



## **Booklet Launch and Documentary Screening**

# **Lampedusa: Thinking Outside the Border**

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**Thursday, 26 September 2024**

**17:00 - 20:30**

**La Case à Chocs, Neuchâtel**

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In the presence of:

- Anna Marino
- Alessandra Polidori
- Arianna Sisani
- Davide Demichelis
- Vito Fiorino
- Alessandro Rocca

Please register [here](#) before **September 22**

“**Lampedusa: Thinking Outside the Border**” is a knowledge transfer event aiming to make academic research on migration and crises accessible and understandable to a broader audience. It sheds light on how we talk about these phenomena, particularly in places like Lampedusa which represent the so-called “crisis of migration” in Europe. The event not only demonstrates how academic and non-academic aims can intertwine, but also how they can inspire change. It stemmed from an urgency to talk about these topics to a broader public, translating academic jargon and reflections into something that can be accessible, visible and understandable in multiple forms and reach, as such, multiple audiences that might relate to the topic in different ways.

The event starts with the presentation of the homonymous illustrated booklet authored by **Anna Marino**, **Simone Gavazzi**, and illustrator **Arianna Sisani** with the precious introduction of sociologist Dr. **Alessandra Polidori**. The booklet presents reflections on the construction and evolution of borders, and in particular, Lampedusa and the central Mediterranean as EU borders, a topic relevant to Anna Marino’s research project within nccr – on the move “[Narratives of Crisis and Their Influence in Shaping Discourses and Policies of Migration and Mobility](#)”, but also to other projects within the broader umbrella of nccr – of the move’s current research phase. Another crucial aim of the booklet is to present detailed reflections to academic and non-academic audiences. Arianna Sisani’s illustrations take the readers on a visual journey, transporting them to Lampedusa, the Mediterranean, Simone’s on-site experiences, and Anna’s theoretical and normative reflections.

The booklet presentation will be followed by the screening of the **docufilm A Nord di Lampedusa** “[North of Lampedusa](#)” directed and produced by **Alessandro Rocca** and **Davide Demichelis**. The docufilm follows **Vito Fiorino** – Lampedusan resident who saved 47 lives on October 3, 2013 – in his journey through the north of Europe (mainly the Netherlands and Scandinavia) to go find and visit the people he saved in 2013. The aim here is to report the perspective of a man who rescued migrants at sea during one of the most known and mediatized events involving Lampedusa: the shipwreck of October 3, 2013. Vito, together with the filmmakers Alessandro and Davide, did not, however, choose to represent the dramatic events of 2013. His aim was to depict the future of the people he rescued, showing their lives and reflecting on the potential of the journey they started in 2013 – if not earlier. In the words of filmmaker Alessandro Rocca, “What drives you to tell this type of story is the need to bring them to the attention of the highest number of people possible. [...] Mainstream media shows us a [little] part of this story, but we do not see the entire lives of these people, who should be allowed to arrive with a visa they do not have. Why is my passport more valuable than that of an Eritrean citizen? These people are affected by famines, by the climate crisis and we need to change how we talk about their lives”. We want, thus, to discover more about their lives to be able to change how we talk about their lives.

The **language of the event** will be English, with the possibility of asking questions in French and Italian. The organizers will offer translation in French and Italian when needed.

**The event will take place at** [La Case à Chocs](#), cultural centre and concert venue in Neuchâtel, with the first part happening in the upstairs café-bar [Interlope](#) and the screening in their movie room [Cinema Minimum](#).

## Program

### Interlope

- 17:00** Presentation of the booklet project "Lampedusa: Thinking Outside the Border" and questions from the audience, with:  
Alessandra Polidori, Anna Marino, and Arianna Sisani
- 17:45** Break-apero with the **presentation of some illustrations** by Arianna Sisani, illustrator of the booklet

### Cinema Minimum

- 18:15** **Screening of the docufilm** (80 min.)
- 19:45** End of screening, questions and comments from the audience, with:  
Vito Fiorino, Davide Demichelis, and Alessandro Rocca. Moderator: Anna Marino
- 20:30** End of event

## Speakers

**Anna Marino**, doctoral researcher at nccr – on the move and SFM (Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies) in Political Science and Normative Political Theory, currently exploring narratives of migration and mobility in moments of crisis in the context of Europe's Southern borders (more specifically the borderlands in the Western and Central Mediterranean).

**Alessandra Polidori**, associated researcher at nccr – on the move and SFM (Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies), doctor in Political Science and Sociology (University of Perugia and EHESS) with specific expertise in Youth and Mobility studies and currently involved in a project on the equity of maternal care.

**Arianna Sisani**, teacher and illustrator graduated in Foreign Languages (University of Perugia), with a diploma in Illustration and Comics (Nuovo Istituto Design in Perugia). Arianna splits her time between working as a language tutor and as an illustrator. Currently completing a Master's degree in Teaching Italian to Foreigners (University for Foreigners of Perugia).

**Davide Demichelis**, journalist, author and director of television documentaries broadcasted by, amongst others, National Geographic, Rai, NHK, France 5, Radiotelevisione Svizzera Italiana, Al Jazeera. Davide has collaborated with various Italian newspapers including La Stampa, Panorama, Avvenire, Gioia.

**Vito Fiorino**, born in Bari and emigrated to Milan, has lived for more than two decades on Lampedusa, where he runs a carpentry and an ice cream shop. During the infamous shipwreck of the 3rd of October 2013, Vito rescued 47 lives at sea. Vito is still in touch with some of the migrants he saved: each year on the anniversary of the tragedy of the 3rd of October 2013 some of them come back to visit him and Lampedusa.

**Alessandro Rocca**, director, freelance TV writer, journalist and photographer. Alessandro is the co-founder of the author collective Hic Sunt Leones, which produced the campaign #dallapartedinice and the docufilm [African dreamers](#).

We look forward to welcoming you to this nccr – on the move knowledge transfer event!

Please **register** [here](#) **before September 22** and for any question contact [Anna Marino](#).