design[at]elenapapassissa[dot]it

https://www.elenapapassissa.it

EXPERIENCE

March 2022–April 2023	**Freelance type designer** with Monotype Inc. Corp, UK
September 2021–Present	**Lecturer in Graphic Design and Typography** at Oxford Brookes University (BA Hons Graphic Design), Oxford, UK
September 2021–November 2021	**Supplier** to the University of Reading, Reading, UK
February 2021–June 2021	**Lecturer** at the University of West London (BA in Graphic Design), London, UK
21 September 2020–Present	**Associate Lecturer** at Oxford Brookes University (BA in Graphic Design), Oxford, UK
July 2020–July 2021	**Type Design Consultant** to Dalton Maag
February 2019–Present	**Associate Lecturer** at UAL (BA in Graphic Design), London, UK
January 2019–June 2020	**Freelance type designer** with Monotype Inc. Corp, Germany
October 2018–December 2018	**Visiting Practitioner** at UAL (BA in Graphic Design), London, UK
May 2017 (1 day)	**Armenian workshop** conducted at the MA type design course at the University of Reading, UK
August 2016–October 2016	**Armenian consultant** to Tiro Typeworks Ltd, Salish Sea, BC
July 2013–May 2016	**Freelance type designer** at 'Jeffery Keedy studio', Los Angeles, USA
December 2012–January 2021	**Freelance type designer** at 'Fraser Muggeridge studio', London, UK
January 2014–January 2016	**Armenian consultant and type designer** at Monotype Inc. Corp, USA
February 2015–September 2015	**Consultant** at the Monotype Inc. archives in Salfords, UK
January 2014–December 2014	**Part-time research intern** at the Monotype Inc. archives in Salfords, UK
2014	**Freelance type designer** at 'Polimekanos studio', London, UK
2008	**Identity of 'Urbino Servizi'**, Urbino, Italy Commissioned through competition by 'Urbino Servizi', Italy
January 2007–June 2007	**Informatic Laboratory Assistant** at 'ISIA Urbino', Italy
May 2011–June 2011	**Graphic Design Studio: 'Browns Design'**, London, UK
August 2008–November 2008	**Graphic Design Studio: 'SPR-MSH'**, Madrid, Spain
October 2007–December 2007	**Graphic Design Studio: 'SPR-MSH'**, Madrid, Spain
2004 (intern)	**Graphic Design Studio: 'Giovanna Maiani'**, Trieste, Italy

EDUCATION

September 2021–Present	**Explore@Brookes Programme** to become a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.
September 2015–September 2019	**Typography & Graphic Communication PhD** 'University of Reading', Reading, UK
2017	**Preparing to Teach Programme** (Core sessions of the 2016–17). 'University of Reading', Reading, UK
2011–2012	**Master in Typeface Design** 'University of Reading', Reading, UK
2008–2009	**Master in Communication and Graphic Design for Publishing** (Diploma Accademico di Secondo Livello in Grafica dei Sistemi indirizzo 'Comunicazione e design per l'editoria') 'ISIA Urbino', Italy
2005–2007	**Bachelor in Graphic Design and Visual Communication** (Diploma di Istituto Superiore per le Industrie Artistiche Progettazione Grafica e comunicazione visiva) 'ISIA Urbino', Italy
1997–2002	**High school degree focused on Italian Literature, Latin, Ancient Greek, History and Philosophy** 'Liceo Petrarca', Trieste, Italy

Selected workshops attended

September 2018 (3 hours)	**Letterpress printing** by Jim and Bill Moran of the Hamilton Wood Type & Printing Museum. 'Letter-Kunde Press, Antwerp'
October 2011 (1 day)	**Stone carving** by Wayne Hart. 'University of Reading', Reading, UK
May 2009 (1 week)	**'Comunicazione come narrazione'** by Paula Scher. 'ISIA Urbino', Italy
February 2009 (2 weeks)	**Karel Martens** 'ISIA Urbino', Italy
2009 (1 week)	**Bookbinding** 'Studio per le Arti della Stampa di Jesi'. Jesi, Italy
April 2008 (1 week)	**'Freedom and Order'** by Maureen Mooren, Armand Mevis, Peter Bilak and Joanna Meus. 'ISIA Urbino', Italy
2006 (3 days)	**Calligraphy** by James Clough. 'ISIA Urbino', Italy

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue	Italian
Other languages	
English	Spoken: Fluent; Written: Fluent
Spanish	Spoken: Fluent; Written: Upper-intermediate
Armenian	Spoken: Intermediate; Written: Intermediate
Computer skills	Proficient user of Adobe Creative Suite, Glyphs, FontLab, AFDKO (Adobe Font Development Kit for Opentype) and WordPress. Confident user of Microsoft Office Suite

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Publications

Elena Papassissa. (Bloomsbury, 2025) is in preparation to be published **'The graphic impact of Latinization on Armenian reading matters in the digital era'** in the *Handbook of Global Typography*

Elena Papassissa. (2021) **'Designing Armenian typefaces: Researching the past to inspire the present'**. *FGL–Future Graphic Language: New Directions in Verbal Communication*. Polish-Japanese Academy of Information Technology, Warsaw, Poland, pp. 50–57. ISBN 978-83-66831-01-8

Elena Papassissa. (2013) **'The current state of Armenian typefaces'**. *Bardez/Partez: The bulletin of the Armenian Institute*. The Armenian Institute, London, UK, (Special Issue), p. 14

Elena Papassissa. (2012) **'Analisi Microtipografica sulla tipografia dei bugiardini'**. *AIAPZINE: International Design Observatory* (Milan, Italy). Thesis, research, and studies section. http://aiapzine.aiap.it/notizie/13260

Featured/Citation

(February 2021) **'A Familiar System Font Goes Global with Monotype's Avenir Next World'**. *Aiga–Eye on Design*

(January 2021) **'Monotype Introduces Avenir Next World: A Typeface for Global Brands to Design Consistently Beyond Borders'**. *Business Wire*

(January 2021) **'Monotype releases first update to Avenir in 20 years, expanding to 150 global scripts and languages'**. *It's Nice That*

(January 2021) **'Avenir Next World builds on Adrian Frutiger's legacy with a truly global typeface'**. *Creative Boom*

(2018) Gerard Unger, *Theory of Type Design*. nai010, Rotterdam, pp. 70, 86

(2017) **'No more Tofu'**. *The Monotype Recorder* (5/Summer). The Monotype Studio, London, UK, pp. 37–50

(2010) **'Urbino Servizi'**. *Fisianomia 2009*. Quaderni Isia, Urbino, Italy (1 March 2010), corporate identity/4

(2009) **'Parola Macchina del pensiero'**. *Spaghetti Grafica 2*. Mondadori Electa, Milan, Italy, pp. 318–319

(2009) *Illywords* (27). Corraini, Mantova, Italy, p. 9

(2008) **'Lekton font'**. *Italic 2.0*. De Agostini, Novara, Italy, pp. 54–55

Academic writings (Unpublished)

(2019) **'Conventions, traditionalism, Latinisation, and modernity in Armenian typefaces across type-making technologies from 1512 to 1977'**.
PhD thesis, 'University of Reading', Reading, UK

(2012) **'The current state of Armenian typefaces'**.
MA dissertation, 'University of Reading', Reading, UK

(2012) **'Reflections on practice'**. Essay, 'University of Reading', Reading, UK

(2012) '**Research report**'. Short essay, 'University of Reading', Reading, UK

(2010) '**Analisi Microtipografica sulla tipografia dei bugiardini**'. Final thesis project, 'ISIA Urbino', Italy. The University commission mentioned the research job as a deserving publication

Conferences, Lectures & Outreach	Speaker at **SHARP Conference 1–5 July 2024** (University of Reading, UK). Panel: 'Between Manuscripts and Prints: Paris and World Scripts (18th and 19th centuries)' with Michela Bussotti – French School of Asian Studies, and Fabien Simon – Université Paris Cité Paris. My talk title is: 'Reshaping the Armenian script (Paris 1850s): communication between Armenian printers, publishers, and readers'.

Speaker at **the Armenian Institute in London. 23 May 2024.**
Talk title: 'Reshaping Armenian letterforms'. (Invited by the Armenian Institute)

Speaker at **Colloque 'Orient typographique' 12-15 décembre 2023 / Conference 'Typographic Orient' 12-15 December** (Université Paris Cité, December 2023). Talk title: 'Armenian types in Paris: a tale of two key moments' (Invited by Fabien Simon, Université Paris Cité)

'**Conducting archival research**'. Give a presentation to PhD students at the Department of Typography and Communications, University of Reading, UK (July 2023)

Speaker at **ATypI** (Association Typographique Internationale). Paris (Sorbonne University, May 2023). Talk title: 'Experiments on reforming the printed letters of the Bolorgir style'

Type Director Club (25TDC) Competition – Typeface Design. I was part of the expert panel for non-Latin typefaces (as an Armenian type design specialist) (February 2022)

Visiting Lecturer at **UAL** (December 2020). I was invited to talk about my practice to undergraduate students (Graphic Design) at Camberwell College of Arts

Speaker at **Future Graphic Language**. Warsaw (December 2019). Talk title: 'Designing Armenian typefaces: Researching the past to inspire the present'

Speaker at **HWDO** (Hidden Women of Design). London (November 2017). Talk title: 'Designing Armenian typefaces: Researching the past to inspire the present'

Speaker at **ATypI** (Association Typographique Internationale). Montréal, Canada (September 2017). Talk title: 'Armenian typefaces as expression of national identity: the introduction of a newly fashioned Bolorgir typeface in the second half of the 19th century'

Speaker at **TDI:** type design course at Reading University, UK (July 2014). Talk title: 'Traditional versus Latinised approach to Armenian typeface design'. (Invited by Professor Gerry Leonidas)

Speaker at **ATypI** (Association Typographique Internationale). Amsterdam (October 2013). Talk title: 'The current state of Armenian typefaces'

Speaker at **TDI:** type design course at Reading University, UK (July 2013). Talk title: 'The current state of Armenian typefaces'. (Invited by Professor Gerry Leonidas)

Speaker at **ICTVC:** 5th International conference on typography and visual communication, University of Nicosia, department of design and multimedia. Cyprus (June 2013). Talk title: 'The current state of Armenian typefaces'

Projects exhibited

'H. Nicholas Werkman' and 'Willem Sandberg' booklets, designed in collaboration with graphic designer and visual artist Müge Yilmaz were exhibited at 'Grafici per la Democrazia', exhibition about graphic's role during the second World War. Pergola, Civitanova Marche, Italy (2010)

'Urbino Servizi' identity was exhibited at the 'Free University of Bozen - Art and Design Department', Bozen, Italy and at the 'Art Institute of Cordenons', Pordenone, Italy (2009)

'Fiera della parola, Archivio Storico Olivetti. Parola Macchina del Pensiero' was exhibited at 'Spaghetti grafica', an Italian graphic design exhibition at the 'Triennale di Milano'. Milan, Italy (2010)

'Particolare Universale'. An exhibition about the identity of the natural park 'Parco San Bartolo' at 'Centro Arti Visive–Pescheria'. Pesaro, Italy (2009)

Research Funding

2024 I was awarded **a grant to support part of the publication's costs of a monograph, based on my PhD thesis, from the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) and the Knights of Vartan**

2017 I was awarded a **Short Term Grant for Armenian Studies** from **the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation** to speak at ATypI conference (Montreal 2017)

2015 I was awarded an **Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Design Star for Doctoral Training Partnership studentship (DTP)** (2015–2018) for my PhD research at the University of Reading