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HealthXCross Newsletter 2026-05

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HealthXCross newsletter 2026-05



NEWS

Year four of HealthXCross has deepened our confrontation with the political conditions shaping microbiome science. As microbial life is increasingly an important element of informatic databases at a planetary scale, as racialized population categories resurface through genomic research, and as data infrastructures consolidate power under the guise of inclusion, our work has traced these dynamics across a widening geography: from the persistence of colonial genealogies in Tunisian microbiome research to the consolidation of platforms like Palantir in US health data infrastructures; from sampling labour in German laboratories to the geopolitics of microbiome science in post-protest Hong Kong; from the deep-time epistemologies of geobiology in California to the microbiopolitics of food regulation in Brazil; from the militarization of planetary computation to the metabolic rifts that subtend extractive modernity. Roberta's engagements with scholars and microbiologists in Kyoto, Hong Kong, and Beijing in October 2025 have extended this inquiry into the differential articulations of microbiome biopolitics across East Asia. In spring 2025, visiting scholars Stefan Helmreich, Heather Paxson, and Lucy Suchman contributed critical perspectives on the temporal politics of ocean science, the biopolitics of perishability, and the martial epistemologies underpinning algorithmic governance.

That these lines of inquiry are generating momentum beyond HealthXCross is evident in Marta Scaglioni's award of the prestigious ERC Starting Grant for CHRoMa (Chromatic Maghreb: Untangling the Complexities of Race in the Contemporary Maghreb), which will investigate processes of racialization in Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco, extending the critical work on race, science, and colonial legacies central to her contributions here. As HealthXCross enters its final phase, the

urgency of these questions, and the necessity of tracing their material and epistemic coordinates, calls for ever more rigorous articulation.

From mid-March to mid-April 2025 HealthXCross and NICHE hosted two leading scholars on anthropological engagements with microbiology, Professors [Heather Paxson](#) and [Stefan Helmreich](#) from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Their work and seminal [2013 article](#) together stands as an important source of academic inspiration for HealthXCross members working with microbiologists from an ethnographic perspective. We took the opportunity of their visit to brainstorm and discuss ideas for HealthXCross collective volume with them, reframing and reconsidering the concept of health through our common research with life scientists and microbes. Heather Paxson had a shorter visit and offered a lecture on her current research following raw milk cheese regulations into international trade (more below). Her work on cheese in the United States is the foundation for the highly influential concept of [microbiopolitics](#). Stefan Helmreich stayed with us in Venice for a month, kindly joining our weekly group meetings and offering a lecture on his most recent book on waves (more below). His research in between anthropology, science, and art speaks directly to HealthXCross key themes and provided the group with important insights into collaboration with life scientists, the limits of their concepts, and an anthropology of biology.

Between April and May 2025, [Lucy Suchman](#), Emeritus Professor at Lancaster University and a leading scholar in the ethnography of AI, visited our research group. The visit was organized as a collaboration between the HealthXCross and [AIModels](#) projects, led by Professor [Matteo Pasquinelli](#) and focused on the political epistemology of AI. Through a series of lectures and collaborative seminars, we engaged with Lucy Suchman on the epistemological and methodological status of ethnography and its transformations in relation to emerging fields such as deep learning and AI more broadly. Beyond a public lecture (see section on Events and Guests), this collaboration laid the groundwork for Giovanni and Roberta's paper on Genomic Screening and Warfare.

Pic: HealthXCross and AIModels teams with Lucy Suchman.



WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

The team has welcomed [Giovanni Fava](#) to the project, fresh from his PhD under the supervision of Professor [Pietro Omodeo](#). His previous work focused on the political epistemology of the concept of the Anthropocene across the natural, human, and social sciences. Within the context of the HealthXCross project, he will expand this political-epistemological perspective by adopting an ethnographic approach to the study of large-scale health research projects, particularly those involved in the development of personalized medicine. His research will critically examine the political agendas, with special attention to the role of Big Tech companies in biomedical research.

Valeria left at the end of October as her contract came to an end. Reflecting on her three years working for HealthXCross, she said: "It took me some time to find my bearings in this project. I come from visual semiotics; my work has always revolved around images, graphic design and, above all, the ways we make sense of data through visual form. Stepping into microbiology meant beginning from the ground up. But very quickly that unfamiliar world became compelling. On one side, the genetic approach requires researchers to translate sequences into visual patterns; on the other, cultivation work depends on forms of direct and mediated observation. Together, these practices opened a

territory that felt coherent with my interests and allowed me to rethink scientific visualization from a new angle. Another challenge was placing this field within the wider political and social questions that my anthropologist colleagues explore with such depth, and finding a mode of dialogue in which my own tools were not mistaken for a lack of critical sense. That exchange has been demanding, but deeply formative. It has shifted my priorities and altered my way of looking at things.

I cannot yet take full stock of this experience, but I know it has expanded my knowledge, pushed me into an international debate, and raised the level of my work. Above all, I have met colleagues who are curious, generous, and intellectually original, people with whom it has been a pleasure to share not only research but also time, walks, experiences, and thoughts. I carry with me what I have learned here. Thank you for your patience, your curiosity, and the time we have spent together."

Pic: *The six notebooks Valeria has filled in three years.*



ORGANIZED EVENTS AND OUR GUESTS

26-27/11/2025

International Seminar: “Food (in)Security under the Microscope”

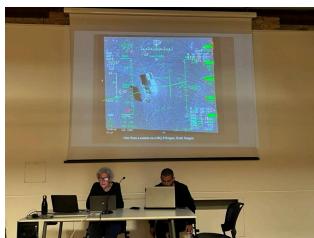
HealthXCross was part of the organisation of the international seminar at the State University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (UERJ), funded by Wellcome Trust via the [Centre for Social Studies of Microbes \(CSSM-Helsinki\)](#) and the Instituto Socioambiental (ISA) to discuss the role of microbiology and microorganisms in food safety regulations in Brazil and beyond. The two-day event brought together national and international academics as well as local indigenous and traditional communities leaders to speak with an interdisciplinary audience about the importance of rethinking microbiological standards in context and considering food safety regulation in a critical and broader perspective. Discussing meat industry, raw milk cheese production, agribusiness, land issues, decolonial perspectives and methodological aspects of research the seminar proposed a transversal framing of food (in)security through the attention to microorganisms and their regulation, opening a critical debate on the microbiopolitics of food regulation and its wide impacts in social and environmental terms.



6/10/2025

“Time’s Second Arrow: Evolution, Information, and a New Natural Law”

Seminar by [Robert Hazen](#) (Carnegie Institution for Science) on the “Law of Increasing Functional Information” – a new principle that reveals how diverse systems evolve through the exchange of information with their environment. Robert’s talk offered fresh insights into mineral evolution spanning 4.5 billion years of Earth’s history.



7/5/2025

with AI MODELS (GA n. 101088645) “Open Worlds and the Constitutive Outsidess of Artificial Intelligence”

Lecture by Lucy Suchman (Prof Emerita, Lancaster University UK) focusing on the martial epistemologies of data-driven warfighting. The lecture contributed to the small but expanding movement to resist the proposition that artificial intelligence (AI) is the driving technology of our age, an assertion that – whether offered as cause for celebration or alarm – serves the interests of those invested in AI (better understood as algorithmic intensification). The erasure of liveliness is central to the military programme, rendering always potentially unruly persons inside the machine as disciplined operators, while dehumanising those who are its justificatory targets.



28/04/2025

“Of Humans and Microbes. Connecting the histories of microbial and macrobial life in the 20th and 21st centuries”

Seminar by [Claas Kirchelle](#) (CERMES3 Paris) on the history of microbial collections, valuation, and (extra-)terrestrial stewardship as well as attempts to monitor the global microbiome via bacteriophages and sentinel organisms. Over the past two decades, genomic methodologies in microbiology and multispecies approaches in the social sciences have explored the awe-inspiring antiquity, diversity, and speed of microbial life as well as how human health and industries are shaped by and shape our planetary microbiota.



2/04/2025

“NewBooks | Ocean Waves, Ocean Science, Ocean Media”

Lecture by [Stefan Helmreich](#) (MIT Anthropology Massachusetts Institute of Technology) on his latest book, *A Book of Waves*, an anthropological examination of how oceanographers and coastal engineers — mostly in the US and the Netherlands, though also in Australia, Japan, and Bangladesh — study waves. Stephan's talk inquired how these scientists represent waves as avatars of an oceanic nature at once periodic and irreversible, wild and pacific, ephemeral and eternal, and discussed how they do so in the field, lab, and computer. He argued that wave science, so bound up with prediction, is about time, about orientations toward the future — coastal, environmental, national, political, and planetary.



28/03/2025

“Navigating Natureculture Timescapes: Mobility and Maturation in the Work of Importing Cheese”

Lecture by Heather Anne Paxson (MIT School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences) on the practical and semiotic work of moving European cheeses (and other perishable foods) across oceans and international borders into the United States. Drawing on ethnographic research, Heather traced the path and meanings of perishable values — including the edibility and palatability of fragile foods, as well as the commodity value of goods — she inquired retailers, importers and customs brokers' work to harmonize the natureculture timescapes of mobility and perishability. The skilled work of exporting/importing cheese reveals the role of time — beyond “terroir” elements of place — in

consolidating the material qualities that are valued in specialty foods. During the same week we had the visit of [Cristina Grasseni](#) (Leiden University), with whom we discussed collaborative research methods, beyond her interest in food systems.



NOTES FROM OUR WRITING

Marta Scaglioni has continued to work on her data from her 2023 fieldwork in Tunisia on a EU-funded human microbiome project. She published [an article](#) about how the scientists involved in the project reworked local notions of race, and how population categories hide long-standing genealogies that hark back to colonial times. After that, she has been writing about how Tunisia's high female presence in science coexists with a patriarchal framework, and about her interdisciplinary experience working with human microbiologists.

Victor Secco has been moving from his work on sampling labour and fieldwork in the life sciences toward the bioinformatic dynamics and the geographies of research and power in efforts to create planetary microbial databases. He is currently working on a draft about scientists' effort to bring together microbial genomic data, satellite imaging, and AI to understand and predict environmental microbiomes.

Valeria Burgio has refined and expanded upon her reflections on ecological microcosms, with a particular focus on Winogradsky columns. She has written an article which is currently undergoing post-peer review revisions. This article investigates the Winogradsky column as a visual and diagrammatic device for designing and representing ecosystems. It draws on laboratory observations conducted at the University of Naples. In parallel, she has written a piece on data visualisation in microbiology, analysing the shift from microscopic imagery to data analytics from semiotic and critical perspectives. Another article, also soon to be published and also based on the analysis of visualisations, reflects on an analogist strand in contemporary scientific thought, as well as the more commonly assumed naturalistic approach.

Eleonora is currently working on an illustrated book that shows the diverse visualization techniques used to see microbes through history, leading to metagenomics and the capacity to see unknown bacteria.

Antonia deepened the conceptual foundations for her work on mud epistemology through sustained research on metabolism and the metabolic rift. She presented this work at the Geoanthropology: Metabolism, Legal Imagination, and Geopraxis conference at Ca' Foscari in June, and collaborated with Giovanni Fava at POE (Ecology and War: Between Nationalism, Capitalism and Class), presenting 'Weaponizing the Smart Earth: The "Palazzo" Paradigm, and the Road Toward Planetary Sovereignty.' She also launched a 'Learning With' experimental workshop series in collaboration with Roberta—inaugurated by The Otolith Group—and established a research cluster on Radical Epistemologies at NICHE Institute for Environmental Humanities, based on her research in the context of HealthXCross.

Giovanni has submitted an article (co-authored with Roberta) that uses the [All of Us](#) Research Program as a case study to examine the tension between holistic rhetoric, epistemologies, and infrastructures—each emphasizing inclusivity and comprehensiveness in new data-intensive screening mechanisms—and the parallel trend toward the centralization of political and technological power. This tension is particularly visible in the

United States, where Palantir is increasingly emerging as a central actor within these dynamics. The second article he is currently working on (also co-written with Roberta) lays the groundwork for the concept of “planetary computation.” This concept captures the processes through which the planet is rendered a computable object, in part through health and sanitary research and large-scale data collection, while making visible the ideologies that underpin these developments.

Valentina Marcheselli has been working on an article inspired by the ethnographic fieldwork conducted in Southern California, where she met with scientists who identify as geobiologists. In this work, she explores the emergence and the current configuration of this particular intersection between geology and microbiology, which brings to the forefront the co-evolution between life and the planet. We are glad to share [this blog](#) post by microbiologist Murat Eren on Valentina Marcheselli’s [article](#). It reflects the HXC team’s ethnographic commitment to engage with scientists in a critical-and-generative way. With this approach, outcomes often emerge over the long term and sometimes, as in this case, in unexpected ways.

MK has completed the first paper (co-authored with Roberta) that explores the mundane aspects of genomics through an ethnography of a gut microbiome research lab in Hong Kong after the mass protests in 2019 and the COVID pandemic. He is currently working on a draft about a US-based microbiome lab led by a Chinese scientist who wants to bring together Western biomedicine and Chinese Medicine thoughts and actions.

Pic: HealthXCross team in Venice.



ROBERTA'S TRIP TO ASIA

Roberta has undertaken a three-locations travel to Asia, within the project FARE (Framework per l’Attrazione e il Rafforzamento delle Eccellenze) of the [Ministry of University and Research \(MUR\)](#).

First, she has been invited in Kyoto University by Andrea de Antoni, Research Coordinator of the [Italian School of East Asian Studies \(ISEAS\)](#) where she gave a special lecture on the 22nd October entitled "Microbiome Biopolitics Between the West and the East".

Pic: Roberta in Kyoto.



In Kyoto, she also visited the Manshuin Temple, where a tomb dedicated to bacteria and other germs, “Kinzuka” (mound for germs), is located. It is visited by microbiologists and others to express their gratitude to microbes’ lives sacrificed for science. It was established in 1981 by Takeo Kasabo, then president of an enzyme manufacturing company in Japan. Underneath the tomb, the ashes of *bacillus subtilis* were buried in a lacquered vessel. On the back of the tomb there is this inscription: “We will offer our sincere respects to the spirits of the countless billions of microbes that have contributed so much to the survival of humankind and sacrificed their lives, and would like to memorialize them from the bottom of our hearts.”

Pic: The Manshuin Temple.



Roberta's travel continued to Hong Kong, where she gave a lecture and discussed the FARE project with colleagues at the Anthropology Department of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and met with FARE postdoc Tam Mankei.

Pic: *Hong Kong*.



Finally, she arrived in Beijing, invited by microbiologist Prof. Liping Zhao and Dr. Jingnan Li (Associate Director of the Department of Gastroenterology and Chief Physician) and his team at [Peking Union Medical College Hospital](#). Roberta was invited to give a lecture and discuss the microbiome and its relation to human health from different disciplinary perspectives, but also how these are shaped by culture and politics.

Pic: *Roberta in Beijing with Dr Li and Dr Zhao*.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Scaglioni, M. (2025) [Negotiated Categories: The Co-Construction of the Tunisian Population in Human Microbiome Science and Its Historical Entanglements](#). *Medical Anthropology*, 44(7), 620–635.

Scaglioni, M. (2025) [Race by other names: critiquing population categories in microbiome research](#). *mSystems*, 0:e00216-25.

Barchetta, L., Raffaetà, R. (2025) [Antropologia tra piante, dati e scienziati. Alla ricerca del contesto nella collaborazione interdisciplinare basata sui dati](#) [ITA]. In Gentilucci, M., Stoica, G. (eds.) [Special Issue Oltre la collaborazione: per una politica delle alleanze](#) [ITA]. *Antropologia*, 12:1, 37-59.

Orlandi, G. (2025) [Engineers Versus Peasants? Narratives and Local Anchoring of a Conflict Concerning a Future Data Centre in an Alpine Valley](#). *Journal of Alpine research|Revue de géographie alpine*, 113(2).

Marcheselli, V. (2025) [Microbial Eccentricity: more-then-human creativity in anthropoecentric worlds](#). *BioSocieties*.

Majaca, A. (2025) [Mud Epistemology: Gender, Metabolism, and Marx's Unfinished Revolution](#). *e-flux_journal*, 157. <https://www.e-flux.com/journal/157/6776785/mud-epistemology-gender-metabolism-and-marx-s-unfinished-revolution>.

Tam, M., Raffaetà, R. (forthcoming) [The Mundane and the New Normal: Translating Microbiome Research to 'Tell Hong Kong's Story Well'](#). In Argudo-Portal, V., Pavone V., Turrini, M., Wahlberg, A. (eds.) [Mundane Genomics: DNA after the Hype](#). London: Palgrave Macmillan.



INVITED EVENTS

21/11/2025 - Experimentation in the social sciences

Invited talk by Giovanni Fava in the Winter School of the French CNRS "EXPESCENCES – 'L'expérimentation dans les sciences", organized by the Société de philosophie de sciences, Isle of San Servolo, 17-21 November 2025.

24/11/2025 - Saúde como ecologia: Promessas e desafios da micro-biodiversidade no Antibioceno

Invited talk by Victor Secco in the Coloquio Internacional "Biotecnodiversidade na Era das Homogeneizações", CHAMA (Coletivo de Antropologia, Ambiente e Biotecnodiversidade), University of São Paulo, 24 November 2025.



EVENTS' PARTICIPATION

22 - 25/11/2025 - Harnessing Airway Immunity for Next-Gen Vaccines

Participation by Eleonora Nigro in the conference organized by Novo Nordisk Foundation Science Cluster.

6/11/2025 - Health Data Science Day 2025

Participation by Eleonora Nigro in the conference organized by the Center for Health Data Science at the University of Copenhagen.

9/10/2025 - Symposium on Science Communication

Participation by Eleonora Nigro in the symposium organized by the University of Copenhagen.

2/10/2025 - Race as Practice: Comparison and Co-Construction in Microbiome Research

Participation by Marta Scaglioni in the conference "The Human Diversity Dilemma: Navigating the Intersection of Microbes, Ethics, and Society in Africa", organized by the research group Microbiome research and race in the [Local South/NWO Vidi project 2024-2029, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, 1-3 October 2025](#).

26/09/2025 - Race as Technology of Extraction: Microbiome Research and North-South Scientific Collaborations

Participation by Marta Scaglioni in the [Fifth National Conference of the Italian Society of Cultural Anthropology](#), University of Basilicata, Matera, 25-27 September 2025.

25/09/2025 - I microbi e le loro invisibilità. Alleanze decoloniali per una scienza post-secolare

Participation by Roberta Raffaetà in the Fifth National Conference of the Italian Society of Cultural Anthropology, University of Basilicata, Matera, 25-27 September 2025.

19/09/2025 - Beyond Extraction: Centering Tunisian Perspectives in Microbiome Research

Participation by Marta Scaglioni in the [Medical Anthropology Europe Conference, EASA](#), University of Vienna, 16-19 September 2025.

19/09/2025 - Divining the Planetary Microbiome: AI, genomics and the future of situatedness in the life sciences

Participation by Victor Secco in the Medical Anthropology Europe Conference, EASA, University of Vienna, 16-19 September 2025.

10/09/2025 - Mud Marx: Feminist Geopraxis for the Symbiocene

Participation by Antonia Majaca Friedman in the ["Geoanthropology: Metabolism, legal imagination and geo-praxis"](#) conference, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, 9-11 June 2025.

08/08/2025 - Antropologia sob o microscópio: explorando relações entre humanos e micróbios

Panel organised by Victor Secco and Leonardo Dulpin in the [XV RAM \(Reunião de Antropologia do Mercosul\)](#), Federal University of Bahia (UFBA), 04-08 August 2025.

04/08/2025 - Antropologia microscópica e multiespécie: questões metodológicas sobre como fazer antropologia com outras existências

Workshop organised by Victor Secco and Ana Paula Perrota in the XV RAM (Reunião de Antropologia do Mercosul), Federal University of Bahia (UFBA), 04-08 August 2025.

16/07/2025 - Innovation with Guts: Translating Microbiome Research to 'Tell Hong Kong's Story Well'

Participation by Mankei Tam in [SEAA-SNU Anthropology Conference, "Shaping Futures: East Asia as Practice"](#). Seoul National University, South Korea, 14-16 July 2025.

10/07/2025 - Doing ethnography between anthropology of science and STS: Genealogies, differences and gifts

Participation by Valentina Marcheselli and Roberta Raffaetà in the [10th Ethnography and Qualitative Research Conference](#), University of Trento, 10-12 July 2025.

07/07/2025 - The political economy of emerging planetary microbial data platforms: Considering the geographies of microbiome bioinformatics in stewardship

Participation by Victor Secco in the [MSE Summit: Pathways to Microbiome Stewardship Virtual](#), 07-10 July 2025.

16/06/2025 - Race, Science, and Comparison: Examining Microbiome Science in Africa

Participation by Marta Scaglioni in the [Finnish Anthropological Society Conference](#), University of Helsinki, 16-18 June 2025.

16/06/2025 - Innovation with Guts: Translating Microbiome Research to 'Tell Hong Kong's Story'

Participation by Mankei Tam in the Finnish Anthropological Society Conference, University of Helsinki, 16-18 June 2025.

13/06/2025 - Race at the Margins: Tracing Colonial Legacies in African Microbiome Science

Participation by Marta Scaglioni in the [10th STS Italia Conference](#), Politecnico di Milano, 11-13 June 2025.

11/06/2025 - Genealogies and differences

Participation by Valentina Marcheselli and Roberta Raffaetà in the 10th STS Italia Conference, Politecnico di Milano, 11-13 June 2025.

11/06/2025 - Sampling and the making of good science: examining data collection practices and their implications

Panel organised by Valentina Marcheselli and Victor Secco in the 10th STS Italia Conference, Politecnico di Milano, 11-13 June 2025.

11/06/2025 - The Good and the Beautiful: visualizing science in the (post)-digital age

Panel organised by Valeria Burgio in the 10th STS Italia Conference, Politecnico di Milano, 11-13 June 2025.

9/06/2025 - Paul Crutzen's Anthropocene, or the becoming-

ship of the Earth (system)

Participation by Giovanni Fava in the “[Geoanthropology: Metabolism, legal imagination and geo-praxis](#)” conference, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, 9-11 June 2025.

9/06/2025 - On the liveliness of inert matter. Deep time, isotope research and the geobiology revolution in Southern California

Participation by Valentina Marcheselli in the “[Geoanthropology: Metabolism, legal imagination and geo-praxis](#)” conference, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, 9-11 June 2025.

4 - 6/06/2025 - Let's Chat Medicine, workshop with Teenagers

Participation by Eleonora Nigro in the workshop organized by University College Dublin.

22-23/05/2025

Participation by Roberta Raffaetà in the workshop “[Platforms, Preparedness, and Emergencies \(PPE\) - Analysing Platforms in Global and Planetary Health \(1990-2025\)](#)”, CERMES3 (Paris).

19 - 23/05/2025 - Genomic Mechanisms of Disease

Participation by Eleonora Nigro in the conference organized by the Novo Nordisk Foundation Science Cluster.

15/05/2025 - Matchpoints: Beyond Climate Change

Participation by Eleonora Nigro in the conference organized by Aarhus University.

14/05/2025 - On the liveliness of inert matter. Deep time, isotope research and the geobiology revolution in Southern California

Participation by Valentina Marcheselli in the “[Scales of Life. From Basal Cognition to Planetary Intelligence](#)” workshop, ICI Berlin, 14-15 May 2025.

14/05/2025 - The Use of Ecological Microcosms in Life Sciences

Participation by Valeria Burgio in the “[Scales of Life. From Basal Cognition to Planetary Intelligence](#)” workshop, ICI Berlin, 14-15 May 2025.

24/04/2025 - Genomic matters of exchange: The bioinformatics of body-environment relations in planetary perspective

Participation by Victor Secco in [HEAT \(Health, Environment and Anthropology\)](#)

University of Durham, 23-24 April 2025.

9/04/2025 - Beyond the colonial gaze: bioethnographic collaboration as a path to a more equitable science

Participation by Marta Scaglioni in [ASA2025 \(Association of Social Anthropologists\)](#), University of Birmingham, 7-11 April 2025.

9/04/2025 - Ethnography on the Move: Exploring Itinerant Research Practices

Panel organised by Victor Secco, Amira Karoud, Lisa Grund, and Ramona Haegele in ASA2025 (Association of Social Anthropologists), University of Birmingham, 7-11 April 2025.

24 - 28/03/2025 - AI for Quantum: Accelerating Quantum Computer With AI

Participation by Eleonora Nigro in the conference organized by Novo Nordisk Foundation Science Cluster.

UPCOMING EVENTS

23-24/02/2026 - Scaling Planetary Health: From Microbial Genomes to Satellite Pixels

Participation by Giovanni Fava and Victor Secco in the workshop Unpacking the Heuristics and Methodologies of Scale, University of Bristol, 23-24 February 2026.

16-20/03/2026 - Prevention of Childhood Obesity: Body, Brain and Society

Participation by Eleonora Nigro in the conference organized by Novo Nordisk Foundation Science Cluster.

The final phase of HealthXCross will be one of synthesis and intervention, drawing together the threads of inquiry that have taken us across four continents to ask what it means to know microbial life under conditions of planetary datafication. What forms of attention, what practices of care and accountability, might resist the subsumption of microbial worlds into the logics of extraction and accumulation? These questions require sustained collaboration across disciplinary formations and geopolitical divides, attentive to the asymmetries of power that shape whose knowledge counts and under what conditions. We continue this work in dialogue with our interlocutors, human and otherwise, and with gratitude to those who have accompanied us thus far.

HealthXCross asks: *how does health come to be reconfigured
in a world entangled through microbial data?*

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Principal Investigator: [Roberta Raffaetà](#)

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