

Final workshop PRIN 2022

AVRAI: Assessing the Vulnerability of Refugees and Asylum seekers in Italy

October 9-10, 2025

**Complesso Monumentale Sant'Antonino,
Piazza Sant'Antonino, 1
Palermo, Italy**

This event presents the key findings of the AVRAI research project to the research community, public authorities and civil society. The workshop aims to foster interdisciplinary exchange (both within and beyond academia), enhancing our understanding of the vulnerabilities of refugees and asylum seekers in high-income countries and, particularly, in Italy.

The research team, from the **Universities of Palermo, Bologna, Calabria, Milan and Milan-Bicocca**, will share the main results of the project, with special focus on **ItRAS**, the first national survey on refugees and asylum seekers in Italy. Innovative approaches and perspectives to measuring multidimensional vulnerability -integrating demographic, social, and health perspectives- will also be presented.

A roundtable with civil society and policymakers will provide reflections on policies to be implemented for refugees and asylum seekers in Italy.

PRIN 2022, Research Project AVRAI

– Assessing the Vulnerability of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Italy –

Funded by: NextGeneration EU – 2022XSM5SX (CUP: B53D23016960006)

Teams link for online attendance: <https://tinyurl.com/nyzfhdhj>

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October 9

9:30 - 10:00 Opening greetings: Antonino Bianco - Director of the Department SPPEFF, University of Palermo

10:00 - 10:30 Daria Mendola (P.I. of the AVRAI research project, University of Palermo): **An introduction to the AVRAI research aims and results**

10:30 - 11:00 Welcome coffee

11:00 - 13:00 Insights on Refugees in Europe

Keynote Speeches:

Elisabeth Kraus (BiB – Federal Institute for Population Research, Germany): **“Refugees in Germany: Demographic Trends, Integration, and Well-Being”**

Ben Wilson (University of Stockholm): **“Population heterogeneity and the socio-demographic lives of refugees, their children and grandchildren in Sweden”**

Ceri Oeppen (University of Sussex): **“Routes, racism and the hostile environment: challenges facing refugees arriving in the UK”**

13:00 - 14:00 Light Lunch

14:15 - 16:00 AVRAI SESSION I

Chair: **Eralba Cela**; Discussants: **Ben Wilson** and **Angelo Lorenti**

“Multidimensional Vulnerability of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Italy” (Anna Maria Parroco with D. Mendola, M. Parigi, M. Arcaio – University of Palermo)

“Formal and Informal Support in Shaping Refugees’ Mobility Intentions” (Roberto Impicciatore with L.E. Ortensi, F. Tosi, A. Zhelenkova – University of Bologna)

“Measuring the vulnerability of refugees: latent profiles in developed countries: A Case Study on Italy” (Micaela Arcaio with A.M. Parroco, D. Mendola – University of Palermo)

16:00 - 16:45 Keynote speech: Maurizio Ambrosini (University of Milan) **“The Illiberal Populism Paradox: Fortress Borders, Hungry for Labour”**

October 10

9:30 – 10:00 Keynote speech: Silvia Loi (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Germany): **“Immigrant-Native Health Disparities in Ageing Societies: a focus on refugees”**

10:00 - 11:15 AVRAI SESSION II

Chair: **Livia E. Ortensi**; Discussants: **Elisabeth Kraus** and **Silvia Loi**

“Health and vulnerability among refugees in Italy” (Elisa Barbiano di Belgioioso with E. Cela, E. Miaci, M. Ambrosini - University of Milan)

“Health and Patterns of Exit among Refugees in a Reception Center: A case study on Italy” (Manuela Stranges with A. Busetta, D. Mendola - University of Calabria and University of Palermo)

11:15 - 11:45 Coffee break

11:45-13:30 AVRAI SESSION III

Chair: **Hamid R. Oskorouchi**; Discussants: **Ceri Oeppen** and **Isabella Giammusso**

“Resist without breaking: exploring resilience among refugees living in Italy and Germany” (Annalisa Busetta with D. Mendola - University of Palermo)

“Narratives of older refugees in Italy: a focus on health and well-being ” (Eralba Cela with E. Barbiano di Belgioioso, E. Miaci, M. Ambrosini - University of Milan)

“Is there a female advantage in first and second-instance decisions on asylum applications in the European Union?”(Livia E. Ortensi with R. Impicciatore, F. Tosi - University of Bologna)

13:30 - 14:30 Light Lunch

14:30-15:00 Registration and Welcome coffee

From academic research to policy interventions (in Italian)

15:00-15:30 Daria Mendola introduces the research project **AVRAI** and the **ItRAS** (Italian Refugees and Asylum Seekers Survey)

15:30 - 17:30 Round Table “Refugees’ Vulnerability: Towards Better Policies”. Moderated by **Marco Picone**

(Rector’s Delegate for Community Engagement and the Third Sector, University of Palermo)

Panellists: **Daila Costa** (Legal clinics MiDi, University of Palermo), **Mari D’Agostino** (University of Palermo), **Giuseppe De Mola** (Médecins Sans Frontières, Italy), **Angela Errore** (“House of Rights”, Municipality of Palermo), **Rafaela Pascoal** (External Expert UNHCR – Territorial Commission for Asylum Trapani and Agrigento), **Serena Romano** (MEM.MED Memoria Mediterranea), **Abdel Alhibawi**.

Scientific Committee

Daria Mendola
Eralba Cela
Annalisa Busetta
Anna Maria Parroco

Organizing Committee

Daria Mendola
Micaela Arcaio
Annalisa Busetta
Silvia Fazio