

DIRTY BOOTS. HOW TO REPORT
25-29 MARCH 2026

GABRIELE MICALIZZI / JÉRÔME SESSINI
MASTERCLASS



CESURA EDUCATION

Dirty boots, how to report Masterclass

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The masterclass offers two complementary approaches to photography, giving participants the opportunity to work both on the professional and operational aspects of reportage, and on those related to intention, vision, and the construction of meaning in images.

The first part, led by Gabriele Micalizzi, is dedicated to a professional approach to reportage. Over the course of two days, the fundamental steps of the work will be addressed: from research and project preparation, to field safety, relationships with fixers and other professional figures, through to accreditation procedures and equipment selection. Particular attention will be given to dialogue with newsrooms, editorial requirements, and the ability to pitch a project while maintaining a strong authorial identity.

The second part, led by Jérôme Sessini, will focus on the participants' work. Through portfolio reviews, a shooting day, and an editing session, participants will be guided through a process of critical analysis of their work, both from a technical and creative perspective. The focus will be placed on the importance of photographic intention, on the relationship between distance and subject, and on the awareness that the meaning of a body of work is just as important as the images that compose it.

**A five-day full-immersion educational
experience in Pianello Val Tidone (PC) with
Gabriele Micalizzi and Jérôme Sessini**

The goal is not to provide definitive answers, but to stimulate



questions and help each participant initiate and consolidate a personal and recognizable process.

Through a shared talk and discussion sessions, Sessini and Micalizzi will address topics related to photography, journalism, and their field experience, offering practical advice and reflections developed throughout their professional careers.

“As an instructor, my guiding principle is raising awareness of intention. My approach is much more about sensitizing than strictly teaching: exploring what it truly means to be a photographer, and how to initiate a personal process”

Jérôme Sessini

Program

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25 March

The day begins at 09:00 with the arrival of the participants, followed by a studio visit, a presentation by Gabriele Micalizzi and his work, moments of analysis of historical reportage, and a portfolio review session of the participants' work.

26 March

With Gabriele Micalizzi, a practical guide to developing a reportage, from field research and preparation to equipment management, personal safety, and relationships with fixers and permits, through to the presentation and distribution of the photographic work.

27 March

In the morning, Gabriele Micalizzi will revisit and conclude the topics covered the previous day, delving into aspects related to the development and management of a reportage. In the afternoon, Jérôme Sessini will lead a portfolio review session for the participants. The day will conclude with an evening talk shared by Sessini and Micalizzi, focused on discussion about photography, journalism, and professional practice.

Dates	25–29.03.2026
Lessons	09:00 – 18:00
Lunch break	13:00 – 14:00



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28 March

Introduction to photographic language, selection of stories to follow, and a shooting day with Jérôme Sessini, including moments of observation and on-field guidance to develop a personal, critical, and coherent approach.

29 March

Review of the photos taken, editing, and final discussion on individual paths and the possibilities of developing a personal project.

Dates

25 March - 29 March 2026

Location

Pianello Val Tidone (PC), Emilia Romagna
1 hour and 30 minutes by car from Milan

Language

The workshop will be conducted in English and Italian.
Translation will be provided if the participant does not speak the language.

Required materials

It is essential to bring a portfolio of at least 25 photographs of your work to present to Jérôme Sessini and Gabriele Micalizzi during the masterclass. Participants are encouraged to arrive with both digital files and printed photographs ready for review.

It is also necessary to have personal photographic equipment, including a camera, batteries, memory cards, computer, charger, and all materials needed for downloading and managing the images produced during the workshop.

For any technical or practical needs, the CESURA staff will be available to provide support to participants.



Registration and payment

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Price

The price of the masterclass is €1300,00 including the membership fee and taxes, and can be purchased through the CESURA shop. It is also possible to split the payment into three installments by contacting us at education@cesura.it.

Given the nature of the masterclass, the number of available spots will be limited to 15 participants.

Cesura offers a free scholarship for the masterclass to the most deserving photographer based on a portfolio of 20 images and a motivational letter of no more than one page to be sent to education@cesura.it by February the 1st.

Cancellation

The masterclass will be canceled if the minimum number of 10 participants is not reached. In case of cancellation, the fee will be fully refunded. When working with professional photographers, it may happen that a sudden assignment forces them to cancel the workshop; in such a case, a new date will be arranged with the participants or the fee will be fully refunded.

Please kindly indicate, in the payment reference, the student's full name as well as the title of the workshop.

IF THE STUDENT DECIDES TO WITHDRAW FROM THE COURSE FOR PERSONAL REASONS, THE REFUND WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:
- 50% OF THE AMOUNT IF THE WITHDRAWAL NOTICE IS GIVEN BY 09/02/2026
- NO REFUND IF THE WITHDRAWAL NOTICE IS GIVEN AFTER 10/02/2026



Gabriele Micalizzi

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Gabriele Micalizzi is an Italian photojournalist. He collaborates with national and international publications such as The New York Times, The Guardian, Internazionale, and The Wall Street Journal. He is one of the founders of the Italian collective Cesura. His work focuses on studying the social condition of people and their relationship with the territory in which they live.

In 2010, he began the project *Italians: The Myth*, an ethnographic and anthropological investigation into the identity crisis of Italian society. In 2011, he started documenting all events related to the “Arab Spring.” Since 2016, he has been a Leica ambassador and the first winner of the European photography talent show, Master of Photography.

During 2016, he mainly focused on the situation in Libya, with the subsequent aim of creating a photobook, *DOGMA*. On February 11, 2019, while in southeastern Syria to document the Kurdish advance against ISIS, he was hit by an RPG rocket in Baghuz.

In 2019, due to the injuries sustained, he spent a period in Milan working on what would later become *Malamilano*, a project addressing the most problematic issues faced by the city of Milan, particularly drug addiction and microcriminality.

During the Covid-19 pandemic in Italy, he covered the area with the highest number of cases, including Bergamo and the rest of Lombardy, following Dr. Cavanna’s work in the Piacenza Valleys, treating Covid-19 patients at their homes.

In 2022, he documented the war in Ukraine on the Russian front for The Wall Street Journal, Die Zeit, and Le Monde.



Jérôme Sessini

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Jérôme Sessini initially found documentary photography through books and photographing people around his hometown in eastern France. He won his spurs out of digging below the news to capture scenes that are representative of wider issues. Ever since he started photographing conflicts, his lens always seemed to spin toward people and their relationship with their environment.

From the rubble-covered streets of Aleppo to the barricades of Kiev, Jérôme Sessini has covered many of the major conflicts of the last decades: The Iraq war (2003 to 2008), fall of Haitian president Aristide (2004); seizure of Mogadishu by Islamic militias and the war in Lebanon (2006), wars in Libya (2011) and Syria (2012-2013); as well as the Ukrainian crisis.

After fifteen years at the heart of current affairs he slowly took distance from the event to focus on its context and issues, developing a photographic signature heading towards long-term projects and introspective stories. In 2008, he photographed the impact of violence resulting from drug cartels war in Mexico, the project received a number of awards and was published in the book "The WrongSide" (Contrasto, 2012).

In 2018, he began a long term project on the opioid crisis in America where he tries to understand the landscapes and context shaping one of the greatest crisis the country has ever known. This ongoing work was already awarded the Pierre & Alexandre Boulat Grant.

Jérôme Sessini joined Magnum Photos in 2012 and became a full member in 2016. His work has been widely acknowledged. It is published by the most prestigious newspapers and magazines from Time Magazine to De Standaard and exhibited in many festivals and museums such as Les Rencontres d'Arles or the Barbican Museum in London, and ICP in New York.





Cesura

Born as an artisan workshop where knowledge is passed from master to apprentice, Cesura is a collective of photographers active since 2008 in Italy in the field of documentary and research photography, aiming to create an independent and autonomous force in the national and international photography scene. From its early years, it gained independence through the creation of a laboratory, CESURA LAB, and a publishing house, CESURA PUBLISH.

The photographic works of its member authors have appeared over the years in national and international publications, including the British Journal of Photography, Corriere della Sera, The Guardian, Internazionale, Le Monde, New York Times Magazine, Repubblica, Time Magazine, Stern, Spiegel, and have been exhibited at Le Bal/Paris, Clark House/Mumbai, Deichtorhallen/Hamburg, Fondation Louis Vuitton/Paris, MAR/Ravenna, Nobel Peace Center/Oslo, MoCP/Chicago, MuFoCo/Cinisello Balsamo, and Triennale/Milan.

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