

Monica Racovita is an interdisciplinary social scientist with a research core focus on bioeconomy and its links with Responsible Research and Innovation, sustainability, and international development. Additional interests include biotechnology assessment (genetically modified crops and gene editing; socio-economic impacts in particular), evidence based policy making (systematic review methodology), stakeholder participation in life sciences research projects, and science communication.

Past work experience includes undergoing research at the GSI (Global Sustainability Institute) at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK, STS (Institute of Science, Technology and Society Studies) at Alpen-Adria-Universität, Graz, Austria and ICGEB (International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology), Trieste, Italy.

At GSI in Cambridge Monica worked on the RRING project (Responsible Research and Innovation Networking Globally) investigating the bases of a global RRI. At STS in Graz, she worked on various EU or UN funded projects: on fostering a transition towards Responsible Research and Innovation systems; setting the base for a GMO (genetically modified organisms) research ERA-NET (a scheme that aids the development and coordination of national and regional research programmes); the assessment of genetically modified crops (stakeholder engagement; scientific controversies; feasibility of long-term feeding studies; health, environmental and socio-economic impacts); and biosafety capacity building exercises in the Caribbean region.

At ICGEB in Trieste, among other, she coordinated a systematic review on the non-food health impacts of genetically modified crops cultivation and participated in a biosafety building project in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Monica has a mixed academic background: a medical bioengineer at the end of her undergraduate studies, she then obtained a master in applied chemistry and biotechnology with a thesis on HIV/MLV retroviral gene integration from Nagoya University, Japan. For her PhD she pursued a degree in Global Studies, at Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan with the thesis: “Policies of Genetically Modified Crops in India: Food Security and Biosafety Politics”.

Main fields of research activity

Responsible Research and Innovation, biotechnology assessment, evidence based policy making (systematic review methodology), stakeholder participation in life sciences research projects, and science communication.