

# YALE DEPARTMENT OF ITALIAN

FALL 2019 - SPRING 2020



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## A Few Words from Our Chair

And a very few words: just to say how grateful I am for this opportunity to be at Yale and to work with such fabulous colleagues, students, staff, and alums to guide the department into the next decade. As we look ahead to a new year and to conversations about our graduate exams, prospective new courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels, our language program, and summer in Siena - which continues to attract record numbers of students - I'm excited about the possibilities ahead. Perhaps the biggest challenge that awaits this spring is the move into new quarters in the Hall of Graduate Studies, at 320 York, where we'll be in a building with (almost) all of the humanities departments as well as the Whitney Humanities Center. In the meantime, I'm appreciative of Penny Marcus's willingness to step in as interim chair while I am spending a few months at Villa I Tatti in Florence. I'm looking forward to being in touch with everyone throughout the year. Please never hesitate to email me with any suggestions or questions at [jane.tylus@yale.edu](mailto:jane.tylus@yale.edu).



## The 2019 Italian Summer Program in Siena

by **Simona Lorenzini**

The 2019 edition marked the thirteenth-year anniversary of the Italian Summer Program in Siena and it was, as always, a memorable summer for all involved, students (49) and instructors. This summer, the Department of Italian Language and Literature offered three language classes, two in Elementary and one in Intermediate Italian, and two 1-credit culture classes paired with the language courses. Professor Jane Tylus, who joined our Program for the first time, and Professor Millicent Marcus co-taught “Art, Literature, film: Tuscan Identities from the Etruscans through Today” during

which the students engaged deeply with the secrets of Siena and the representations of Tuscany through literary texts and films. I taught the culture course on “Tuscany between Past and Present” that explored Tuscan cultural history and its influence on the Italian culture tout court from Dante to Caproni. As the Program Director, I was glad to work with wonderful colleagues. In addition to Professor Marcus and Professor Tylus, I taught with Anna Marra, Teresa Rossi, Giovanni Miglianti, Sandro-Angelo de Thomasis, Megan Crognale, and Sarah Atkinson. Costanza Barchiesi assisted Professor Marcus and Professor Tylus helping their students to get the most out of their experience in Siena.



## The 2019 Italian Summer Program in Siena cont'd

Fully immersed in the small and safe city of Siena, for 8 weeks our students took advantage of close and friendly relationships with their host families and the broader social life of Siena. They experienced the spectacle of the Palio and enjoyed the lively atmosphere that surrounds this unique event. The day of the Palio (July 2) was an exciting one; the Contrada Giraffa won this year's spectacular race. In the days leading to the Palio, our students were fortunate to visit the museums of the Pantera and Civetta, and to attend the Contrada's cenino (this summer hosted by the Bruco Contrada). Every summer, we are thrilled to offer these first-hand experiences of Contrada life to our students. As in the previous years, we took several trips as a group, including to San Gimignano, Florence, Pisa, Lucca, Arezzo, Livorno, and a weekend in Rome. For the third time, we also had the great opportunity to visit the Bottini, Siena's underground network of aqueducts that supplies water to fountains and wells. It is a unique experience to walk through these passageways, learning about the history of this labyrinth of over 25 kilometers. Over the past summers, hundreds of Yale students have taken advantage of their full immersion in Italian life, practicing their speaking skills in a public context, developing relationships with outstanding and generous host families, and engaging in a great variety of events and activities. As is the case every year, the final dinner at "L'orto de' Pecci" was a pleasant moment of conviviality and celebration at the end of this intense and exciting program. This dinner was also the occasion to sincerely thank the host families, our local coordinator Idelma Giannini, and Victoria Van Luit, the Siena Program Director of the CET Academic Programs who helped us with student cultural adjustment and other issues related to living abroad. Applications have now opened for the 14th Siena Summer Program. This summer we will again offer Elementary and Intermediate language classes, in addition to a 1-credit culture class taught by Prof. Millicent Marcus and Dr. Serena Bassi to be paired with the Elementary course and a 1-credit culture class taught by myself to be paired with the Intermediate course. We are all excited to spend another 8 weeks in Italy and we look forward to sharing Siennese and Italian culture with a new amazing group of students. Arrivederci a Siena!



## Meet Our Undergraduate Majors!



Wenbin Gao is a senior in Silliman majoring in Italian. He stumbled upon Italian while studying Latin in Bologna and has been in love ever since. He is a proud alum of the intermediate Italian program in Siena, after which he studied for an entire year in Bologna as an exchange student. He has also studied Latin in Rome and has done archival research on Chinese Catholicism in Venice, Milan, Rome and Naples.



Marlena Hinkle is a junior in Saybrook College majoring in Italian and Environmental Engineering. She started studying Italian in the L1/L2 Siena program after her first year and studied in Italy last summer as well through the City of Rome program with Prof. Virginia Jewiss. In Rome, she did an independent research project on Rome's aqueducts and water supply.



Hi! my name is Vivek, and I am a senior double-majoring in chemistry and Italian. I have really enjoyed exploring Renaissance studies, and I am writing my thesis about homecoming in the *Orlando Furioso*, which is kind of funny because my home is Orlando, Florida. One of my favorite memories of speaking Italian was when at a dinner with (new) friends in Trieste, I tried to explain my work from that summer. I had been working on researching chemical weapons or nerve agents. When I asked the best English speaker at the table how to say "nerve agents" in Italian, she misheard and told me "I norvegesi" meaning Norwegians of course. I went on to describe how it's "important to do scientific research on them," that they were "scoperti negli annni settanta," and posed a global threat. I was quite proud having used all the vocabulary that I learned in the L3 science unit. I was received with blank stares, but when I explained that I had been talking about chemical weapons the whole table burst into laughter.



## Meet a few Graduate Students!



### **COSTANZA BARCHIESI**

While acquiring a more solid knowledge of Italian literature broadly, here at Yale I am happily expanding my interest in classical reception, women and gender studies, and have just begun learning more about translation studies. I currently have two articles on Ferrante under review. (One is for a book project from my organization of a panel called “Ferrante Unframed” at the CAIS in Orvieto last June.) This past summer I was a program assistant for the Siena program working alongside professors Jane Tylus and Millicent Marcus for a course called “Tuscany: Art, Literature, Film.” I am currently the Graduate Student Assembly representative for the department.

### **GIACOMO BERCHI**

I am a second year PhD in Italian Literature and Renaissance Studies. While preparing for my oral exams of the Renaissance program I am still taking and auditing classes in and out our department. I mainly focus on the theme of creation of the world in early modern authors like Tasso, Du Bartas, and Milton and I am currently working on an article on intertextuality between Paradise Lost and Longinus’ On the Sublime. In my last published article, I focus on the source of «celeste confine», a variant of Giacomo Leopardi’s poem L’Infinito. I am one of the captains of Yale Grad Crew, and to be honest sunrises on the water are a really unique experience.



### **ROBERTO FERRINI**

I am first year PhD student in the department of Italian Language and Literature at Yale University. I have a BA in Lettere and a MA in Italianistica from the University of Pisa, and also a “Diploma di Licenza” in Letteratura e Filologia Moderna, Linguistica from Scuola Normale Superiore, which I attended from 2013 to 2018. I am particularly interested in the analysis of Italian literary texts through perspectives based on Women’s, Gender and Queer studies, and in the last years I mostly focused on early modern women writers and on the representation of female characters in early modern narrative texts. I published a paper on the representation of women in Ariosto’s Orlando Furioso and another one on Moderata Fonte’s chivalric poem Tredici canti del Floridoro.



## Grad Students! (cont'd)

### ISABEL MALONEY

I am from the UK and I'm here at Yale as the Henry Fellow for the academic year 2019-20. I completed my BA and MPhil at the University of Cambridge, where I specialised in Renaissance Italian literature and visual culture, and nineteenth-century French and Italian literature. This semester I have taken classes in History of Art and History as well as Italian, and have really enjoyed how branching out into other areas has informed my own research. I'm currently working on papers on literature depicting the Italian Resistance, and on ekphrasis and the arts in Indian poetry and paintings.



### FEDERICA PARODI

I am from a small town nearby Cuneo, Italy. I have worked for two years at Colby College, where I taught conversation and grammar classes. While there, I had the chance to get in touch with Environmental Humanities, in particular with Sound Studies. At Yale, I am part of the seminar on Environmental Humanities, as I hope to dive in to the connections between this interesting approach and Italian literature.



# Italian In-And-Out of the Classroom

by Anna Iacovella, Language Program Director

The Italian Language Programs are inclusive of several cultural activities. Students of Italian receive the opportunity to explore varied topics not only through reading and speaking activities in the classroom but also outside of class. This past fall semester Italian language courses have expanded their curiosity into art, film, hands-on workshops, and community events. On October 30th & 31st, the Intermediate Italian course students participated in a special exhibit of Italian contemporary artists at the Yale University Art Gallery. As in previous semesters, I consulted with Lisa Watters, curator of the Daffy Print Study Room, on selecting artifacts appealing to students' varied artistic sensitivities. Students had the prospect of noting special art techniques and discussed their preferences through the use of art vocabulary. In October and November, students interested in international and Italian film have partaken in two special screening events: Call me By Your Name (2017) and Una Storia Senza Nome (The Stolen Caravaggio) (2018) with the participation of producers and screenwriters for Q&A sessions. The events were sponsored by The MacMillan Center for European Studies and the Italian Department & Film Studies respectively. In my courses, it is customary for students to be part of a special hands-on-workshop for Italian Espresso Making. Starting from researching the history and traditions, students become involved in the exercise of preparing coffee with the Moka & Neapolitan coffee pots. This stimulates thought processes in the target language. Obviously, the event involves tasting and judging of the final product! The Italian language program's undertakings included a Walking Tour of the Historical District of Wooster Square in New Haven, CT. A visit to the extended community of Little Italy in New Haven was led by Richard Biondi, author of Italian-American community cultural history publications. Students of all language levels discovered interests and historical anecdotes of the Italian-American neighborhoods of New Haven's Little Italy. The event is just the beginning of a long-term commitment by the Italian Department to deliver and document meaningful experiences in historical immigration and diaspora experiences.





# 14th Annual Yale Film Festival of New Italian Cinema

by Sarah Atkinson

In April 2019, the Department of Italian presented its 14th Annual Yale Festival of New Italian Cinema. We opened the festival on Thursday with Paolo Genovese's The Place (2017), a film inspired by the 2010-2012 American television drama The Booth at the End. Set entirely in a Milanese café, this mysterious story unfolds through various interactions between a man who, day after day, appears to pass all his time at the same table, and the characters who visit to ask for his help. These meetings raise issues of cruelty and desire, ethical and social responsibility. Genovese explores dark moral questions, asking what we might be willing to give up to achieve our goals. On Friday evening we screened Dario Albertini's directorial debut, Il figlio, Manuel (2017). This coming-of-age story follows Manuel as he turns eighteen and leaves behind the group home where he lived for five years while his mother served a prison sentence. Actor Andrea Lattanzi plays Manuel with nuance and grace, infusing the character with pensive energy and grit as he prepares to welcome his mother home and provide stability, a precondition of her parole, upon her release from jail. Part culinary adventure and part sensitive portrayal of neurodiversity, Saturday's film Quanto basta by Francesco Falaschi (2018) follows Guido, a young man with Asperger's syndrome, as he attends a cooking competition show in the Tuscan countryside. His chosen mentor is famous chef Arturo, who reluctantly agrees to participate as part of his community service obligation to atone for an assault charge stemming from his anger management issues. Despite their notable differences, along the way these unlikely partners develop a mutual understanding and strong camaraderie. As per tradition, on Sunday we offered two films in matinee screenings. The first, Come un gatto in tangenziale by Riccardo Milani (2017), portrays an uproarious clash of cultures through two neighboring and yet quite distant Roman cultures. Giovanni, who leads an international think-tank researching economic stimuli for impoverished communities, confronts surprising realities of one such area when his daughter Agnese falls in love with Alessio and begins to spend time in his notorious part of town, Bastogi. Director Milani employs and challenges stereotypes through his characters and settings, wielding humor as an incisive instrument of social commentary. Our festival concluded with Edoardo Galea's charming comedy Questione di karma (2017). As a young boy, Giacomo lost his father to suicide, and as an adult he struggles to find spirituality and social connection. An encounter with a man who appears to be the reincarnation of his father leads Giacomo to revisit the trauma of his childhood loss through a series of lively adventures, which provide the chance to translate into action the philosophies that he has devoted his life to studying. Every year, a dedicated team led by Professor Millicent Marcus conducts research and holds screenings to curate a selection of Italy's most engaging new films and bring them to our community in New Haven. It is always an honor to share this aspect of Italian culture with our vibrant audience. We are delighted to announce that the upcoming 2020 film festival marks our 15th anniversary, which will run from Thursday, April 2nd through Sunday, April 5th.





## Italian Linguistic Futures by Jane Tylus

In February 2019, the department of Italian hosted a major, one-day symposium, “Italian Futures,” which drew over a hundred people and four scholars from around the world to participate in a frank conversation about what lies ahead for our discipline: Ted Cachey (Notre Dame), Loredana Polezzi (Cardiff), Nicola Cipani (NYU) and Dennis Looney (Modern Language Association). Dennis Looney discussed some of the challenges currently facing Italian - low enrollments, few tenure track jobs, more work for the faculty and staff who do find themselves with positions - while our other three speakers gave inspiring talks as to steps that their schools are doing to counter what can seem like discouraging trends. Notre Dame has recently inaugurated a PhD program, NYU has done impressive work coordinating its language courses at its study-abroad site in Florence with upper level courses back in New York, and faculty at Cardiff are integrating Italian into other new disciplines such as migration and translation studies to ensure its continuing relevance for contemporary issues. David Ward (Wellesley), Mary Ann Carolan (Fairfield University) and Penny Marcus (Yale) shared their thoughts and responses at the end of the symposium, and an animated discussion followed.

In the spirit of looking forward, Anna Iacovella and Jane Tylus convened a series of three conversations this fall called “Linguistic Futures,” which focused on the teaching of language. In September we invited Tania Convertini, Research Assistant Professor and Director of the Language Program in French and Italian at Dartmouth, to discuss with us her work at Dartmouth and her strategies for engaging students in language learning. Nicola Cipani (Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of Language Programming for Italian at NYU) and Jessica Goethals (Assistant Professor of Italian at the University of Alabama) joined us in November to talk about their respective programs, with a special focus on some of the digital and online options they have developed for students. Our last conversation in December focused on language teaching more broadly at Yale, when Kirk Wetters (German) and Julia Titus (Slavic) graciously agreed to join us on the final day of the semester along with several of their colleagues. (SEE PHOTO!) These have been bracing and important occasions to brainstorm about new ideas for our own department, and we are eager to convene more such sessions in the coming semesters.

## Annual Dante Lecture by Giacomo Berchi

On October 4th, this year's Annual Dante Lecture of the Italian Department was centered on wonder. Simply and effectively, the title was: "Dante and Wonder". Professor Piero Boitani gave an extraordinary example of what it means to read an author like the Florentine poet. The substantial handout spanned from the Bible and Aristotle to many philosophers, theologians and literary authors of the Middle Ages. After a brief introduction on the theme of wonder in the Western tradition, Dante himself led the way: the time was too short to analyze deeper his minor works (as the *Vita Nuova*), and the Professor Emeritus at La Sapienza University, Rome guided the public through key passages of Dante's main poetic work, the *Divina Commedia*. There are moments in which the semantics of wonder does not explicitly emerge but is intensely present, as in the first encounter of Dante and Virgil; others in which astonishment and wonder are at the very core of Dante's experience as pilgrim and poet, as in the apparition of Beatrice on the top of Mount Purgatory; up until the last canto, where in a brilliant metaphor centered on the figure of Neptune, God himself wonders in front of the *Commedia*. Many think of Dante as an all balanced neoclassic author; on the contrary, Prof. Boitani has argued that he deals with powerful and troubling human experiences, such as wonder.

The following day Prof. Boitani has met graduate students at the lunch meeting organized by the Dante Working Group, hosted by our graduate student Teresa Rossi. In a more informal setting, various questions were asked by students, covering different themes such as studying Dante, the experience of a PhD abroad (Prof. Boitani himself earned his at Cambridge), his experience as a comparatist and as a teacher, and the necessity of guiding students and readers through literary works in a way to arise wonder in them.

These were two unique days in which our Department hosted one of the major Dante scholars helping us to wonder again.



## Faculty and Staff



**Professor Jane  
Tylus**

This past year has been a bit of a blur with the move from NYU to Yale - so much has happened! But above all it's been wonderful making new friends, meeting colleagues from across the university, and having the chance to teach terrific students in a number of departments, from the Divinity School to art history, English, comp lit, and, of course, Italian. My husband Bill Klein and I rented a lovely house out on Stony Creek for the first 9 months, with a view of the Thimble Islands and the Long Island Sound. September, however, saw us moving into town, and we are now close enough to walk to school - and to host parties,

such as our welcome back festa in September for the department, and we look forward to many more. Over the summer I was happy to participate in the first month of Yale's Siena program, and was impressed by the students' love for Siena and their ability to endure long walking tours in the heat without complaining. In June we traveled to Rome and to Florence - the latter featuring an optional hike from Settignano to Fiesole, which a dozen students took me up on (here they are at lunch at the restaurant Fattorino di Maiano just south of Monte Ceceri where Leonardo launched one of his airplanes.... rumor has it that his own student landed a little bruised but more or less intact). Fall was busy with new administrative duties and new courses, a grad seminar that I co-taught with Serena Bassi on "Italy at the Borderlands," and an undergrad course where we met weekly at the Beinecke to dive into their vast collection of early modern manuscripts and books. I got away to the U. Of Georgia in November for a few days to give a talk for a Mellon-funded seminar on empires, and the new year began with a trip to the MLA in Seattle. Now settled into Villa I Tatti, I'm hoping to make progress on my book manuscript, "Saying Goodbye in the Renaissance," and to welcome visitors to Ponte a Mensola before returning to New York in April.







**Professor Millicent  
Marcus**

I'm coming to the end of a much appreciated semester's leave, and have finally finished a much-too-long-term project, tentatively entitled "Italian Cinema for an Era Yet toBe Named." During the past year, I gave the following lectures: "Nanni, Paolo, Matteo, Marco Tullio, Francesca, Gianfranco, and Pif: Italian Cinema for an Era that Has Yet to be Named," Key-note address, AAIS, Wake Forest University, March 15, "Perchè ridi, stupidina, non capisci che non puoi andare più a scuola? Representations of Fascist Anti-Semitism and the Racial Laws in Italian Cinema (1970-2001)," University of Toronto, May 2, "From the Mirror of Narcissus to Mirror Neurons: A Cognitive Scientific Approach to Garrone's Gomorra and Salvatores' Io non ho paura , Johns Hopkins University, September 25, "Primo Levi and the Chain of Witness," Annual Gaetano Salvemini Colloquium in Italian History and Culture, Harvard University, November 14, 2019, and most recently, a lecture in honor of Robert Cargni on "What's Hidden Beneath the 'Blah Blah Blah'": Paolo Sorrentino's La grande bellezza," on December 3 at Penn. In addition, I led two community out-reach events: a presentation on the Palio of Siena, for the Italian-American organization BACIO in Bridgeport, on May 6, and a seminar on Berel Lang's Primo Levi: The Matter of Life at Congregation Mishkan Israel on October 27. On the personal front, I became a nonna for the second time, with the birth of Miles Cooper Ritter on May 15, 2019!



**Professor Giuseppe  
Mazzotta**

The email has just brought me an unusual but interesting question: Did I think Dante was a philosopher? I replied by recommending a book Erich Auerbach originally wrote in German and later published in English, Dante, Poet of the Secular World, which discusses Dante as a philosophical , a rhetorical, and historically minded poet, who can cast a "magical spell" on lives such as Amor che muove tua virtù del cielo and Amor che al cor gentile....". I choose to answer the question in a direct way: a philosopher implies wisdom. In his poem he is on a quest for wisdom and for love. You would agree that he must have known the deeper meaning of philosophy.



**Professor  
Christiana Purdy  
Moudarres**

In 2018-2019, Christiana was happy to resume her joint role as Director of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies. As DUS, she was especially pleased to implement Yale College's new Certificate of Advanced Language Study. As the College's closest approximation of a minor, the Certificate gives formal recognition to students who pursue four advanced courses beyond the L1-L4 language sequence. Meanwhile, as DGS, she was delighted to oversee the relaunch of Homecoming, a tradition spearheaded by the department's own Giuseppe Gazzola (Ph.D'08, Stony Brook University) back in 2005, whereby alumni of the department are welcomed "home" for a two-day day visit featuring a public lecture and an informal Q and A with graduate students about their professional experience thus far. Heartiest thanks are due to Arielle Saiber (Ph.D'99, Bowdoin College, Spring) and Mattia Acetoso (Ph.D'12, Boston College, Fall) for making its revival such a resounding success. On the teaching front, in addition to her regular rotation of Dante in Translation (Fall) and Women in the Middle Ages (Spring), she was pleased to rejoin the Directed Studies Literature Faculty in Fall 2019. In April, she was honored to be elected representative of the GSAS at Inspiring Yale, an annual event that recognizes one faculty member from each of Yale's thirteen graduate and professional schools for innovative teaching. As far as writing and research goes, while moving forward on her book manuscript, "Dante, Poet of the Future: Faith, Science, and the Immanence of the Age to Come" (forthcoming with the University of Notre Dame Press, Devers Series in Dante and Medieval Italian Literature), she completed an article on Dante's representation of the Virgin Mary, "The Face that Most Resembles Christ: the Matter of Motherhood for Dante's Holy Family" (under review). Other professional activities included an invited *Lectura Dantis* on Paradiso 32 at Harvard for a one-day conference in the Spring, Reading the *Commedia* with Images: An Experimental *Lectura Dantis* (April 2019), the organization of two panels for the annual NeMLA convention, Female Agency in the Later Middle Ages (March 2019), and a third, on Dante, slated for this year's meeting of the same organization: Dante, Heterodoxy and Spirituality without Religion (March 2020).



**Professor Serena  
Bassi**

The past year has been an exciting mix of moving forward with my first book project *Mistranslating Minority: Queer World-Making in Italy after 1968*, presenting my work at colleges across the East Coast, teaching and, finally, connecting with the growing community of scholars and students across campus working on translation, which, together with Italian Cultural Studies, is my all consuming intellectual passion... Last spring, I gave lectures at Wesleyan University, at Smith College and here at Yale, where I presented my research on the translation of ideas about sex and sexuality into Italian culture to a packed room of students, colleagues and dear friends from

departments as diverse as Italian, French, WGSS, Comp Lit, English and Linguistics. In my own department, it has been exciting to work with grad students and co-teach with Professor Tylus an innovative grad class on modern Italian literature and the politics of translation. Last Fall, my personal highlight was teaching a level 5 course in Italian on history after 1945 to a group of eleven engaged and eager undergrad students. The many field trips we went on made us feel as if we were in Italy without ever leaving New Haven! We went to the Yale Art Gallery to compare medieval and contemporary Christian narratives about suffering and transformation, to the Yale Farm to discuss domestic labour and food production during the 1950s in Italy and, finally, to the Beinecke, where students were able to look through rare materials about students, workers, prison abolition, feminist and queer movements in 1960s and 1970s Italy. In the past year, I have also organised a seminar series for the Yale Translation Initiative, my “second home” here at Yale alongside the Italian Department. We hosted some big names in the theory and practice of translation such as one of the best-known translators in America, Mark Polizzotti, and the postcolonial translation scholar, Vicente Rafael. As a member of the Association for Interpreting and Translation Studies and as a research associate for YTI, I was also lucky enough to participate in a debate entitled #protectlinguists on the politics of translation in war zones, hosted by the UN in their New York headquarters. The vibrant interdisciplinary conversations that we have been having in the seminars and my visit to the UN have encouraged us at YTI to organise an event for undergrads who volunteer as community interpreters and translators in the New Haven area - “Translation Activism @ Yale” - which is one of the many projects I am leading this semester!.



**Professor Simona  
Lorenzini**

Simona Lorenzini graduated from the University of Pisa in 2003 with a thesis in Modern Italian Literature. She received a Ph.D. in “Humanist and Renaissance Civilization” from the “Istituto Nazionale di Studi sul Rinascimento” (Florence, 2008), with a dissertation on the Latin bucolic poetry of Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio and its connections with classical and medieval pastoral tradition. After moving in the USA in 2009, Simona completed her PhD in Italian and Renaissance Studies at Yale University with a dissertation – “Questioning the Utopian Myth in Renaissance Pastoral Drama: From Politian to Guarini” – written under the direction of Professor Giuseppe Mazzotta (2016). Her research focuses on the classical tradition of pastoral poetry, on Medieval literature, and on Renaissance women writers with a special focus on female-authored pastoral dramas. In the modern period, her work also embraces Italian contemporary poetry with a special focus on experimental writings. Simona currently serves as DUS and Full-Time Lecturer at Yale. As DUS, Simona greatly enjoys working closely with undergraduates, advising Senior’s theses, and promoting the Italian Department’s programs and events such as the Study Abroad Program in Siena, the Certificate in Advanced Language Study, and the first Undergraduate Research Conference in Italian Studies that will take place on March 28th. Last Fall, Simona also taught a survey course on Italian Literature. It was the first time the Italian Department offered such a course and the response from the students was amazing. For Simona, it was exciting walking with her students through four centuries of Italian Literature, from Dante to Michelangelo, from the *Compiuta Donzella* to Gaspara Stampa. One of the most rewarding parts of the course was the students’ creative engagement in composing original novelle based on their experience in reading Giovanni Boccaccio’s masterpiece. The novelle were collected in a booklet that Simona gave her students the last day of class. Now the Decameron has 11 days!



## Alumni News

### ERMINIA ARDISSINO (Ph.D '93)



I recently published (with Elise Boillet, CNRS-CESR, Tours) two collective volumes *Lay Readings of the Bible in Early Modern Europe* (Brill) and *Gli Italiani e la Bibbia. Leggere, interpretare, riscrivere* (Brepols). The census of printed Biblical literature in Italian (1463-1650), on which I have been working since 2015, will come out soon at Brepols. I am still working on the volume on women communities of interpretations in Renaissance Italy.

### JO ANN CAVALLO (Ph.D '87)

Jo Ann Cavallo continues to chair the Department of Italian at Columbia University, and in June was Visiting Professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She recently edited the volume *Teaching the Italian Renaissance Romance Epic* for the MLA Options for Teaching series (2018). Her other new publications include: "Textual, Musical and Theatrical Adaptations of the Orlando Innamorato" in "Fortuna ogni ora più diversa": The Reception of Boiardo's *Innamoramento de Orlando* and Pulci's *Morgante*, ed. Giovanna Rizzarelli, *Italian Studies* 74.2 (2019): 130-47, "Staging the Liberata's Female Protagonists in an Apenninic Folk Tradition: Clorinda, Erminia, and Armida in the Tuscan-Emilian Epic *Maggio*," *Letteratura cavalleresca italiana* 1 (2019): 119-35, and "The Iliad and the Odyssey in the Epic *Maggio* of the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines," in *Performing Homer: The Voyage of Ulysses from Epic to Opera*, eds. Wendy Heller and Eleonora Stoppino (Routledge, 2019), 105-29. As founding editor of the book series *Anthem World Epic and Romance* (<http://www.anthempress.com/anthem-world-epic-and-romance>), she welcomes proposals for new books. She also devotes time to expanding the Italian Literature volume of *The Literary Encyclopedia* (<http://www.LitEncyc.com>) and her website *eBOIARDO* (Epics of Boiardo and Other Italian Authors: a Research Database Online) at <http://edblogs.columbia.edu/eboiardo>.





### **DINA (CONSOLINI) DOMMETT (Ph.D '93)**

Last year (June 2018) I was headhunted away from Oxford to an exciting role as Dean of Faculty at Hult Ashridge Executive Education, based in historic Ashridge House (formerly Ashridge Business School) in beautiful Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, England - an hour train ride outside of London and only 15 miles from where I live out in the English countryside. We are proudly part of Hult International Business School which has campuses in London, Boston, San Francisco, Dubai and Shanghai. Our name comes from Bertil Hult, the entrepreneurial Swedish founder of EF (Education First), a top global provider of English and foreign language and cultural training programs. Little did I know when I completed my PhD in Italian at Yale back in 1993 how perfect my background in languages, international mobility and executive education at business schools and in companies would make me an ideal candidate for the work I currently do at Hult Ashridge. We design and teach customized leadership development and strategy programs for individuals and organizations in the private and public sector for clients around the world.

### **VIRGINIA JEWISS (Ph.D '95)**

I work with Italian directors and producers, adapting screenplays for filming in English. My recent projects include Paolo Sorrentino's HBO series The Young Pope. Season 2, The New Pope, is scheduled for release in January. My other film credits can be found here: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm5691500/>. My translation of thirty of Luigi Pirandello's short stories is forthcoming with Yale University Press in 2020. I continue to teach at Yale -- including a new course on Storytelling and Contemporary TV -- and to direct the interdisciplinary study abroad program in Rome I designed for the Humanities Program.



## **ANNA MARRA (Ph.D '19)**



2019 has been a fantastic year for me. I graduated in May with a dissertation titled *Dante and Meditation*. During the Summer, I taught in Siena, and more importantly, I married a wonderful man (see pic) in the splendid valley of Collio. In the fall, I taught a course on the Italian Renaissance for the University of Connecticut. Finally, I got a full-time job at the University of New Hampshire, where I am now teaching. I have a lot of gratitude for all of the people that supported me in my incredible year.

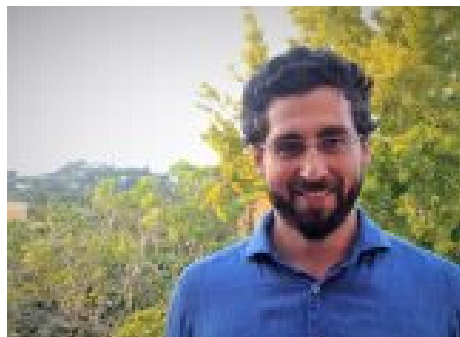
## **JOHN C. McLUCAS (Ph.D '83)**

I will retire in June 2020 after 36 years as professor of Italian at Towson University (former Towson State) near Baltimore. His translation of Tullia d'Aragona's 1560 epic, *Il Meschino, altramente detto il Guerrino*, edited by Julia L. Hairston, is undergoing final revisions. His article on Calvino and Ariosto is included in a 2019 volume of *MLN* honoring the late Pier Massimo Forni of Johns Hopkins.



## **L. ZARKER MORGAN (Ph.D '83)**

I will be retiring from Loyola University Maryland June 30, 2020. However, I have lots of research projects still going, and plan to keep working on them. The biggest is the Huon d'Auvergne (Ugone d'Alvernia) web project which should soon be out in its second version with the manuscripts visible to compare with transcriptions: <http://www.huondauvergne.org/>.

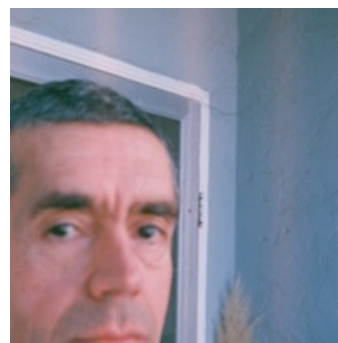


### **ANDREA MOUDARRES (Ph.D '11)**

In 2019 Andrea Moudarres published his first monograph, *The Enemy in Italian Renaissance Epic: Images of Hostility from Dante to Tasso* (University of Delaware Press), which received the 2019 Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies. He was also promoted to Associate Professor of Italian at UCLA.

### **MASSIMO PESARESI (Ph.D '90)**

My recent translation (together with Prof. Francesco Rognoni) of Shelley's poems has been the main event of the past year. P. B. Shelley, *Opere poetiche*, Mondadori (Meridiani), 2018. At present, I am revising the manuscript of my Italian poems before submitting it for publication. A collection of some poetry translations of mine (from different languages) is in its final stages..



### **REBECCA WEST (Ph.D '74)**

I have a brief thought piece on Fellini's *Roma* coming out in Blackwell's *Companion to Fellini*, edited by Frank Burke and Marguerite Waller. I'm writing an essay on Antonioni's *Zabriskie Point* and Tonino Guerra's novel *L'uomo parallelo* which includes some of Guerra's impressions of America when he came with Antonioni to work on the film. It is a very Antonioni-esque novel, so in a sense it represents a move from screen to page rather than the more usual page to screen adaptation. This essay will be included in an issue on Guerra in honor of the centenary of his birth, also edited by Burke and Waller, of the *Journal of Italian Cinema and Media Studies*.



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## THE 15TH ANNUAL YALE FESTIVAL OF NEW ITALIAN CINEMA

APRIL 2 - 5, 2020

YALE  
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### IL CAMPIONE

THE CHAMPION

THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND 7:30 PM

\*\* LUCE AUDITORIUM \*\*  
34 HILLHOUSE

YALE  
UNIVERSITY



### IL TRADITORE

THE TRAITOR

FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD 7:30 PM

WHITNEY HUMANITIES CENTER, 53 WALL

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### MA COSA CI DICE IL CERVELLO

DON'T STOP ME NOW

SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH 7:30 PM

WHITNEY HUMANITIES CENTER, 53 WALL

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### LA PARANZA DEI BAMBINI

PIRANHAS

SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH 4:00 PM

WHITNEY HUMANITIES CENTER, 53 WALL

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### ASPRONTE TERRA DEGLI ULTIMI

ASPRONTE: LAND OF THE FORGOTTEN

SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH 7:30 PM

\*THE DIRECTOR AND ONE OF THE MAIN ACTORS HAVE  
BEEN INVITED TO INTRODUCE THE FILM\*

WHITNEY HUMANITIES CENTER, 53 WALL

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### EVENT GUIDELINES

Space is limited. First come, first served.

Doors open 1/2 hour before screening time

All films in Italian with English subtitles

Events are free and open to the public

The Italian Film Festival is sponsored by Yale's Italian Study Center, FAS Dean's Office, Office of New Haven and State Affairs, and Films at the Whitney