés Politiques (FASOPO, Paris), President.
- Centre de Recherches et d'Etudes sur les Sociétés Contemporaines (CRESC, Rabat), Member.
- Italian Society of Political Science (SISP), Member.

Publications

Books

- *Un entrepreneur du national au Maroc. Ahmed Benkirane, traces et discretion*, Paris: Karthala 2024.
- *L'Etat d'injustice au Maghreb. Maroc et Tunisie*, (with B. Hibou, H. Meddeb, M. Tozy), Paris: Karthala 2015.
- *In nome della società civile. Un caso di sviluppo partecipato in Marocco*, Milano: Guerini, 2010.

Peer-reviewed articles

- Souveraineté économique et capitalisme de dissidence au Maroc. Jouer les conflits politiques dans la discretion, *Politique africaine*, n. 171-172, 2023, pp. 59-85.
- Statisti fuori dal governo e frontiere della politica. Per un approccio biografico al mutamento politico, *Meridiana*, n. 100, 2021, pp. 207-226.
- Chronicles: Research in the Dock (with D. Melfa, B. Hibou, E. Brighi, D. Cantini, L. Casini), *Oriente Moderno*, n. 101, 2021, pp. 432-465.
- Peut-on rester libre à l'heure du risqué ? La liberté scientifique sur les terrains dits difficiles (with B. Hibou), *Sociétés politiques comparées*, n. 52, 2020, pp.1-6.
- Un terrain biographique sur le changement politique au Maroc. Suivre les traces d'Ahmed Benkirane, *Sociétés politiques comparées*, n. 49, pp. 1-22.
- Hull Elizabeth, Davie Grace, Bono Irene, Ferguson James, Autour d'un livre. James Ferguson, Give a Man a Fish. Reflections on the New Politics of Distribution. Durham/Londres, Duke University Press, 2015, xv et 264 pages. *Politique africaine*, n. 145, 2017, pp. 197-218
- Development as Battalfield, *International Development Policy*, n. 8, 2017 (with B. Hibou), pp. 3-34.
- Conflitti fondatori e frontiere nazionali in Marocco. Per un approccio discreto alla statualità, *Afriche e Orienti*, vol. 2/3 2016.
- Indigenti responsabili e giovani occupabili. Il governo neoliberale di chi merita assistenza in Marocco, *Rivista Meridiana*, n. 79, 2014, pp.127-150.

- Une lecture d'économie politique de la participation des jeunes au Maroc à l'heure du Printemps arabe, *Revue internationale de politique comparée*, vol. 20 n. 4, 2013, pp. 145-166.
- Rethinking Cities in Contentious Times: The Mobilisation of Urban Dissent in the 'Arab Spring', *Urban Studies*, vol. 50 no. 9, 2013, pp. 1675-1688 (with M. Allegra & J. Rokem).
- Activisme associatif comme marché du travail. Normalisation sociale et politique par les activités génératrices de revenus, *Politique africaine*, n. 120, 2010, p. 25-44.
- Oltre la "mala Protezione Civile", l'emergenza come stile di governo, *Meridiana*, n. 65-66, 2010, p. 185-205.
- Du Cinéclub à la "communication sociale". Le cas de la province d'El Hajeb (Moyen-Atlas marocain), *Maghreb et Sciences sociales*, vol. 2009-2010, p. 221-235.
- Outsourcing nella fabbrica della democrazia. Appunti sulla partecipazione in Marocco, *Meridiana*, vol. 58, 2007, p. 139-162.

Edited books and special issues

- *Conflicts of development*, special issue, *International Development Policy*, vol. 8, 2017, (with B. Hibou).
- *Le gouvernement du social au Maroc*, Karthala, Paris 2016 (with B. Hibou).

Chapters in edited books

- Imprenditori e politica in Marocco: aggiustamento strutturale, islam politico, sinistra di governo, in Fondazione Craxi (dir.), *Il Maghreb contemporaneo*, Franco Angeli, Milano 2023, pp. 142-156.
- Rescuing Biography from the Nation: Discrete Perspectives on Political Change in Morocco, in Y. Berriane, A. Derks, A. Kreil, D. Lueddeckens, *Methodological Approaches to Societies in Transformation*, Palgrave Macmillan, London 2021, pp. 139-163.
- Un virus che non guarda in faccia nessuno? Per una politica comparata dell'emergenza nel "Sud" del mondo, in M. Cuono, M. Ceretta, F. Barbera, *L'emergenza Covid-19 Un laboratorio per le scienze sociali*, Carocci, Roma 2021.
- Farei i conti con i giovani. Censimenti ed esclusione sociale in Marocco, in S. Berhe, E. Gargiulo (dir.), *Fingerprints. Tecniche di identificazione e diritti delle persone*, Qui Edit, Verona 2020, pp. 231-256.
- Approcher, Ecarter, Détourner le regard. L'observation du politique au prisme de ses représentations hégémoniques, K. Mouna, C. Therrien, L. Bouasria, (eds.), *Terrains marocains. Sur les traces de chercheurs d'ici et d'ailleurs*, Editions du Centre Jacques Berque/La croisée des chemins, Rabat/Casablanca, 2017.
- Gouverner le vivre ensemble, in B. Hibou, I. Bono (eds.) *Le gouvernement du social au Maroc*, Karthala, Paris 2016, pp. 5-43.
- Comment devenir employable? Certifier l'exclusion, l'indifférence et la stigmatisation sur le marché du travail au Maroc, B. Hibou (ed.), *La bureaucratisation néolibérale*, La Découverte, Paris 2013, pp. 49-75.
- "L'INDH n'achète que des vaches!". Mobilisation de ressources et notabilités à l'épreuve du développement au Maroc, in B. Challand, C. Abu Sada (eds.), *Le développement : une affaire d'ONG ?*, Paris, Karthala/Aix-en-Provence, IREMAM, 2012, p. 125-155.
- L'eccezione che conferma la deroga. Protezione civile e governo d'emergenza, in G.L. Bulsei, A. Mastropaolo (eds.), *Oltre il terremoto*, Roma, Viella, 2011, p. 151-171.
- Sviluppo locale e partecipazione allo sviluppo in Marocco. Una proposta metodologica e una riflessione critica, (with E. Dansero), in M.G. Lucia et al. (eds.), *Marocco. Turismo e sviluppo locale*, Torino, L'Harmattan Italia, 2010, p. 63-86.
- Partecipazione sul biglietto da visita. La società civile in Marocco tra vocazione e professione, in R. Di Peri, P. Rivetti (eds.), *Effetto società civile*, Roma, Bonanno, 2010, p. 213-247.
- Pauvreté, exception, participation. Mobilisation et démobilitation dans le cadre de l'INDH, M. Catusse et al. (eds.) *L'Etat face aux débordements du social au Maghreb*, Paris, Karthala 2010.

Peer-reviewed working papers

- *Communautés imaginées, imaginaires politiques: les industries culturelles africaines au prisme des transformations numériques* (with A. Jedlowski), Papier de recherche n. 310, Editions AFD, Paris 2024.
- *Le phénomène participatif au Maroc à travers ses styles d'action et ses normes*, Les Etudes du CERI, vol. 166, 2010.
- *Power in networks and power networks. Some notes towards a two level network approach to power*, Sps Press, vol. 8, 2007.

Research reports

- *Industries culturelles et formation asymétrique de l'État-nation en Afrique* (with A. Jedlowski), FASOPO 2022.
- *Fenomeni elettorali e pratiche di partecipazione della diaspora marocchina in Italia* (with A. Zisa), CITADAF Project 2022.
- *La démographie de l'injustice sociale au Maroc et en Tunisie*, FASOPO 2013 (with H. Meddeb).
- *Evaluation of USAID/Morocco Civil Society Advocacy Project (SANAD)*, United States Agency for International Development, July 2012 (with P. Tainturier, M. Bouja, M. Wazif).
- *Contestation sociale et gestion politique de la corruption et du chômage au Maroc*, FASOPO 2012 (with B. Hibou and M. Tozy).
- *Economie politique du néolibéralisme, résurgence islamique et évolution des dynamiques du capitalisme contemporain au Maroc*, FASOPO 2010 (with M. Wazif).

Research groups and scientific appointments

- *La fabrique des communautés imaginées. Liens sociaux, filières économiques et enjeux politiques des industries culturelles en Afrique*, scientific coordinator with A. Jedlowski, with a French Agency for Development grant to FASOPO 2021-22.
- *Citoyennetés Actives des Diasporas Africaines en France, Italie et Belgique*, with a Nouvelle Aquitaine grant to Sciences Po Bordeaux, member 2021-2022
- *Capturing the national through its traces*, PI, funded by CRESC/UM6P Rabat, 2015-2018.
- *Regimes of legitimate inequalities*, PI, with Local Funds, University of Turin, 2014-2016.
- *Social justice demography: Youth representations in Morocco and Tunisia*, PI with H. Meddeb, with a French Agency for Development grant to FASOPO, 2012-2014.
- *Economic and Social Dynamics Beyond the Arab Awakening*, Coordinator, with a Compagnia di San Paolo grant to T.wai, 2012-2013.
- *Investing in Morocco: the Role of Entrepreneurs in the Process of State Formation in Morocco*, PI, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs Fellow, Sciences Po, November 2011- May 2012.
- *Non-Conventional Funding in Social Sciences in the ERA*, Co-director with C. Carrozza (CES Coimbra) with Compagnia di San Paolo and Centro Einaudi grants to T.wai (2010-2012).
- *Mouvements sociaux et acteurs économiques*, scientific coordination with B. Hibou, HEM, K. Adenauer Stiftung, H. Seidel Stiftung and T.wai grants to CM2S, 2011-2014.
- *Formes historiques, sociales et politiques du capitalisme marocain*, Scientific coordinator, HEM (Casablanca) and IRMC (Tunis) grants to CM2S, 2011-2013.
- *Contestation sociale et gestion politique de la corruption et du chômage au Maroc*, Researcher with a French Agency for Development grant to FASOPO, 2011.
- *Histoire de l'entreprise et de l'entrepreneuriat au Maroc*, scientific coordinator, with a Compagnia di San Paolo grant to T.wai, 2010-2012.
- *Another politics? Governing in the name of 'civil society'*, Italian Ministry of Research Post-doctoral Fellow, DPS, University of Turin, 2009-2011.

- *Tanmia. Fabrique de l'action publique dans le monde arabe*, Researcher with a French Agency of Research grant to Institut Français du Proche Orient (IFPO), Beyrouth/Damas, 2008-2011.
- *Neoliberal Reforms and Islam Resurgence in Morocco and Turkey*, Researcher with a French Agency for Development grant to FASOPO, 2009-2010.
- *Elites and the governing class: training, resources, networks and social influence*, Network Analyst with a CRT Foundation grant to DPS, University of Turin, (2007-2008).

Applied research and public engagement (selection)

- Publication of the digital archive <https://fondсахmedbenkirane.archiui.com/>
- Participation to Archivissima Festival, 2021 and 2022.
- Expertise for the French Agency of Development (AFD) and occasionally for the United States Development Agency (USAID).
- Member of the Skills Lab Network of the European Training Foundation.
- Member of the Consultation Committee of the Mediterranean Network for Training Orientation to Regular Migration, City of Turin.

Talks, panels, workshops and conferences organized (selection 2014-24)

- Un entrepreneur du national au Maroc. Ahmed Benkirane, traces et discretion, Centre culturel du Croissant Rouge, Casablanca, 9/02/24 (talk)
- Participation, conflits et violence « dans la discrétion » : un terrain biographique sur Ahmed Benkirane, Université Hassan II, Casablanca, 12/02/24 (talk)
- La nation inarchivable : traces, discrétion, changement politique, Institut Français, Rabat, 13/02/24 (talk)
- Entrepreneurs et formation nationale au Maroc, une approche biographique, Université Mohamed V Rabat, 14/02/24 (talk)
- Enjeux du présent au nom du passé : Qui peut parler de quoi ?, XIII meeting of the REASOPO network, 9-10/02/23 (conference organized with B. Hibou)
- La fabrique des communautés imaginées : Liens sociaux, filières économiques et enjeux politiques des industries culturelles en Afrique, Sciences PO, Paris, 8/02/23 (conference organized with A. Jedlowski)
- Libertà scientifica e libertà metodologica, Torino, 27-28/10/22 (conference organized with L. Fourchard et M. Tozy)
- Quali fonti in tempi di transizione? Prospettive disciplinari e strumenti metodologici nello studio del mutamento sociale, culturale e politico, University of Torino 6-10/07/22 (doctoral workshop organized with R. Ricucci, G. Ragona, R. Sciarrone)
- Biographies and political change, Centre Maurice Halbwachs, Paris, 23/09/21 (talk).
- Acteurs économiques et changement politique durant les « années de plomb », Centre Jacques Berque, Rabat 18/02/21 (talk).
- Analysing Political Change beyond the 'Democratic Backlash': Uses and Policies of the Past, Conference AFSP, Bordeaux, 2-4/07/19 (panel with D. Dakowska).
- Delimitare i confini e pensare la politica. Di che cosa parliamo quando diciamo Africa, Regione MENA, Islam?, Torino, 3-6/06/19 (doctoral workshop).
- Fare archivio, lasciare traccia, avere memoria. Fonti sulla resistenza e la subalternità in Medio Oriente e Nord Africa, XIV Conference SESAMO, Torino, 31/1-2/2/19 (panel with S. Taliani and M.L. Russo).
- Cambio di regime e politiche della memoria, XXXII Annual Conference of Società Italiana di Scienza Politica, Università di Torino, 6-8 September 2018 (panel with M. Montanini).

- Oltre lo "Stato fallito": arene politiche, classe dirigente, processi di governo, XXXII Annual Conference of Società Italiana di Scienza Politica, Università di Torino, 6-8 September 2018 (panel with G. Zanoletti).
- Ingiustizia sociale e statualità in Marocco e Tunisia, Napoli L'Orientale, 31/05/18 (talk).
- MENA Inside Out: Political, Economic and Social Transformations in the Region, Graduate institute Ginevra, 26/09/17 (talk with B. Hibou).
- Nazione e nazionalità. Prospettive teoriche, empiriche, metodologiche, XXXI Congress of the Italian Society of Political Sciences, University of Urbino, 14-16/09/2017 (panel with E. Gargiulo).
- Il campo come esperienza diretta: implicazioni sociali e politiche del "risk assessment" nella ricerca, *Ricerca in pericolo/Il pericolo della ricerca. Giornata in memoria di Giulio Regeni*, Università di Napoli L'Orientale, 19 May 2016.
- L'archive d'un entrepreneur du national au Maroc. Traces personnelles et paradigmes collectifs, EHES Paris, 11/04/16 (talk).
- Discrete paths to the nation. Thinking political change by a biographical approach, University of Zurich, 23- 24/10/15 (talk).
- Quelles archives pour l'histoire du temps present? Traces personnelles et paradigmes collectifs, Mohamed VI Polytechnic University Rabat, 10/10/15 (conference).
- *Conflicts of development*, international seminar, Graduate Institute, Geneve, 7-8 September 2015 (with B. Hibou).
- *Contentious Practices of Statehood in Morocco. Traces of an Entrepreneur of the National*, Practices of the State in Africa: Contested Social and Political Spaces, International Colloquium, Università L'Orientale, Napoli, 26-27 March 2015 (talk).
- *Le Gouvernement du social au Maroc: Une perspective comparée*, international conference, Mohamed VI Polytechnic University in Rabat, 17-18 December 2014 (with B. Hibou).
- *Connaître, savoir faire, savoir être. Pratiques de certification de la connaissance*, La bureaucratisation. Ineluctable vraiment? CROTECS, Genève, 24 September 2014 (talk).
- *Youth and the Arab Spring in Tunisia and Morocco: a Comparative Perspective*, Summer School Understanding the Middle East. Political Change and Continuity, University of Turin, 3 July 2014 (talk).
- *La démographie de l'injustice sociale au Maroc*, 3rd Meeting of African Studies in France, Bordeaux University, 30 June-2-July 2014 (talk).
- *Formaliser l'injustice par les chiffres en Afrique*, 3rd Meeting of African Studies in France, Bordeaux University, 30 June-2-July 2014 (panel with B. Samuel and V. Bonnescase).
- *L'agenda europea di fronte alle crisi mediterranee*, cycle of seminars, May-December 2014, University of Turin, Institut Français Italie, T.wai, Association Fanon, REASOPO (with Simona Taliani).
- *Ce que la sociologie politique fait à/de la participation... et inversement*, La raison participative en politique, X Summer School in Social Sciences, Cherpa-Sciences Po Aix-en-Provence, 20 June 2014 (talk).

Language skills

- Italian, native.
- French (DALF, 2003), fluent in speaking and writing.
- English (TOEFL 2006), fluent in speaking and writing.
- Spanish (self-assessment), fluent in speaking and writing.
- Moroccan Arabic (University of Meknès 2007), improver in understanding and speaking.