

Dr. Phil. Erika Forte

Personal data

Erika Angela FORTE

Email: erika.forte@oeaw.ac.at

Office address:

Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austrian Academy of Science
Hollandstrasse 11-13, Room 2.50, 1020 Vienna, Austria

Office telephone: +43-1-51581-6439

Research Interests

Buddhist art and archaeology in Eastern central Asia and in China; Chinese epigraphical sources on Buddhism; Buddhist architecture.

Education

- 2014 Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale 10/N3 – Professore di II Fascia (Italian National Habilitation for Associate Professor)
- 1998-2002 Ph.D, Indian and East-Asian Art, Università degli Studi di Genova, Italy
- 1996-1997 Post-graduate Specialization in Chinese Archaeology, Xi'an Northwest University, China
- 1988-1995 University Degree in Humanities, Art History and Archaeology of Central Asia, Università degli studi di Roma 'La Sapienza', Italy
- 1989-1992 Diploma of Chinese Language and Culture, Istituto Italiano per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente (Is.M.E.O.) Rome, Italy.

Career History

- Since 8.2019 Research associate, Director of FWF stand-alone project P32186-G *Contextualizing Ancient Remains. Networks of Buddhist Monasteries in Central Asia*, Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia (IKGA), Austrian Academy of Science, Vienna, Austria
- 1.2018-7.2019 Research associate, ERC funded research project *BuddhistRoad – Dynamics in Buddhist Networks in Eastern Central Asia 6th to 14th Centuries*, Center for Religious Studies (CERES) at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany
- 9.2016-12.2017 Maternity leave
- 10.2015-2.2016 Deputy professorship for the chair of Central Asian Religions, Center for Religious Studies (CERES), Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany
- 6.2015-12.2017

- Research Associate, Käte Hamburger Kolleg “Dynamics in the History of Religions between Asia and Europe”, Center for Religious Studies (CERES), Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany
- 4.2014-3.2015
Research Fellow, Käte Hamburger Kolleg *Dynamics in the History of Religions*, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany
- 9-11.2013
Visiting Scholar, International Academy for China Studies, Peking University.
- 4-7.2013
Employed at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Documentation of Inner and South Asian Cultural History (CIRDIS), University of Vienna, Austria
- Since 2013
Member of the Research Platform Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Documentation of Inner and South Asian Cultural History (CIRDIS), University of Vienna (<http://www.univie.ac.at/cirdis>), Austria
- 2007-2013
Research associate, National Research Network *The Cultural History of the Western Himalaya from the 8th Century* (CHWH), funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), University of Vienna, Department of Art History, Austria (<http://www.univie.ac.at/chwh>)
- 2007-2012
Lecturer in Chinese Art and Archaeology at the University of Vienna, Faculty of East Asian Studies, Department of Sinology, Austria
- 2004-2006
Post-doctoral fellow at the University of Kyoto (Japan), Institute for Research in Humanities
- 2003-2004
Full time Collaborator of “Archaeozone Project: a WEB Database for the Archaeology” (section on “Italian Archaeological Investigations in China”), CISA (Interdepartmental Center for Archaeological Studies at the Università degli studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”, Naples, Italy)
- 1997-2005
Member and archaeologist in the Italian-Chinese Archaeological Excavation Project on the Buddhist site of the Fengxiansi Monastery in Longmen, Luoyang, P.R. China (Istituto Universitario Orientale di Napoli; Istituto Italiano per l’Africa e l’Oriente; the Research Institute of the Longmen Grottoes, Longmen, Luoyang, China; Office for Cultural relics of Luoyang City, China; Work Unit for Cultural relics of Luoyang City, China).
- 2000
Archaeologist in Roma, via della Consolazione: Foro Romano NW Area archaeological investigations (Società Cooperativa Archeologia di Roma, Soprintendenza Archeologica di Roma)
- 1997-1999
Archaeologist in the Joint Italian-Nepalese Archaeological Excavation Project in the Buddhist site of Gothihawa, Nepal ((Istituto Italiano per l’Africa e l’Oriente, Department of Archaeology of HMG of Nepal)
- 1998
Archaeologist in Roma: via Nomentana preventive archaeological investigations (Società Cooperativa Archeologia di Roma, Soprintendenza Archeologica di Roma).
- 1996
Archaeological activities in Padova: “Via S. Francesco” archaeological site and in Concordia Sagittaria (Venezia): Basilica Apostolorum archaeological investigations, (cooperativa P.ET.R.A.)

Career-related Activities

- Since 8.2019 External collaborator of ERC funded project *BuddhistRoad – Dynamics in Buddhist Networks in Eastern Central Asia 6th to 14th Centuries*, Center for Religious Studies (CERES) at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany
- Since 2012 External collaborator of JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science) granted project *Digital Silk Road* (<http://dsr.nii.ac.jp/index.html.en>) (P.I. Yoko Nishimura, Toyo University, Tokyo, Japan)
- 2007-2013 Editor and data entry of the Bibliography Database: Cultural History of The Western Himalaya and Adjacent Areas (University of Vienna, Institute of Art History). (<http://www.univie.ac.at/bibdb/about/>)
6. 2013 Guest Editor, Vienna Journal of East Asian Studies, vol. 5 (2014)
- 10.2012 Field research in Xinjiang (China): Survey and mapping of ruins of the city of Gaochang (Qoco) in Turfan (in collaboration with National Institute of Informatic, Japan; Turfan Academy and Cultural Relics Bureau of Gaochang City, Turfan, China), financed by FWF-NFN
- 2012 Deputy director, The Fifth International Conference on Tibetan Archaeology and Arts, 20-24 October, 2012, Beijing, China
- 10.2010 Field research in Xinjiang (China): oasis of Khotan and Urumqi (financed by the China National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language and Confucius Institute)
6. 2010 Lectures on Buddhist art (Central Asia and China) for the Training seminar for the Curators of the National Museum of Afghanistan in Kabul (Kabul Museum Project, Third Trainig Session in Vienna)
- 9.-11. 2010 Visiting scholar at Peking University, Center for Research on Ancient Chinese History – Beijing, China (fully sponsored by the China National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language and Confucius Institute)
- 9.2009 Visiting researcher at Kyoto University, Institute for Humanistic Studies
- 3.2009 Field research in Russia, Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, financed by FWF-FNF
- 10.2008 Field Research in China, Xinjiang Uighur region, financed by FWF-FNF
- 7.2007 Bibliographical researches in the Library of the University of Kyoto and in the Library of the Italian School of East Asian Studies, Kyoto, Japan
- 10.2006 Field research on Chinese Buddhist architecture from the 9th-13th c. in Shanxi province, China, financed by the JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Sciences) through the University of Kyoto
- 6.2001 Field Research in China, Xinjiang Uighur region: Xinjiang Museum in Urumqi; Xinjiang Institute of Archaeology, Urumqi; Archaeological sites in Turfan; Turfan Museum
- Summer 1999, 2000

- Archival research in Paris, France for doctoral thesis (Bibliothèque de l'Ecole française d'Extrême Orient (EFEO); Bibliothèque de l'Institut des Hautes études chinoises – Collège de France)
- Summer 1998 Archival research for doctoral thesis in London (School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London)

Teaching Activities

- Autumn 2015 Deputy professorship (Vertretungsprofessur), chair of Central Asian Religions, Center for Religious Studies (CERES), Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany
 - Course: "History of Religions in Central Asia"
 - Seminar: "Religious material culture along the Silk Road. Art and archaeology of the 1st millennium in Central Asia"
 - Seminar: "Sacred spaces for religious practice: an overview on ancient religious architecture in Central Asia"
 - Seminar (Classical Chinese reading class): "Travel accounts of religious pilgrims across Central Asia" Faculty of East Asian Studies and Center for Religious Studies (CERES), Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany
 - Übung: "Diffusion and development of Buddhism in Central Asia"
- Spring 2012 Course: "Legends and landscapes: a survey of Chinese painting", University of Vienna, Faculty of East Asian Studies, Department of Sinology.
- Autumn 2011 Seminar: "Narration in Ancient Art of China", University of Vienna, Faculty of East Asian Studies, Department of Sinology.
- Spring 2011 Course: "Along the Silk Road: Art and Archaeology", University of Vienna, Faculty of East Asian Studies, Department of Sinology.
- Autumn 2010 Seminar: "Topography of Paradises in Chinese Art", University of Vienna, Faculty of East Asian Studies, Department of Sinology.
- Spring 2010 Seminar: "A Palace for the Afterlife: Funerary Art and Architecture in Ancient China", University of Vienna, Faculty of East Asian Studies, Department of Sinology.
- Autumn 2009 Proseminar: "A Journey to the Western Regions. Art and Archeology of the Silk Road", University of Vienna, Faculty of East Asian Studies, Department of Sinology.
- Spring 2009 Proseminar: "Spaces for the Faith. Art and Architecture in mid-imperial China (7th-13th c. CE)", University of Vienna, Faculty of East Asian Studies, Department of Sinology.
- Autumn 2008 Course: "Survey of Chinese Art: from Han to Song period (3rd c. BCE-13th c. CE)", University of Vienna, Faculty of East Asian Studies, Department of Sinology.
- Autumn 2007 Seminar: "Buddhist art and archaeology of China", University of Vienna, Faculty of East Asian Studies, Department of Sinology.

Spring 2003 Lectures on Chinese Buddhist archaeology, Master in Archaeological Resources Management, Stoà, Istituto di Studi per la Direzione e Gestione di Impresa (Ercolano, Napoli).

Grants and Awards

2013 China National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language and Confucius Institute, Visiting Program for Foreign Scholars of Sinology to China (2 months grant)

2010 China National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language and Confucius Institute, Visiting Program for Foreign Scholars of Sinology to China (3 months grant)

2010 ESF-JSPS Conference: Contact Zones of Empires in Asia and Europe (27 February - 4 March 2010, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan)

2004-2006 Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers (Tokyo, Japan)

1998-2000 Università degli Studi di Genova Doctoral Fellowship (Genoa, Italy)

1996-1997 Ministero degli Affari Esteri, Direzione Generale delle Relazioni Culturali (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cultural Office), Research grant for studies abroad: grants for studies in the People Republic of China.

1996-1997 Università di Roma “La Sapienza”, Graduate Studies Grant for researches abroad — Humanities (Rome, Italy).

1995 “Premio Alessandro Borromeo” award, for best University degree thesis on Central Asian Art at the Università degli Studi di Roma ‘La Sapienza’ (University ‘La Sapienza’ of Rome).

1995 “Premio del Centro Maitreya per studi sul buddhismo” (Maitreya Center on Buddhist studies) award for University degree thesis on Buddhist topic, Rome.

Diploma and Doctoral thesis

Doctoral dissertation: *Studio Analitico e tipologico della ceramica di Turfan dal III all’VIII secolo d.C.* (“Analytical and typological study of the pottery from Turfan — 3rd to 8th century CE”) Dottorato di Ricerca in Storia dell’arte dell’India e dell’Asia orientale, XIII ciclo, Università degli studi di Genova, A.A. 2000/01.

University degree thesis: *La grande statuaria buddhista in Asia centrale. Le testimonianze archeologiche e le fonti cinesi.* (“Buddhist Colossal sculptures in Central Asia. Archaeological evidence and Chinese literary sources”). Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza”, Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia, A.A. 1993/94

Conference, symposia and workshop organization:

Panel convener “What makes a monastery a Great Monastery? Textual, art historical, and archaeological evidence from India to [the borders of] China.” *18th Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* (IABS), Toronto (22 August 2017)

Workshop *Ancient Central Asian Networks. Rethinking the interplay of Religions, Art and Politics across the Tarim Basin* (5th-10th c.), 24-26 June, 2014, Ruhr-University Bochum, Käte Hamburger Kolleg Dynamics in the History of Religions between Asia and Europe, Bochum, Germany. (Convener, together with C. Meinert and C. Anderl)

The Fifth International Conference on Tibetan Archaeology and Arts, 20-24 October, 2012, Beijing, China: Deputy director.

Symposium *The Art and Cultural History of Central and Western Tibet, 8th to 15th century*, and workshop *Cultural Heritage Preservation*, 5-6 April, 2011, University of Vienna, Dep. of Art History, Austria. (Co-organized together with D. Klimburg-Salter, S. Teetor, H. Karmleiter).

Round tables

- “Excavation and documentation methodologies adopted on the Fengxiansi archaeological site in Luoyang”, First Archaeological Unit of Luoyang City, Luoyang, China, October 2002.
- “L’attività archeologica italiana a Luoyang.” (“The Italian archaeological activity in Luoyang”) Ambasciata Italiana a Pechino (Italian Embassy in Beijing, China), November 2001.
- “The Italian-Chinese joint project on the site of Fengxiansi in Longmen”, Archaeological Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Science, Beijing, China, November 2001.

Memberships

Member of Istituto Italiano per l’Africa e l’Oriente (Is.I.A.O.), Rome, Italy.

European Association of South Asian Archaeology and Art (EASAA), 2010

International Association of Buddhist Studies (IABS), 2011

European Society for Studies of Central Asia and Himalayan Regions (SEECHAC), 2010

(May 2020)