

Dr Nicola Favretto

ASSOCIATE LECTURER IN ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT

University of York

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND GEOGRAPHY

1. EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2014 **PhD in Environmental Sustainability and Development**, University of Leeds
2008 **MSc International Economic Integration (First-Class Honours)**, University of Pavia
2005 **BSc Economics and Social Sciences (First-Class Honours)**, University of Milano-Bicocca

2. ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024 - Present Associate Lecturer and Research Associate, Department of Environment and Geography, **University of York**, UK
2022-2024 Research Associate, Department of Environment and Geography, **University of York**, UK
2016-2022 Research Fellow, **University of Leeds**, UK
2015-2016 Scientific Coordinator and Project Officer, **United Nations University (UNU-INWEH)**, Canada
2013-2014 Research Fellow, **University of Leeds**, UK
2010-2023 Research Impact Fellow, ESRC Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy, **University of Leeds and London School of Economics and Political Science**, UK
2009-2014 PhD Candidate and Teaching Assistant, **University of Leeds**, UK
2009 Economist, **European Commission**, Belgium
2008 Consultant, **United Nations Development Programme**, New York

3. RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS

2025 DEFRA R&D Fellowship 2026. Shortlisted
2025 £120,623 (Co-PI), BBSRC–ESRC ZINC Food Systems Catalyst – Integrating vertical farms and greenhouses for a resilient UK food system
2025 £14,933 (PI), YESI Knowledge Exchange Fellowship – Connecting science, policy and communities: exchanging knowledge on ecosystem services for climate resilience
2024–2025 £14,229 (PI), YESI Discipline Hopping Fellowship – Climate-resilient agriculture: linking yield modelling to human responses to climate change
2024 £4,000 (Co-I), YESI Interdisciplinary Research Award – Sustainable financing for sustainable agro-ecological landscapes
2024 £5,945 (PI), YESI International Fellowship (Nigeria) – Diversifying livelihoods in flood-resilient communities in the Nigerian drylands
2021 £199,993 (Co-I), ESRC–GCRF Climate Resilience Call (retracted due to ODA cuts) – Social innovations for equitable and climate resilient landscapes in Africa
2020 £12,000 (PI), ESRC Impact Acceleration Account – Advancing the impacts of socio-ecological restoration through multi-stakeholder partnerships in South Africa
2018 £120,000 (Co-I), Newton Institutional Links (UK–Brazil) – Building economic development and social welfare in Paraná, Brazil
2018 £20,000 (Co-I), GIZ – Reversing land degradation in Africa through scaling up EverGreen agriculture
2018 £11,200 (Co-I), GIZ – MOOC-development: Integrating soil degradation concerns and solutions into policy processes
2010–2018 £3,000 (PI), Royal Geographical Society, Yale University, Dudley Stamp Memorial Award
2016 £400,000 (Co-I), Erasmus+ (Advancement of business and landscape education) – European network for the advancement of business and landscape education
2014 £20,000 (PI), SUPERGEN Bioenergy Hub – Sustainable biofuels for social development

2012	£6,000 (PI), Doctoral Bursary, University of Leeds
2011	£5,000 (PI), Fieldwork Bursary, University of Leeds
2009	£60,000 (PI), University Research PhD Scholarship, University of Leeds – Assessing livelihood opportunities and policy challenges of bioenergy in Mali

4. RESEARCH POSITIONS ON FUNDED PROJECTS

2022–2025	Exploring and enabling climate-resilient development in vulnerable geographies, University of York
2021–2022	Harnessing climate change mitigation benefits through tree restoration in Nigerian drylands, UKPACT
2020–2021	Building the evidence base for climate-smart agri-food systems, GCRF-AFRICAP (BBSRC)
2019–2021	African climate-resilient landscapes project, World Universities Network
2016–2021	Exploring co-benefits in mitigation, adaptation and development, ESRC Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy
2016–2019	Interuniversity learning on advanced land management, Egypt, Erasmus+
2014–2015	Sustainable liquid biofuels from biomass biorefining, EU FP7
2014–2015	Economics of Land Degradation: Botswana case study, ELD Initiative
2009–2014	Assessing livelihood opportunities and policy challenges of bioenergy in Mali (PhD research), University of Leeds

5. TEACHING AND TRAINING

University of York, 2024-2025

TEACHING

- Equitable & Sustainable Futures 3: Inequalities, Change & Hope. Undergraduate, 3rd Year, n=27 students, **Lead**
- Equitable & Sustainable Futures 2: Power & Place in the Global South. Undergraduate, 2nd Year, n=43 students, **Co-Lead**
- Introduction to Research Skills. Undergraduate, 1st Year, n= 175 students
- From Foundations to Innovations in Human Geography Research. Undergraduate, 2nd Year, n=44 students
- Geographical Perspectives for Environ. Issues. Undergraduate, 1st Year, n=55 students
- Engendering Change. Undergraduate, 2nd Year, n=162
- Energy Transitions and Low Carbon Futures. Undergraduate, 3rd Year, n=63 students
- Sustainable & Just Futures. Postgraduate, n=7 students, **Co-Lead**
- Research Skills & Methods. Postgraduate, n=83 students

TRAINING

- “Beyond the lab: Using qualitative data and stakeholder engagement to advance bioscience”, Department of Biology, 2025
- “Cross-application of modelling software between bioscience and social science research”, Department of Biology, 2025

University of Cape Town

- Multi-Stakeholder Engagement in Africa. Digital (e-course), ARUA Centre of Excellence in Climate & Development, 2022-2023

University of Sassari

- Climate Change, Agriculture and Sustainable Rural Development. Digital (MOOC module), EU Erasmus+, 2020-2021

University of Leeds

- Teaching contributions, 2010-2021: Critical Perspectives in Environment and Development (postgraduate), Critical Perspectives on Livelihoods Research for Development Practice (postgraduate), Environmental Science for Environmental Management (undergraduate); Sustainability Economics in Practice (undergraduate), Research Methods (undergraduate)
- Integrating Degradation Solutions Into Policy Processes. Digital (MOOC), GIZ, 2018
- Co-developed new ‘Master’s Programme in Sustainable Land Management’, adopted by Universities of Cairo, Alexandria, Damanhour and Zagazig, EU Erasmus+, 2016-2019
- Landscape Restoration for Sustainable Development. Digital (MOOC), EU Erasmus+, 2017-2018

United Nations University

- Options and Pathways for Action: Stakeholder Engagement. Digital (MOOC), ELD initiative, 2015 (GIZ)

6. SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2025	Deputy Director for Partnerships and Engagement, University of York, UK
2025	Scoring Panel, YESI Fellowship
2025	Associate Fellow, Higher Education Academy (HEA)
2025	Speaker for University Post Offer Visit Days, University of York, UK
2024-2025	Pastoral Supervisor & Mentor, Individualised support to 20 undergraduate students, University of York; Mentoring of 1 PhD researcher and 6 teaching assistants, University of York; Mentoring of 1 Lecturer at Bayero University Kano, Nigeria
2024-2025	Equality & Diversity Learning and Teaching Officer, University of York
2024-2025	Member of the Departmental Board of Studies, University of York
2022	Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale, Italian habilitation of full Professor in Agricultural Economics
2016-2018	Advisory Board, European network for the advancement of business & landscape education, Erasmus+
2016-2018	Steering Committee, Interuniversity learning in higher education on land management, Erasmus+
2016-2017	Steering Committee, Global Land Outlook of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification

7. WORK UNDER REVIEW

Favretto N, Tan HL, Brain G, Ezer D. (Submitted in November 2025, under review) Bridging human and plant adaptations for climate resilience. *Plants, People, Planet*

8. JOURNAL PAPERS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- Favretto N**, Stringer LC. (2026) Evidence-based steps towards climate resilient development pathways: Insights across levels and sectors. *Global Environmental Change* 97: 103130. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2026.103130>
- Mohammed UM, **Favretto N**. 2025. Livelihood diversification among women farmers in Nigeria's flood-resilient drylands. *Climate Risk Management* 48: 100708. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crm.2025.100708>
- Favretto N**, Stringer LC, Barau AS, Jibrin JM, Ado S, Yakubu IB, Dallimer M. (2025). Restoring dryland ecosystems: Local knowledge, native species and tree restoration policies and practices in Northern Nigeria. In: Khan, Y.D.I., Purohit, S., Jibrin, J.M., Gholkar, M.D. (eds) Land Restoration Through Ecosystem-Based Approach. Disaster Resilience and Green Growth. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-95-0389-6_26
- Favretto N**, Stringer LC. 2024. Climate resilient development in vulnerable geographies. *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change* 29: 90. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11027-024-10187-5>
- Favretto N**, Shackleton S, Sallu SM, Hoffman T. 2021a. Editorial for Special Issue: 'Collaboration and multi-stakeholder engagement in landscape governance and management in Africa: lessons from practice'. *Land* 10: 285. <https://doi.org/10.3390/land10030285>
- Favretto N**, Stringer LC, Dougill AJ, Kruger L. 2021b. Knowledge exchange enhances engagement in ecological restoration and rehabilitation initiatives. *Restoration Ecology* 30: e13565. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rec.13565>
- Favretto N**, Shackleton S, Sallu SM, Gordon C, Methner N, Outa G, Sola P, Sikutshwa L, Williams PA, eds. 2021c. Collaboration and multi-stakeholder engagement in landscape governance and management in Africa: lessons from practice. MDPI, 222pp. ISBN 3036514775. <https://doi.org/10.3390/books978-3-0365-1478-9>
- Afzal N, Afionis S, Stringer LC, **Favretto N**, Sakai M, Sakai P. 2021. Benefits and trade-offs of smallholder sweet potato cultivation as a pathway toward achieving the sustainable development goals. *Sustainability* 13: 552. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13020552>
- Favretto N**, Afionis S, Stringer LC, Dougill AJ, Quinn CH, Ranarijaona Tiana HL. 2020. Delivering climate-development co-benefits through multi-stakeholder forestry projects in Madagascar: opportunities and challenges. *Land* 9: 157. <https://doi.org/10.3390/land9050157>
- Sakai P, Afionis S, **Favretto N**, et al. 2020. Understanding the implications of alternative bioenergy crops to support smallholder farmers in Brazil. *Sustainability* 12: 2146. [doi:10.3390/su12052146](https://doi.org/10.3390/su12052146)
- Favretto N**, Dougill AJ, Stringer LC, Afionis S, Quinn CH. 2018. Links between climate change mitigation, adaptation and development in land policy and ecosystem restoration projects: lessons from South Africa. *Sustainability* 10: 779. [doi:10.3390/su10030779](https://doi.org/10.3390/su10030779)

- Favretto N**, Afionis S, Stringer LC, Buckeridge M. 2017. Policy and diplomacy in the production of second generation ethanol in Brazil: International relations with the EU, the USA and Africa. In: MS Buckeridge, AP de Souza (eds.), *Advances in basic science for second generation bioethanol from sugarcane and their impact on technology*. Springer. [doi: 10.1007/978-3-319-49826-3_11](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-49826-3_11)
- Favretto N**, Stringer LC, Dougill AJ, Dallimer M, Perkins JS, Reed MS, Athlpheng JR, Mulale K. 2016a. Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis to identify dryland ecosystem service trade-offs under different rangeland land uses. *Ecosystem Services* 17: 142-151. [doi: 10.1016/j.ecoser.2015.12.005](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoser.2015.12.005)
- Favretto N**, Luedeling E, Stringer LC, Dougill AJ. 2016b. Valuing Ecosystem Services in Semi-Arid Rangelands through Stochastic Simulation. *Land Degradation & Development* 28: 65–73. [doi: 10.1002/ldr.2590](https://doi.org/10.1002/ldr.2590)
- Afionis S, Stringer LC, **Favretto N**, Tomei J, Buckeridge M. 2016. Unpacking Brazil’s leadership in the global biofuels arena: Brazilian ethanol diplomacy in Africa. *Global Environmental Politics* 16: 127-150. [doi: 10.1162/GLEP_a_00369](https://doi.org/10.1162/GLEP_a_00369)
- Dougill AJ, Akanyang L, Perkins JS, Eckardt F, Stringer LC, **Favretto N**, Athlpheng J, Mulale K. 2016. Land use, rangeland degradation and ecological changes in the southern Kalahari, Botswana. *African Journal of Ecology* 54: 59-67. [doi: 10.1111/aje.12265](https://doi.org/10.1111/aje.12265)
- Favretto N**, Stringer LC, Dougill AJ. 2015. Towards improved policy and institutional coherence in the promotion of sustainable biofuels in Mali. *Environmental Policy and Governance* 25(1): 36–54. [doi: 10.1002/eet.1663](https://doi.org/10.1002/eet.1663)
- Reed MS, Stringer LC, Dougill AJ, Perkins JS, Athlpheng JR, Mulale K, **Favretto N**. 2015. Reorienting land degradation towards sustainable land management: Linking sustainable livelihoods with ecosystem services in rangeland systems. *Journal of Environmental Management* 151: 472-485. [doi: 10.1016/j.jenvman.2014.11.010](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2014.11.010)
- Favretto N**, Stringer LC, Dougill AJ. 2014. Unpacking livelihood challenges and opportunities in energy crop cultivation: perspectives on *Jatropha curcas* projects in Mali. *Geographical Journal* 180(4): 365–376. [doi: 10.1111/geoj.12053](https://doi.org/10.1111/geoj.12053)
- Afionis S, **Favretto N**, Buckeridge M, Van Alstine J, Stringer LC. 2013. The environment in Latin America and the Caribbean in the aftermath of the Rio+20 Summit, In: Europa Publications (Ed) *South America, Central America & the Caribbean 2014*, Routledge, pp. 17-21. ISBN: [9781857436952](https://doi.org/9781857436952)

9. SELECTED REPORTS AND POLICY BRIEFS

- Favretto N**, Stringer LC. 2025. [Climate resilient development in Italy: Practical steps and lessons from regions and sectors](#). UK: University of York
- Favretto N**, Dallimer M, Stringer LC, Ado S, Baba Yakubu I, Jibrin JM, Barau A. 2022a. [Tree restoration, climate change mitigation and cross-sectoral policy coherence in Nigeria](#). Centre for Environmental Policy Report. Imperial College London: UK.
- Favretto N**, Dallimer M, Stringer LC, Ado S, Baba Yakubu I, Jibrin JM, Barau A. 2022b. [Harnessing benefits for climate change mitigation through irrigation-free indigenous tree restoration: sharing knowledge and building capacity. Stakeholder mapping report](#). Centre for Environmental Policy Report. Imperial College London: UK.
- Favretto N**, Dallimer M, Stringer LC, Ado S, Baba Yakubu I, Jibrin JM, Barau A. 2021d. [Harnessing benefits for climate change mitigation through irrigation-free indigenous tree restoration - sharing knowledge and building capacity: Best practice guidelines manual for institutional stakeholders](#). Centre for Environmental Policy Report. Imperial College London: UK.
- Hoffman T, Shackleton S, **Favretto N**. 2021. *How can we enhance collaboration and multi-stakeholder engagement? Key insights from research on landscape governance and management in Africa*. University of Cape Town Briefing Note. [Available online](#)
- Cárdenas B, **Favretto N**, Antwi-Agyei P, Dougill AJ, Stringer LC. 2018. *Policy coherence for climate-sensitive planning in Ghana*. SRI Briefing Note Series No 18. University of Leeds: UK. <https://www.see.leeds.ac.uk/research/sri/briefing-notes/>
- Favretto N**, Dougill AJ, Stringer LC, Afionis S, Quinn CH. 2018. *Links between climate change mitigation, adaptation and development in land policy and ecosystem restoration projects: lessons from South Africa*. SRI Briefing Note Series No 16. University of Leeds: UK. <https://www.see.leeds.ac.uk/research/sri/briefing-notes/>
- Favretto N**, Dallimer M, Johnson I, Kubiszewski I, Etter H, Thomas R. 2017. *The economics of land policy, planning and practice*. Global Land Outlook Working Paper. UNCCD: Germany
- Favretto N**. 2017. *Sustainable Development Goals and the Economics of Land Degradation*. UNU-INWEH Policy Brief. United Nations University Institute for Water Environment and Health: Hamilton, Canada. https://inweh.unu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Policy-Brief_Issue01.pdf

- ELD Initiative (**Favretto N**: coordination and co-author). 2015. *The value of land: Prosperous lands and positive rewards through sustainable land management*. ELD Initiative, GIZ: Germany. http://www.eld-initiative.org/fileadmin/pdf/ELD-main-report_en_10_web_72dpi.pdf
- Favretto N**, Quillérou E, Etter H. 2015. *A 6+1 step approach to assess the economics of land management*. ELD Initiative, GIZ: Germany. http://eld-initiative.org/fileadmin/pdf/ELD-UserGuide_07_web.pdf
- Musekamp C, Quillérou E, **Favretto N**, Falk T, Salha A, Schmidt L, Reed M, Buckmaster S. 2015. *Practitioner's Guide: Pathways and options for action and stakeholder engagement, based on the 2015 ELD Massive Open Online Course "Stakeholder Engagement"*. <http://eld-initiative.org/>

10. SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND SEMINARS

- 2025 (Organiser and facilitator) Integrating vertical and greenhouse farming: A new vision for sustainable food production, research-industry workshop, **University of York**, UK
- 2025 (Organiser and facilitator) Greenhouse control systems for vertical farming, international workshop at **Priva**, the Netherlands
- 2025 (Invited Podcast speaker) [Equality, diversity and inclusion in international research partnerships](#), Senior Leaders Podcast Series, **EDI Research Centre**, UK
- 2025 Enabling climate adaptation and mitigation across Italian regions, **Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security and ISPRA**, Rome, Italy
- 2025 (Invited speaker) Unlocking climate resilience: what enables progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals?, **Leverhulme Centre for Anthropocene Biodiversity**, UK
- 2025 (Invited speaker) Climate resilient development in Europe: a multi-scalar perspective on vulnerable regions, **Cardiff University**, UK
- 2023 Assessing opportunities for climate resilient development across highlands, drylands and islands, **6th Oxford Desert Conference**, UK
- 2023 (Invited speaker) Fostering climate resilient development in Italy, **Ministry of the Environment**, Italy
- 2022 (Invited speaker) How to mobilise landscape restoration through multistakeholder engagement in Africa: lessons from practice, **3rd Ecosystem Services Partnership Africa Conference**
- 2021 (Invited speaker) Improving the education system through innovative teaching and learning methodologies, **Universita' di Sassari**, Italy
- 2021 (Invited speaker) Building capacity to support long-term transdisciplinary research and resilient and equitable landscapes in the Western Cape, South Africa, **University of Cape Town Webinar**
- 2019 (Organiser and Moderator) Symposium 'Ecological restoration policy and projects: lessons from South Africa', **8th World Conference on Ecological restoration (SER2019)**, South Africa
- 2018 (Invited speaker) Assessing ecosystem service co-benefits and trade-offs across alternative land management practices, **5th European Congress of Conservation Biology**, Finland
- 2018 (Invited speaker) Links between climate change mitigation, adaptation and development in land policy and restoration projects, **Seedbeds of Transformation Conference**, South Africa
- 2016 Governing sustainable energy transitions: the case of bioenergy in Mozambique', **Association of American Geographers Conference**, S. Francisco
- 2015 (Invited speaker) Investment platform for Land Degradation Neutrality in Central America, **UNCCD Public-Private Dialogue Workshop**, Costa Rica
- 2015 (co-Organiser and Moderator) Launch of ELD Reports, **UNCCD COP 12**, Ankara
- 2015 Applying multi-criteria decision analysis to inform policies that better protect ecosystem services, 6th Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty, **World Bank**, Washington DC
- 2015 (Invited speaker) Land degradation in the context of the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals: the economics of land degradation, Webinar, **United Nations University**, Canada and China
- 2013 (Invited speaker), 4th International Energy Conference, **Ministry of Mines and Energy**, Burkina Faso
- 2012 (Guest Lecturer) Seminar on energy and sustainable development, **Yale University**, CT
- 2012 Workshop on sustainable development, **Columbia University**, NY

11. LANGUAGES

- Mother tongue Italian; Fluent in English
- Advanced in Portuguese, French and Spanish