My studies have so far focused on ethical and legal issues related to biodiversity and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples, with particular attention to the Access and Benefit Sharing framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity and to Intellectual Property Rights. I hold a Master in Conservation Science from the Imperial College London and a Bachelor Degree in Political Science from Palermo University. I have collaborated with the South African NGO Natural Justice on issues related to the Hoodia-patent case and the development of sui generis approaches to licensing traditional knowledge. I have acted as a consultant for the Kew Royal Botanic Gardens for the development of Guidelines for the fair and equitable access to traditional knowledge for non commercial research.

Research Project:

The 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes the collective right to own, use, develop and control traditional resources such as "lands, territories [...] genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures". In the last few years this set of rights has been called "biocultural" and meant as a bundle of rights of all peoples and communities that have preserved sustainable ways of life and legal systems. The PhD project aims at exploring the new concept of Biocultural rights, its history, its justifications and its limits, focusing in particular on the relationship of indigenous peoples with the environment and exploring their legal systems and worldviews. Besides, the project will concentrate on the analysis of a Traditional Knowledge Commons as a potential *sui generis* system to promote the respect of indigenous peoples' biocultural rights over their traditional knowledge.

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