



What do POST DOCs Do While At Kent State University? In his own words: Dr. Enrico Gandolfi

My name is Enrico Gandolfi and from January 2015, I have the honor to be a Post-doctoral Research Fellow with the KSU Research Center for Educational Technology. My time in the US was both exciting and revelatory so far. When I decided to take a step forward in my career, North America was the first choice for the outstanding attention given to research and the liaison between academy and industry. Coming from Italy, the latter point is particularly crucial for me. Italian universities are often seen as a separate environment, detached from society; often researchers feel that they are not making a difference and that their work is underrated and even meaningless. Furthermore, they do not have enough resources to set concrete interventions toward the issues they are dealing with. As a social scholar with a PH.D. in Social Theory and Research, such an ineffectiveness was intolerable to me. Winning this post-doc seemed the best way to improve myself in a receptive context.

From my first day at Moulton Hall, I was astonished by how blessed was my decision: I have the pleasure to work with research and professional colleagues who move me to do better every single day. The teamwork is synergic and perfectly balanced; the research perspectives aims to tangibly affect society. Not finally yet, the human dimension is remarkable: I am feeling to be part of a big family beyond strictly academic ties. Consequentially, now my efforts are propulsive as connected to the field. For a sociologist like me, this is a dream come true.

Concretely, my focus is on how digital media can be integrated within educational environments. My expertise has developed in a multidisciplinary manner,



manner from media studies to sociology, from game studies to semiotics. In the last two years my attention to video games increased along with the interest in technology as social and educational driver. Currently, I am working on different grant proposals and articles concerning these topics. Due to its stimulating environment, Kent State University has increased my effectiveness and productivity. From January, I published three essays, one book (Videogiochi Indipendenti, Unicopli Edition), one book chapter for the MIT Press and submitted nine papers.

The future is particularly bright. I know that KSU is the ideal place where I realize my potential as a scholar and man. The gratitude to my supervisors, Dr. Richard Ferdig and Dr. Annette Kratoski, for giving me such a wonderful opportunity is beyond words. As further proof of my appreciation and commitment to this wonderful university, I am bringing my wife and my daughter here in August. It is only the beginning, I guess.

—Enrico Gandolfi



Summer Reading: A Recommended List

We expect our students to understand that poverty is underlying much of the ills of the world.

Below is a recommended list to help us as faculty and staff to deepen our own understanding of the complexities of the issue.

For CHILDREN:

- **Close to the Wind** by John Walter
- **After Tomorrow** by Gillian Cross

For TEENS:

- **Trash** by Andy Mulligan
- **Hold Tight, Don't Let Go** by Laura Rose Wagner
- **Sold** by Patricia McCormick recommended by Alexa Sandmann

NON-FICTION

- **UnPoverty** by Mark Lutz
- **Half the Sky** by Nickolas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn
- **Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea** by Barbara Demick

FICTION:

- **The Bluest Eye** by Toni Morrison
- **The Glass Castle** by Jeannette Walls.



This beach library in Albena, Bulgaria has volumes for summer reading in 10 different languages.

World Refugee Day June 20

Global Problem: 50 MILLION AND GROWING

GENEVA, June 20 (UNHCR) – The UN refugee agency reported today on World Refugee Day that the number of refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people worldwide has, for the first time in the post World War II era, exceeded 50 million people.

Local Impact:

*Locally Akron's refugee and immigrant population have filled 1000 manufacturing jobs in the country and have a positive impact on home values. Vera Wang Bridal Couture employs refugees and immigrants with half its labor force from Laos.

*The Akron North Hill area around the Akron International Institute recently celebrated World Refugee Day with a celebration of the entertainment, food, stories from former refugees and the free screening of the movie, *THE GOOD LIE*, a story starring Reese Witherspoon and is about resettlement of Sudanese refugees.

*Lakewood City Schools, home of many Cuyahoga refugees and immigrants, celebrates its diversity of 35 languages represented in its student population, and with 9% of its student population ELL learners. Summer programs for refugee populations are funded in part by Asia Services in Action Foundation.

* The new wave of NE Ohio Refugees will be from Syria—home of one of the most devastating civil wars. These refugees will bring with them post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and anxiety. Studies have shown that PTSD in refugees range from 10-40%. In children this number spikes to 50 -90%. These students will be in our schools soon.