

# Emanuele Valenti

Journalist, radio host, teacher

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I have been a journalist since 2001, focusing on conflict, international crises and geopolitics for radio, TV and print media. My travels have taken me to over twenty countries to tell stories of conflict in the Middle East, North Africa, the Balkans, North and South America and various European nations. My approach blends analysis and storytelling. I also teach courses and seminars in schools and at universities, showing students how to understand and communicate the complexity of the international world and how to operate in hotspots.

In recent years, much of my work has been in and about Syria, Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Ukraine, Catalonia and Brexit.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Journalism

Since 2003

#### **Foreign correspondent for Radio Popolare**

*I am a current affairs field reporter. My recent work has included covering: Venezuela recall referendum against Hugo Chavez (2004), London attacks (2005), Kosovo independence (2008), Barack Obama's first election in the USA (2008), organisation of Syrian rebels in Lebanon (2012-2013), war in Eastern Ukraine (2014), Scottish independence referendum (2014), Iran nuclear deal (2015), coup in Turkey (2016), Catalan independence referendum (2017), EU-UK Brexit negotiations (2018-2019), Turkish military operation in Northern Syria (2019).*

*I also create documentaries and news reports for the radio on the many different forms conflict takes.*

*I produce and present news and radio programmes and podcasts.*

Since 2010

#### **Freelance contributor for RSI - Radiotelevisione Svizzera (Swiss Broadcasting Network in Italian)**

*I produce and create radio documentaries, video reports and programmes telling stories from hotspots, including Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran, Lebanon, Ukraine and Catalonia.*

Since 2020

#### **Freelance contributor for TV3 - Televisió de Catalunya (Catalan Broadcaster – Spain)**

*I regularly take part in live TV broadcasts with details about Italy.*

2013 – 2018

#### **Freelance contributor for Borsa Italiana (Italian Stock Exchange)**

Reports for Borsa Italiana's YouTube channel during institutional events involving the Milan stock exchange.

2017

**Freelance contributor for Terre des Hommes Italia Onlus - an NGO**

Video coverage of their aid programmes in Iraq. I described the work of this organisation with children and teenagers in refugee camps and education centres. They were active in northern Iraq at the time ISIS (Islamic State) was operating in that part of the Middle East.

2006 – 2012

**Italy correspondent and international issues analyst for RNW - Radio Netherlands Worldwide**

News stories in Spanish for RNW's Latin American division. As far as Italy is concerned, my work was analysing the dynamics behind political, social, economic and cultural processes in my homeland.

2004 – 2012

**Freelance contributor for La Stampa, Europa and El Mundo**

I wrote articles and created videos from hotspots and about geopolitics and international issues.

2002 – 2003

**Local news reporter for Radio Popolare**

Local news stories from Milan and Lombardy.

Production and presentation of news reports, live and recorded radio broadcasts and programmes.

**Teaching and training**

My teaching is built on using actual reports and articles, and I often use video links to guests in crisis areas.

Since 2020

**“International contemporary crises”. Seminar at Insubria University, as part of the History and Contemporary Affairs course - Varese**

The seminar focuses on the main global crises of our time, deep-diving into the domestic and international elements that contribute to them. Contemporary conflicts are analysed in the light of what the students have covered or will cover in their history classes. The skills acquired enable students to place current international crises in a broader historical context.

Since 2019

**Lecturer in Geopolitics and Journalism in the Master's Degree in Communication for International Relations (MICRI) at IULM University in Milan**

I explore contemporary geopolitics through the lens of some of the most pressing contemporary crises. Students are pushed to strive for a critical understanding of topics, seeking to examine issues from a variety of perspectives in an effort to gain insight into the ever-changing global panorama. My lessons focus on the need to factor in multiple elements to truly understand the complexity of the international world. This means delving into: politics, international relations, the

economy, natural resources, energy, geography, history, psychology, culture, national identity, human rights and more. The role of communication, the use of propaganda and the importance of the narrative in areas where crises are unfolding are also examined.

Since 2018

### "Understanding the world around us". Geopolitics and International Relations classes in Milanese high schools

These lessons, designed for 16-18 year-old students, aim to provide simple, straightforward explanations of current affairs, while also offering elements of media literacy that help students to find reliable sources for information about what is happening in the world.

Since 2016

### Lecturer in International Crisis and Conflict at the Altiero Spinelli School for Interpreters and Translators (Fondazione Milano) in Milan, as part of the Master's Degree in International Relations, a programme offered jointly with the University of Strasbourg

Using an extremely pragmatic approach, the students acquire skills that will help them navigate international contexts in which they have to interact with politicians, diplomats, officials from international organisations, aid workers, multinational managers and journalists. In recent years, the focal topics have been: war in Syria; Libya and migration in the Mediterranean; Iranian nuclear crisis; Saudi Arabia and Islamic extremism; the Kurds, a nation without a country; Europe and the Soviet legacy: the crises in Ukraine and Belarus; Brexit and the border with Ireland; nationalism and separatist forces in Europe, the cases of Scotland and Catalonia.

Since 2014

### Lectures and seminars on geopolitics

- . Faculty of Political, Economic and Social Science, Milan University.
- . Faculty of Language and Cultural Mediation, Milan University.

2017

### Lecturer in Video Journalism in conflict areas at Iraqi youth centres run by Terre des Hommes Italia

## RECENT PROJECTS

**Syria:** a decade of war told exclusively by the voices of Syrian citizens in the country and abroad

**Turkey-Syria:** the war in Syria, migration, Turkish military operations in Northern Syria, human traffickers and smugglers working for ISIS

**Turkey:** freedom of the press, relationships with the European Union and migration problems, coup (2016), language and cultural identity in the Kurdish regions, conflict between the Turkish state and Kurdish militias (PKK), Islamic extremism, the first nuclear power station in the country (Akkuyu)

**Iran:** nuclear programme, relations with the US, international sanctions and economic crisis, the condition of women, freedom and rights

**Saudi Arabia:** Vision 2030, reforms, Islamic extremism, de-radicalisation, the educational system, the condition of women, freedom and rights, energy and oil

**Lebanon:** inter-ethnic relationships, Sunni-Shia divide, Hezbollah, the Syrian border

**Libya:** immigration, civil war, internal divisions, new generations

**Ukraine:** East-West division, national and cultural identity, war in Donbas, armed groups, independence movements, Russia's role, coal and energy

**Brexit:** 2016 referendum, the reasons for being against the EU, the divide between London and the rest of the country, the many national identities, Irish border, constitutional crisis

**Scotland:** independence movement, civic nationalism, cultural identity, the clash between the centre and the periphery in the modern state

**Catalonia:** Catalan and Spanish nationalism, cultural identity, the clash between the centre and the periphery in the modern state, independence movement.

## EDUCATION

### **Queen's University Belfast (UK)**

2000 – 2001

#### **MA in Comparative Ethnic Conflict**

I studied Comparative Ethnic Conflict, Violence, Politics, Terrorism and Conflict Management. Dissertation: "From national identity to political violence in Northern Ireland and the Basque Country"

### **Università degli Studi di Milano (University of Milan)**

1994 – 2000

#### **Degree in Political Science**

Specialising in international relations and law

Dissertation: "Northern Ireland and the Basque Country. A comparison of two political and legal entities"

### **Universidad Complutense de Madrid (University of Madrid, Spain)**

1997 – 1998

#### **Socrates/Erasmus exchange programme**

Facultad de Ciencias Políticas y Sociología (Faculty of Political Science and Sociology)

## LANGUAGES

**Italian:** native speaker

**English:** C1

**Spanish:** C1

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