

# Franca Zadra

*Social Innovation Research*

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## Why social innovation?

Social innovation research seeks to generate more sustainable and inclusive societies by connecting actors in different positions, organizations and milieus, in concerted efforts to respond to complex social issues. Social innovation is transdisciplinary, circulating and co-constructing knowledge across different disciplinary fields and involving non academic actors to generate solutions to emerging needs and problems.

### Higher Education

- 2020  
Ph.D. in Sociology SPS 07  
Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, cum laude.
- 2009  
*Laurea Specialistica (18/S)* in  
Philosophy and Languages of  
Modernity, University of Trento
- 2000  
*Bachillerato* in Sacred  
Theology, Facultad Pontificia  
y Civil de Lima
- 1996  
*Licenciatura* in Philosophy,  
Pontificia Universidad  
Catòlica del Perú

### Current activity

- **Contract Lecturer**  
UNIBZ | 2021-present
  - 2021/2022 Introduction to academic writing
  - 2022/2023 Methods and practice fields of social education
  - 2022/2023 Outreach methodologies and network consolidation against human trafficking and exploitation
  - 2023/2024 Methods and practice fields of social education
  - 2023/2024 Community engagement and outreach in social work
- **Researcher**  
UNIBZ et al. | 2020-present
  - 2024- present: UNIVR, A/R in Project COMMON GROUND, on multiagency networks against labor exploitation with 5 Regional Governments.
  - 2023 Project FRACTAL on stakeholder activation and collaboration to foster **green infrastructures** in the Alps.
  - 2023 Project DICO III on digital upskilling in the work of **Antiviolence Centers**.
  - 2022 Project DICO II on digital aspects of **outreach social work** in low-threshold settings and marginalized communities.
  - 2022-2023 Project PARI O IMPARI, on the inclusion of **immigrant women** by access to labor, services and protection against violence.

# Previous activity

- AR Researcher in Project FARM  
UNIBZ | 2020-2022
- Multilevel networks mobilised to prevent and address the labor exploitation of workers in agriculture

## Project FARM

In collaboration with Prof. Dr. Susanne Elsen, the researcher interviewed and mobilised a network of relevant stakeholders, negotiating a joint declaration of intent and verifying implementation of concerted preventive actions. She curated spaces of participative training with practitioners in the anti-trafficking network. She produced academic articles, reports, policy suggestions and dissemination materials.



## Language skills

- Italian and Spanish mothertongue
- English: C2 Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)
- Course on Academic Teaching Excellence in English– British Council
- German: C1 Goethe Zertifikat

## Guest Lecturer

- 21.06.2021 / 03.06.2019 München  
Guest lecture in Gender and Diversity Studies at Technische Universität München
- 09.07.2019 München  
Guest lecture on social innovation for migrants' health at Max Planck Institute for Social Law and Social Policy.
- 13.03.2018 Gent  
Guest lecture on social work theories for the Master in Social Work in Gent University

## Research Experience

- Ph.D. Researcher  
UNIBZ | 2016-2020  
with the thesis "Healthcare practitioners as brokers of social innovation for the inclusion of migrant patients. A case study in South Tyrol".  
Periods of research abroad at Gent University, Bielefeld University and in the Max Planck Institute for Social Law and Social Policy.
- Researcher in Institute for Minority Rights  
EURAC Research | 2010-2014
  - Project Diversity4Kids on intercultural education
  - Project ALIAS on policy recommendations for the integration of migrant groups
  - Project Migradata on quantitative and qualitative data collection regarding migrant integration.
- Researcher on Italian migration to the US  
Museo storico in Trento | 2005-2006
  - Census and analysis of the Efrem Trettel Archive on Italian Communities in California during the second half of the 20th Century.

# Latest Publications

- Zadra, F., Elsen, S., Bragagnolo C. and Scarone, S. (2023) Capitolo 1: Il lavoro connettivo per l'emersione e la prevenzione dello sfruttamento; Capitolo 2: Il lavoro sociale di bassa soglia nel sostegno all'emersione dallo sfruttamento. In: Calafà, Bonardi, Elsen & Salomone, Lavoro sfruttato e caporalato. Una road map per la prevenzione. Il Mulino.



## Labor Exploitation

Latest publications focus on the topic of labor exploitation from the perspective of social innovation: on outreach methodologies of social professionals for the assistance of affected persons and on multiagency methodologies to respond to the complex issue of labour exploitation addressing its structural causes, for a socially-embedded and sustainable economic system.

## Journal Articles

- Lintner, C. & Zadra, F. (2024) Outreaching digitally. Digital social work experiences in low threshold services. *Autonomie locali e servizi sociali* (2024) XLVII /1.
- Uleri, F., Zadra, F., Piccoli, A., Durán, D. J., & Elsen, S. (2023). Fruit production and exploited labor in northern Italy: Redefining urban responsibility toward the agrarian ground. *City & Society*, 35(3), 215–227. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ciso.12472>
- Zadra, F. (2023). Times of exploitation. Rhythms of migrant labour in Italian agriculture. *The Lab's Quarterly*, XXV/2. DOI 10.13131/unipi/zsxn-th10
- Zadra, F. & Elsen, S. (2022) Preventing and redressing exploitation. Methods of anti-trafficking social work outreach in Northern Italy. *European Journal of Social Work*. DOI: 10.1080/13691457.2022.2139665
- Zadra, F. Implementare il servizio di mediazione linguistico-culturale in ambito sanitario. Uno studio di caso in Alto Adige. *Mondi migranti*, 2021, n. 1, pp. 161-175. DOI: 10.3280/MM2021-001009

## Book sections

- Zadra, F., Bragagnolo, C. & Scarone, S. (2023) New actors in multiagency settings to address, redress and prevent severe labor exploitation. In: Nothdurfter, U., Zadra, F., Nagy, A. & Lintner, C. (eds.) *Promoting social innovation and solidarity through transformative processes of thought and action. A lifetime of social change: Tribute to Susanne Elsen*. bu, press. DOI: [10.13124/97888860461926\\_14](https://doi.org/10.13124/97888860461926_14)
- Zadra F. & Elsen S. (2023). Aufbau eines Präventionsnetzes gegen die Ausbeutung von Saisonarbeitern in Norditalien. In: Laschewski, L. et al. *Abhängig Beschäftigte in der Landwirtschaft*. ASG.
- Zadra, F., Viganò, F. & Elsen, S., (2022). Azioni di rete per la qualità sociale del lavoro agricolo e la prevenzione dello sfruttamento in agricoltura. In: Borgi, M., Genova, A., Collacchi, B., Cirulli, F. (eds). *Agricoltura sociale: processi, pratiche e riflessioni per l'innovazione sociosanitaria*. Rapporti ISTISAN 22/9. Istituto Superiore di Sanità.
- Zadra, F. (2021). Networks of Healthcare Accessibility for Migrants in Vulnerable Situations. A Case Study in South Tyrol. In: Elsen, S., Nothdurfter, U., Lintner, C., et al. (eds.) *Social work in a border region*. Bolzano: bu, press, 271-284.
- Zadra, F. & Elsen, S. (2021). Introduction to section 2: Changing local welfare contexts: community-based and innovative approaches. In: Elsen, S., Nothdurfter, U., Lintner, C., et al. (eds.) *Social work in a border region*. Bolzano: bu, press, 2021, pp. 95-99.

# Research with practice partners

“Moving from reliable knowledge towards socially robust knowledge may be one step forward in negotiating and bringing about a regime of pluralistic expertise”.

Helga Nowotny (2003)  
Democratising expertise and socially robust knowledge,  
Science of Public Policy 30 (3) 151-156

## Upskilling for digital social work

Some of the latest research projects focus on the impact of technology in redefining existing social issues and generating new ones. Data is being collected on the problems, but technology-assisted responses by social workers are still under-documented. In projects DICO II and DICO III, we explored the topic in contexts of outreach social work (human trafficking, addiction, homelessness, youth at risk, asylum seekers, etc) as well as in responses to gender violence by antiviolence centers.



## Research reports

### ● DICO III

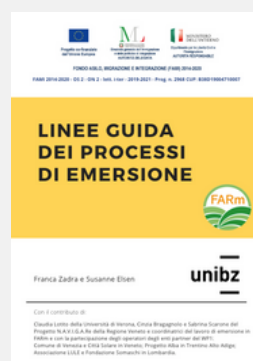
Zadra, F. & Lintner, C. (2023)  
Digitalization of efforts to contrast violence against women. Unibz.

### ● DICO II

Zadra, F. & Lintner, C. (2022)  
Digitalizing Outreach Social Work. Digital upskilling of social workers engaged in low-threshold settings. Unibz.

### ● FARM

Zadra, F. & Elsen, S., (2022)  
L'emersione dallo sfruttamento lavorativo in agricoltura: Metodi dell'assistenza di prossimità. Unibz.



## Practice publications

● Zadra, F. (2024) Linee guida interregionali. Progetto Common Ground.

Report on the advancement of guideline development for the identification and support of victims of labor trafficking and labor exploitation in the regions of Piemonte, Veneto, Friuli, Emilia Romagna, Liguria.

● Zadra, F. (2023) Pari o impari. La ricchezza del femminile nella migrazione. Piano B.

Publication on ESF Project Pari o Impari for the empowerment of immigrant women in South Tyrol, on topics of violence, labor, and access to public services. Available [here](#).

Zadra, F. & Elsen, S. (2022) Linee guida dei processi di emersione. Farm.

● Publication on social outreach methodologies on potential labor exploitation victims, developed with practitioners in the context of project FARM. Available [here](#).