

Sofia Graziani joined the University of Trento in 2016 after having worked as a post-doc researcher at the University of Bologna, Department of Modern Languages and Cultures. She holds an MA in Chinese Studies from the University of Venice Ca' Foscari and an MA in Asian Studies from Lund University (Sweden). She obtained her Ph.D. in East Asian History and Civilization in 2009 from the University of Rome La Sapienza, with a thesis entitled "A Bridge Linking Youth and the Party? China's Communist Youth League Under the Impact of Reform".

In 2011 she won a six month-research grant (Sciences and Arts Fellowship China) from the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research and in 2012 she got a one-year Postdoc Fellowship from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange (Taiwan) for her project entitled "Relations between Italy and the Two Chinas during the Cold War: The case of youth movements and organizations (1954- 1970)". Before joining the University of Trento, she has been visiting scholar in various Chinese universities (e.g. the China Youth University for Political Science, East China Normal University, Peking University, School of International Studies) and taught courses on Chinese modern history and institutions at various Italian universities. In 2011 she spent a period as Visiting Professor in China at Peking University (History Department) where she taught the course "China in transformation" within the framework of the Beijing Program for American University. She is currently responsible for a research project funded by the University of Trento on the impact of the pandemic on China's international projection and global outreach.

Her major field of research is the history and politics of modern and contemporary China. She has published on a variety of topics including the Party/state management of youth, with a focus on the Communist Youth League's organization and mobilization of young people in different historical periods at both the domestic level and from a transnational perspective, and Beijing's people-to-people diplomacy and soft power especially in the context of China-Africa relations. Since 2019 she is a board member of the Italian Association of Chinese Studies