ROSALBA SORICE

Full Professor of Medieval and Modern Legal History (SSD IUS/19, now GIUR-16/A)
Department of Law, University of Catania
95124 Catania, Italy
Tel. +39 095 230419 · sorice@lex.unict.it

EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2023	Full Professor, Department of Law, University of Catania (appointed October 2023).
2019	Italian National Scientific Qualification as Full Professor, recruitment field 12/H2 – IUS/19, Medieval and Modern Legal History (2018 round).
2015	Associate Professor, Department of Law, University of Catania.
2014	Italian National Scientific Qualification as Associate Professor, recruitment field 12/H2 – IUS/19, Medieval and Modern Legal History (2012 round).
2009	Tenured University Researcher, field IUS/19, Medieval and Modern Legal History, Dipartimento Seminario Giuridico, University of Catania.
2006	University Researcher (probationary), field IUS/19, Medieval and Modern Legal History, Faculty of Law, University of Catania.
1999–2006	Research fellow, field N19X / IUS/19, History of Italian Law, Faculty of Law, University of Catania.
1995–1997	Postdoctoral fellowship in History of Italian Law, with particular reference to Medieval Legal History and Ius Commune, Faculty of Law, University of Catania.
1994	PhD in History of Italian Law, with particular reference to Ius Commune.
1990	Degree in Law, University of Catania.

RESEARCH AREAS

History of justice and judicial systems in the medieval and modern periods; history of the legal thought of post-Gratian canon law and its textual tradition in medieval law schools; history of universities, with specific reference to the Studium of Catania; history of legal thought in the Regnum Siciliae; history of criminal law and procedure; gender history and women's rights from a legal-historical perspective.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2023	Chercheuse invitée, Laboratoire LIER-FYT, EHESS (École des hautes études en sciences sociales), within the European project FoNTES (Fostering Innovative Training in the Use of European legal Sources).
1994–1995	Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin, Leopold Wenger Institut für Rechtsgeschichte, Juristische Fakultät, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, under Prof. Peter Landau; collaboration with the Institute of Medieval Canon Law, Munich.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SCIENTIFIC STUDIES AND RESEARCH

2020	Principal Investigator, project D4722082160, PIA.CE.RI. 2020-2022 Line 2 (intra-departmental project MeDiTa: Le Minoranze e il diritto, il diritto delle minoranze. Esclusione, Discriminazione, Tolleranza, accoglienza), University Research Plan PIACERI 2020-2022.
2017	Grant holder, FABR – Finanziamento delle attività base di ricerca.

PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH PROJECTS

– University Research Incentive Plan 2024/2026, Intervention Line I, "Progetti di ricerca collaborativa" — Agricoltura sostenibile, Transizione ecologica e ripristino ambientale: verso un uso innovativo degli strumenti privatistici.

– PRIN 2022, Prot. 2022THANHJ — Demania. Common properties and ancient demesnes in southern and central Italy. Legislation, case law and documentary sources from the subversion of feudalism (1806) to the Land Reform (1950): historical sources for trials under Law 168/2017.

– PRIN 2017, Prot. 2017S5NX73 — Legal History and Mass Migration: Integration, Exclusion, and Criminalization of Migrants in the 19th and 20th Century.

– PRIN 2002, Prot. 2002125925_001 — Ratio e ius commune: problemi di logica giuridica nelle opere della dottrina e dei giuristi consulenti.

– PRIN 1998, Prot. 9912088557_001 — Le tracce d'uso delle compilazioni canonistiche e dei libri legales (secoli XII-XV).

– PRIN 1997, Prot. 9712081647_002 — Modi arguendi in iure, quaestiones, consilia e sentenze nell'Italia medievale e moderna.

– FIR 2016-2018 — Religione e diritto. Le identità dell'Europa nell'esperienza storica: Integrazione/Discriminazione; Tolleranza/Persecuzione; Privilegio/Uguaglianza; Secolarizzazione/Confessionalità; Cittadinanza/Esclusione.

– FIR 2014, Prog. 6205FA — Dinamiche delle relazioni tra pluralismo, religione e diritto. Percorsi storici e problemi attuali nel processo di integrazione europea.

EDITORIAL DIRECTION OF SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

Since 2020 Co-Editor, Rivista Internazionale di Diritto Comune (ANVUR Class A journal).

SCIENTIFIC BOARDS

Since 2025 Member, Scientific Board of the book series Demania. Studi su storie e diritti del territorio.

Since 2022 Member, Scientific Board of the Anuario da Facultade de Dereito da Universidade da Coruña.

Since 2015 Member, Scientific Board of the journal Vergentis. Revista de Investigación de la Cátedra Internacional conjunta Inocencio III.

EDITORIAL BOARDS

Since 1994 Member, Editorial Board of the Rivista Internazionale di Diritto Comune; editor of the Orientamenti Bibliografici section.

REFEREE ACTIVITY FOR CLASS A JOURNALS AND BOOK SERIES

2026 Historia et Ius.

2024 Rivista di Storia del Diritto Italiano; Italian Review of Legal History.

2023 Rivista di Storia del Diritto Italiano; Historia et Ius.

2022 Book series History, Law & Legal History, Palermo University Press; open-access book series Un'anima per il diritto: andare più in alto (dir. G. Boni), Mocchi Editore.

2021 Archivio Giuridico Filippo Serafini.

2020 Historia et Ius.

TEACHING ACTIVITY

Since A.Y. 2022/2023 Professor in charge of Medieval and Modern Legal History (Course 1) and of History of Criminal Law, Degree Programme in Law, Department of Law, University of Catania.

From A.Y. 2021/2022 Professor in charge of Medieval and Modern Legal History (course D-L), Degree Programme in Law, Dipartimento Seminario Giuridico, University of Catania; professor in charge of the interdisciplinary course Eguaglianza, donne e diritti.

From A.Y. 2020/2021 Professor in charge of Medieval and Modern Legal History (course D-L), Degree Programme in Law, Dipartimento Seminario Giuridico, University of Catania.

A.Y. 2020/2021 Professor in charge of History of Criminal Law (UAF), Degree Programme in Law, Dipartimento Seminario Giuridico, University of Catania.

A.Y. 2019-2020	Professor in charge of Medieval and Modern Legal History (course M-Q), Degree Programme in Law, Dipartimento Seminario Giuridico, University of Catania.
A.Y. 2018-2019	Professor in charge of Medieval and Modern Legal History (course M-Z), Degree Programme in Law, Dipartimento Seminario Giuridico, University of Catania.
Since A.Y. 2015	Professor in charge of Ius Commune, Degree Programme in Law, Dipartimento Seminario Giuridico, University of Catania.
A.Y. 2013-2014	Professor in charge of the course (additional training activity), "Il processo penale e il diritto penale, profili storici e nascita del sistema", Degree Programme in Law, Dipartimento Seminario Giuridico, University of Catania.
A.Y. 2007-2008	Adjunct lecturer in Medieval and Modern Legal History I and II, University Kore of Enna.
A.Y. 2007-2013	Appointed lecturer in Medieval and Modern Legal History, three-year degree programme in Business Legal Operator, University of Catania, Enna campus.
A.Y. 2006-2013	Appointed lecturer in Medieval and Modern Legal History, three-year degree programme in Business Legal Operator, University of Catania, Enna campus.

INTERNATIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2025	12 November — lecture in German, Das ius commune in der europäischen Rechtserfahrung, course Comparative Legal History (WS 2025/26), Institut für Deutsche und Rheinische Rechtsgeschichte, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn.
2023	13-14 December — lectures in German, Das ius commune in der europäischen Rechtserfahrung, course Comparative Legal History (WS 2023/24), Universität Bonn.
2022	29-30 June — lecture in English, The time of Europe without borders. The Ius commune as an instrument of integration between cives and foreigners, course Comparative Legal History (SoSe 22/23), Universität Bonn.
2019	7-11 May — lecture module (in German), Introduction to Comparative European Legal History, Universität Bonn (Erasmus Agreement).
2017	13-16 December — course (in German), Das Ius Commune in der europäischen Rechtsgeschichte, Universität Bonn (Erasmus Agreement).
2007	Course in Spanish, O nacemento da Universidade e os estudos xurisprudenciais en Boloña (séculos XII-XIII), VIII Xornadas Internacionais de Ius Commune, Facultade de Dereito, Universidade da Coruña, Spain.

ORGANISATION OF CONFERENCES AND STUDY WEEKS

2026	Organisation of the round table La sostenibilità in Agricoltura, Catania, Dipartimento di Giurisprudenza, 27 February.
2025	Member, Scientific and Organising Committee, conference I domini collettivi: un patrimonio intergenerazionale tra passato, presente e futuro, Catania, 22-24 October.
2025	Organisation and coordination, Summer School of the PhD Programme in Gender Studies, "I diversi linguaggi della discriminazione", Catania, 18-20 June.
2025	Coordination, Workshop of the PhD Programme in Gender Studies, "Decostruire e ripensare la cura: una prospettiva interdisciplinare", Catania, 16-17 June.
2022	Organisation of the conference Storie, Minoranze. Diritto, Catania, 2-4 May, project MeDiTa (PIA.CE.RI. 2020-2022 Line 2).
2017	Member, organising committee, National Conference of the Società di Storia del Diritto, "I generi letterari della storiografia giuridica", Catania, 9-11 October.
2008	Member, scientific secretariat, study days Razza Diritto Esperienze. A settant'anni dalle leggi razziali, Catania and Ragusa, 28-31 October.

PAPERS AND PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL CONFERENCES

2026 Scheduled paper, seminar of Prof. Atria Larson (Saint Louis University), "A Reconsideration of Medieval Canon Law's Treatment of Rape and Consent: Gratian, Decretum C.32 q.5 and Related Sources", Università degli Studi Roma Tre, 12 March.

2026 Contribution to the round table La Sostenibilità in agricoltura, Catania, 27 February.

2025 "Die Allmenden in der Wirtschaft des mittelalterlichen Rechtssystems", Symposium Wirtschaft und Recht in Mittelalter und Früher Neuzeit, Universität Bonn, 11 October (PRIN 2017 Demania).

2025 "Sulla natura giuridica degli ex feudi in Sicilia da Mistretta agli Iblei", convegno I domini collettivi, Catania, 22-24 October (PRIN 2022 Demania).

2025 "L'architettura delle sentenze: scrittura e autorità nelle decisioni delle corti supreme del XVI secolo", France-Italie allers/retours, Écrire le Droit, ENS – Université Panthéon-Assas Paris, 4-5 September.

2025 Presentation of Legal Responses to Mass Migration From the Nineteenth Century to World War II (PRIN 2017), Salina, Museo Eoliano dell'Emigrazione, 12 April.

2024 "Fedeli al Signore e fedeli ai signori. Disobbedienza e offesa nel penale delle origini", Dall'offesa all'offensività, Università Kore, Enna, 4-5 November.

2024 "Storie di un delitto senza colpevoli: l'omicidio delle donne e le cause di impunità", seminar series Le discriminazioni di genere nel Medioevo (org. A. Fiori), Sapienza Università di Roma, 23 October.

2024 "Pro honoris sui tutela, alium occidit. Alle radici delle repressive practices dei delitti di genere", 17th International Congress of Medieval Canon Law, Canterbury, UK, 7-13 July.

2024 "La costruzione della dimensione penale in età pre-gregoriana / The Construction of the Penal Dimension in the pre-Gregorian Age", L''intenzione' nella cultura teologico-giuridica occidentale, École française de Rome, 28 February.

2023 "The origin and role of registers in Italy", International Register Law Conference, Rheinisches Institut für Notarrecht, Universität Bonn, 5-6 October.

2023 Presentation of the Rivista Internazionale di Diritto Comune, annual conference of the Associazione degli Storici del Diritto Medievale e Moderno, Bologna, 26-27 May.

2023 "Die italienische Perspektive", Entstehung des modernen europäischen Staates als Rechtsform, Institut für Deutsche und Rheinische Rechtsgeschichte, Universität Bonn, 18-19 May.

2022 "Il sindacato degli ufficiali pubblici nel Regnum Siciliae", International School of Ius Commune, 41st Course, Fondazione "Ettore Majorana", Erice, 2-6 October.

2022 "Die Bedeutung des Doktrin der Scientia iuris für die Konstruktion neuer Rechtskonzepte. Die Schuld im mittelalterlichen Strafrecht", 43. Rechtshistorikertag, Zürich, 8-12 August.

2022 "Foreigners-Enemies in the European Legal Tradition: The Contribution of Jurists of the ius commune in the Construction of the Legitimate Right of Enemies to Defend Themselves", 16th International Congress of Medieval Canon Law, Saint Louis University, 17-23 July.

2022 "Lo spazio giuridico degli esclusi nel Medioevo. Aspetti penali (I)", convegno Storie, Minoranze Diritto, Catania, 2-4 May.

2022 "La culpa in maleficiis nelle riflessioni della canonistica matura", Third trilateral research conference, Centro italo-tedesco per l'eccellenza europea, Villa Vigoni, 7-10 March.

2021 "Necessitas e Utilitas. Le ragioni degli ordinamenti a tutela della Respublica", Odisseuro Summer School, Linguaglossa, 30 August-4 September.

2021 "Quando la laurea all'Università di Catania valeva un feudo. Lo Studium catanese tra scienza, politica e strategie di reclutamento dell'élite nel secolo XVI", webinar I Lunedì dell'Ateneo, University of Catania.

2021 Lecture, La giustizia penale nell'età del Diritto Comune, Università degli Studi di Cagliari.

2019 "Qui occidit se defendendo non dicitur occidere...", Second trilateral research conference, Centro italo-tedesco per l'eccellenza europea, Villa Vigoni, 14-17 October.

2019 Participation, Vorträge Villiprotter Gespräche.

2018 "La dialettica tra volontario e involontario nella dimensione penale pre-gregoriana...", First trilateral research conference, Centro italo-tedesco per l'eccellenza europea, Villa Vigoni, 7-10 November.

2018 "Uccidere il nemico in guerra. Aspetti di diritto penale e ius gentium in un Consilium di Paolo di Castro", Sixth trilateral research conference, Steinfeld, Germany, 4-7 April.

2016 "Vittime colpevoli e colpevoli innocenti. L'omicidio iusta causa commissum nell'età del diritto comune", Fifteenth International Congress of Medieval Canon Law, Université Paris II Panthéon-Assas, 18-24 July.

2012 "Siciliae Studium Generale. Lo Studio di Catania nel secolo XVI", Le origini dello Studio generale sassarese nel mondo universitario europeo dell'età moderna, Sassari, 22-23 March.

2010 "Il tentativo nella scuola meridionale: dalla Costitutio Asperitatem a Matteo degli Afflitti", Tentativo: le grandi opzioni del diritto penale nell'esperienza giuridica europea, Siracusa, 1-3 October.

2010 "Impune occidetur, licite occidetur? La non punibilità dell'omicidio nella dottrina medievale e moderna", Third trilateral research conference, Centro italo-tedesco per l'eccellenza europea, Como, 21-24 October.

2009 "Voluntas et propositum distinguunt maleficia. L'emersione della responsabilità individuale nell'età del diritto comune", La responsabilità nel concorso di persone: pratiche discorsive dei giuristi.

1996 "Distinctiones 'si mulier eadem ora' seu monacenses. Problemi di edizione", Xth International Congress of Medieval Canon Law, Syracuse, NY, 12-18 August.

INSTITUTIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Since 21 April 2026 Department Delegate for the Library of Legal Sciences, Department of Law, University of Catania; Delegate for the University Museum System.

Since 19 April 2023 Local coordinator, POT (Orientation and Tutoring Plans) / PLS activities.

Since 2023 Delegate for the public-private partnership agreement (Art. 151(3), Legislative Decree no. 50/2016) with "Officine culturali", for the enhancement of the cultural, bibliographical, documentary and architectural heritage of the Department of Law.

Since 1 November 2020 Member, Departmental Joint Committee, Department of Law, University of Catania.

2013-2014 Member, Ministerial Board for the bar examinations, Court of Appeal of Catania.

2009-2015 Member, Executive Board of the Department of Law.

2007-2009 Member, University Scientific Committee (Catania), Area 12.

PHD PROGRAMMES

Since 2022 Member, Academic Board, PhD Programme in Gender Studies, Centre for Advanced Studies, University of Palermo.

2015-2024 Member, Academic Board, PhD Programme, Department of Law, University of Catania.

MEMBERSHIP OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES AND RESEARCH CENTRES

– Life member, Iuris Canonici Medii Aevi Consociatio.

– Member, Società Italiana di Storia del Diritto.

– Member, Associazione degli Storici del Diritto Medievale e Moderno.

– Member, Centro di ricerca 'Artemisia' per gli studi e le politiche di genere, University of Palermo.

SELECTION AND EVALUATION COMMITTEES

2024 Member, Evaluation Committee for the assessment procedure for Associate Professor, Università degli Studi di Urbino Carlo Bo (Rector's Decree no. 510/2024, 26 July 2024).

2022 Member, Evaluation Committee for the final PhD examinations, PhD Programme in "Diritti umani. Evoluzione, tutela e limiti" (XXXIV cycle), University of Palermo, with partner universities Valencia, Makeni, Coahuila and Paris Nanterre.

2021 Expert member, Evaluation Committee for admission to the International PhD Programme in Law (XXXVII cycle, A.Y. 2021/22), Department of Law, University of Catania.

2020 Member, Evaluation Committee for the selection of an Associate Professor, Dipartimento di Scienze Giuridiche, Sapienza Università di Roma (Rector's Decree no. 1730/2020, 7 July 2020).

2020 Member, Evaluation Committee for admission to the PhD Programme in Human Rights: Evolution, Protection and Limits (XXXVI cycle, A.Y. 2020/2021), University of Palermo, with partner universities Valencia, Makeni, Coahuila and Paris Nanterre.

ERASMUS+ TEACHING COORDINATION

Teaching coordinator for the University of Catania, within the Erasmus+ programme, for:

– Institut für Deutsche und Rheinische Rechtsgeschichte, Rechts- und Staatswissenschaftliche Fakultät, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn.

– UCA École de Droit, Université Clermont Auvergne, France.

– Fachbereich Rechts- und Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main.

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE ORDINARY TEACHING

In 2009, co-founder, with a group of women scholars, of the historical-legal observatory Donne & Diritti. Osservatorio di storiografia giuridica, involving scholars of Medieval and Modern Legal History (field IUS/19) in the scientific and educational dissemination of the history of the legal construction of gendered identity.

PHD-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2026 Lecture, Delitti senza colpevoli. Violenza maschile e omicidi femminili: storie di impunità, PhD Programme in Political Sciences, Università di Messina, 8 May.

2025 Coordination of a session, intensive winter course, PhD Programme in Gender Studies, Genere e Processo, Palermo, 24 February.

2025 Evaluation committee member, PhD degree in Studi giuridici comparati ed europei (curriculum in storia del diritto romano e del pensiero giuridico europeo), University of Trento – Universidad de Sevilla.

2025 Lecture, La costruzione del principio di colpevolezza e la giustizia praticata nel penale delle origini (secc. XIII-XV), PhD Programme in Legal Sciences, University of Bergamo, 14 May.

2025 Coordination of a session, intensive winter course, PhD Programme in Gender Studies, Genere, medicina e diritti nella sfera riproduttiva, Palermo, 20 February.

2025 Lecture, Riviste scientifiche e Riviste di fascia A: aspetti giuridici e aspetti tecnici, PhD Programme in Political Sciences, Catania, 13 January.

2024 Lecture, La prospettiva dello storico del diritto, interdisciplinary course Metodo della ricerca giuridica, PhD Programme in Law, Catania, 10 May.

2023 Lecture, Vittime colpevoli della propria morte: l'omicidio delle donne e le cause di impunità, PhD Programme in Gender Studies, Università degli Studi di Milano Statale, 12-16 June.

2023 Lecture, Leggere, comprendere e usare le fonti giuridiche medievali: le Summae e i Commentaria, course on medieval sources, University of Palermo, within the FONTES project, 4 May.

2021 PhD thesis evaluator, PhD Programme in Human Rights: Evolution, Protection and Limits, University of Palermo (candidate: I. Alessi, Il legato pontificio tra norma, dottrina e prassi, sec. V-XII, supervised by E. Conte and B. Pasciuta, EHESS).

2020 Lecture, Modernità del passato. Le argomentazioni logiche e la costruzione delle regole iuris, interdisciplinary course Interpretazione e argomentazione giuridica, PhD Programme in Law, Catania.

TRAINING COURSES

2021 Fondazione CRUI, "Le Commissioni paritetiche Docenti Studenti (CPDS)".

THIRD MISSION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

– Member, Technical-Scientific Committee of the Borghi più belli d'Italia in Sicilia.

2025 Participation, CIBO partecipazione, comunità, verso il biodistretto degli Iblei, Testa dell'Acqua, Noto, 30 November.

2025 Participation, Festival del lavoro nelle Aree Interne. Produzioni, imprese, paesaggi e patrimoni culturali, 11-13 June.

2025 Contribution, L'agricoltura come strumento di rigenerazione delle aree interne, Assemblea Congressuale Slow Food Sicilia, Enna, 6 April.

2024 Organisation of the presentation of Progetto IDDE – Impresa Domestica delle DonnE dei Borghi, Rete borghi più belli d'Italia in Sicilia.

2024 Conference, La Resistenza delle Donne, Università popolare del Tempo Libero "Ignazio Nigrelli", Piazza Armerina.

2024 Conference, Le donne che hanno costruito l'Italia, meeting promoted by the Presidency of the Catania City Council and ANDE (Associazione nazionale Donne Elettrici), "Le Madri Costituenti e il loro fondamentale contributo alla nascita della Repubblica Italiana".

2024 Hearing before the Assemblea Regionale Siciliana, III Commissione "Attività Produttive", on the regional bill Norme in materia di domini collettivi, Palermo.

2023 Co-drafting (with Prof. Marisa Meli) of the regional bill Norme in materia di domini collettivi.

2025 External expert reviewer, VQR 2020-2024.

2025 Subject-area expert profile, ANVUR Evaluation Experts (AVA).

2021 PRIN reviewer, MIUR call 2020.

2021 External expert reviewer, VQR 2015/2019.

Registered in REPRISE (Register of Scientific Experts, MIUR), sections: Basic Research; Dissemination of Scientific Culture.

Catania, 19 May 2026