

CURRICULUM VITAE



VALENTINA SECHI

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Birth: 20 June 1983, Rome, Italy

Driving licence: B

PERSONAL PROFILE

My interest and concerns about environmental issues always guided me in my professional path. Fascinated and thrilled by the complex dynamics occurring between living organisms and the environment I studied ecology and evolution and I have a PhD in Soil ecology. I am now working as Soil Theme coordinator at Wetsus and as associate lector at the University of Applied Science Van Hall Larestain where I combine my scientific approach in applied contexts in the field of soil protection and sustainable development.

WORKING EXPERIENCE

2018- Currently **Scientific project manager-** Soil Theme Coordinator
Wetsus Water Technology Center, The Netherland
Associate professor – Resilient Soils
Applied University of applied Science Van Hall Larestain, The
Netherland

2012-2017 **PhD-project**
Department of Soil Quality, Wageningen University in collaboration
with the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the
Environment (RIVM), The Netherlands
Project aims: Assessing the effect of anthropogenic pressure on soil
biodiversity and function with special focus on the responses of soil

organisms to land management practices, as part of a RIVM project on the Assessment of Soil Ecosystem Services.

2011-2012 **Guest researcher** working on the identification of trophic relations of soil mesofauna in agricultural grass fields
Departments of Bioscience and Agroecology, Aarhus University, Denmark

Main activities: Test the effect on Collembola community of crop composition for reducing nitrogen (N) input in managed grasslands

2010-2011 **Research assistant** working on ecotoxicology of soil fauna,
Department of Soil Ecology, National Environmental Research Institute (NERI) University of Aarhus –Denmark

Main activities: Experimental setting and design;
Test the effect of common pesticides on soil community;
Test and give suggestions for improving the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) protocols on pesticides in Europe

2009-2010 **Provider of environmental consulting services**
Studio Fieschi, Turin-Italy

Main activities: Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), development of indices of environmental impact on biodiversity

EDUCATION

2009-2010 **Master of specialization in “Environmental evaluation and Planning”**
University “Politecnico di Torino” – Italy

Thesis: Analysis of the existing methodologies for the assessment of anthropogenic pressure on biodiversity

Main subjects: Life Cycle Assessment, Sustainability, Environmental Assessment and Environmental law

2006-2009 **Master degree in Ecology**
University of Roma Tor Vergata – Italy

Thesis: Ecological restoration of the Peruvian wood “loma” of Atiquipa: morphometric and growth comparative analysis of *Caesalpinia spinosa* in natural and restored population

Main subjects: Basic and applied ecology, Environmental sustainability, Environmental economy and Land restoration

2007-2008

Erasmus exchange programme

Complutense University of Madrid– Spain

Main activities: Conducting morphological (leaf) analysis on *Caesalpinia spinosa* in the Peruvian wood “loma”

Main subjects: Ecological restoration, Ecology

2002-2006

Bachelor degree in Ecology and evolution

University of Roma Tor Vergata – Italy

Thesis: Study of the relationship between abiotic factors and composition of fish populations through multivariate analysis

Main subjects: Basic and applied ecology, Environmental sustainability, Biology

LANGUAGES

Italian: native speaker

English: professional use (European level scale: C1)

Spanish: good (European level scale: B2/C1)

FUNDING

LEB foundation (2016): fund for young researchers active in agricultural research and environmental sciences. (€ 600 to cover conference costs to join the EcoSummit 2016, Ecological Sustainability: Engineering Change)

Huub and Julienne Spiertz Fund (2014): fund for young agrobiologists and crop scientists. (€ 600 to cover costs to join SETAC Europe 24th Annual Meeting)

Danish Agency for International Education (2011-2012): it supports the internationalization of education and training in Denmark. (10 months scholarship, € 8900 to co-finance my research stay in Denmark)

Leonardo da Vinci programme (2010-2011). (6 months scholarship, € 3600 to co-finance my research stay in Denmark)

PUBLICATIONS

Sechi, V., de Goede, G.M.R., Mancinelli, G., Rutgers, M., Brussaard, L., & Mulder, C. (2017). Functional diversity in nematode communities across terrestrial ecosystems. *Under review*.

D'Annibale, A., **Sechi**, V., Larsen, T., Christensen, S., Krogh, P.H., Eriksen, J. (2017). Does introduction of clover in an agricultural grassland affect the food base and functional diversity of Collembola? Submitted to Soil Biology and Biochemistry. *Soil Biology and Biochemistry*, 112: 165-176.

Sechi, V., de Goede, G.M.R., Rutgers, M., Brussaard, L., & Mulder, C. (2017). A community trait-based approach to ecosystem functioning in soil. *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment*, 239: 265-273.

Sechi, V., Brussaard, L., De Goede, R.G.M., Rutgers, M. & Mulder, C. (2015). Choice of resolution by functional trait or taxonomy affects allometric scaling in soil food webs. *The American Naturalist*, 185, 142-149.

Sechi, V., D'Annibale, A., Ambus, P., Sárossy, Z., Krogh, P.H., Eriksen, J. *et al.* (2014). Collembola feeding habits and niche specialization in agricultural grasslands of different composition. *Soil Biology and Biochemistry*, 74, 31-38.

Sechi, V., D'Annibale, A., Maraldo, K., Johansen, A., Bossi, R., Jensen, J. *et al.* (2014). Species composition of a soil invertebrate multi-species test system determines the level of ecotoxicity. *Environmental Pollution*, 184, 586-596.

D'Annibale, A., Larsen, T., **Sechi**, V., Cortet, J., Strandberg, B., Vincze, É. *et al.* (2015). Influence of elevated CO₂ and GM barley on a soil mesofauna community in a mesocosm test system. *Soil Biology and Biochemistry*, 84, 127-136.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

A community trait-based approach to ecosystem functioning in soil. ECOSUMMIT2 016, Montpellier, France, August 2016

Species composition of a soil invertebrate multi-species test system determines the level of eco-toxicity. SETAC Europe 24th Annual Meeting, Basel, Switzerland, May 2014.

A soil mesocosm performed as a standard ecotoxicological test procedure with soil invertebrates exposed to α -cypermethrin". 13th Nordic Soil Zoology Symposium, Lammi Biological Station, Finland, August 2011.