

ELENA M. PAST
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
906 West Warren, 413 Manoogian
Detroit, MI 48202
Office: (313) 577-3002
Fax: (313) 577-6243
elenapast@wayne.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Italian, University of Pennsylvania, December 2005
Dissertation: "Murderous Methods: Eloquent Minds and Bodies in Italian Crime Fiction"
(defended July 29, 2005). Advisor: Professor Millicent Marcus

M.A. in Italian, University of Pennsylvania, December 2000

B.A. in Plan II Honors Program with concentrations in Italian and Spanish, *summa cum laude*, University of Texas at Austin, May 1998

APPOINTMENTS

Associate Chair, Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Wayne State University, 2015-present
Associate Professor of Italian, Wayne State University, 2012-present
Assistant Professor of Italian, Wayne State University, 2006-2012
Visiting Assistant Professor of Italian, Bucknell University, 2005-2006
Teaching Fellow, Department of Romance Languages, University of Pennsylvania, 2000-2002

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Career Development Chair, Wayne State University, 2013-2014
Research Enhancement Program Grant, Wayne State University, 2012-2013
University Research Grant, Wayne State University, 2011-2012
President's Award for Excellence in Teaching, Wayne State University, 2009
Humanities Center Faculty Fellow Grant, Wayne State University, 2008-2009
University Research Grant, Wayne State University, 2007-2008
School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2004-2005
Dean's Scholar, University of Pennsylvania, 2005

Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 1999-2004
 Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching, University of Pennsylvania, 2002
 Salvatori Award for Research in Italian, University of Pennsylvania, 2001
 Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha of Texas, University of Texas at Austin, 1998

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Italian Ecocinema Beyond the Human. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2019.

Methods of Murder: Beccarian Introspection and Lombrosian Vivisection in Italian Crime Fiction. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2012.

EDITED VOLUMES AND JOURNAL ISSUES

Italian Cinema/Crossing Boundaries: From Adaptation to Transmedia, Transartistic and Transnational Cinema. Special issue of the *Journal of Italian Cinema and Media Studies* 7.2 (2019). Ed. Giovanna Faleschini Lerner, Nicoletta Marini Maio, and Elena Past.

Italy and the Environmental Humanities. Landscapes, Natures, Ecologies. Ed. Serenella Iovino, Enrico Cesaretti, and Elena Past. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2018.

Animal Humanities. Special section of the journal *Ecozon@*. Ed. Elena Past and Deborah Amberson. *Ecozon@* 7.1 (2016).

Thinking Italian Animals: Human and Posthuman in Modern Italian Literature and Film. Ed. Deborah Amberson and Elena Past. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

"Millicent Marcus and the Ethics of Adaptation," co-authored with Giovanna Faleschini Lerner and Nicoletta Marini-Maio. Introduction to *Italian Cinema/Crossing Boundaries: From Adaptation to Transmedia, Transartistic and Transnational Cinema*. Special issue of the *Journal of Italian Cinema and Media Studies* 7.2 (2019): 179-89.

"Volcanic Matters: Magmatic Cinema, Ecocriticism, and Italy." *L'analisi linguistica e letteraria* XXIV.2 (2016): 135-46.

"Animal Humanities, or, On Reading and Writing the Nonhuman." Introduction to special section of *Ecozon@*. Co-authored with Deborah Amberson. *Ecozon@* 7.1 (2016): 1-9.

"Gadda's *Pasticciaccio* and the Knotted Posthuman Household." Co-authored with Deborah Amberson. *Relations: Beyond Anthropocentrism* 4.1 (2016): 65-79.

"Il cinema e il suono del silenzio: *Le quattro volte*." *Animal Studies: Rivista italiana di antispecismo* 11 (2015). 56-71.

"Island Hopping, Liquid Materiality, and the Mediterranean Cinema of Emanuele Crialesi." *Ecozon@* 4.2 (2013): 49-66.

"'Trash is Gold': Documenting the Ecomafia and Campania's Waste Crisis." *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment* 20.3 (2013): 597-621.

"Violence and the Law in Gianrico Carofiglio's Literary Courtroom." *Quaderni d'italianistica* XXXI.2 (2010): 127-148.

"Lives Aquatic: Cinema in the Mediterranean and an Ethics of Underwater Existence." *Cinema Journal* 48.3 (2009): 52-65.

"The Dying Diva: Violent Ends for Clara Calamai in *Ossessione* and *Profondo rosso*," *Forum italicum* 42.4 (2008): 296-312.

"Lucarelli's *Guernica*: The Predicament of Postmodern Impegno." *Italica* 84.2-3 (2007): 290-308.

ARTICLES IN EDITED VOLUMES

"Thinking on Foot in the Hydrocarbon Sublime: Paolo Sorrentino's Petrocultures." *Italy and the Environmental Humanities: Landscapes, Natures, Ecologies*. Ed. Serenella Iovino, Enrico Cesaretti, and Elena Past. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2018. 139-49.

"Introduction," co-authored with Serenella Iovino and Enrico Cesaretti. *Italy and the Environmental Humanities: Landscapes, Natures, Ecologies*. Ed. Serenella Iovino, Enrico Cesaretti, and Elena Past. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2018. 1-13.

"Mediterranean Ecocriticism: The Sea in the Middle." *Handbook of Ecocriticism and Cultural Ecology*. Ed. Hubert Zapf. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2016. 368-384.

"Documenting Ecomafia." *Nuovo Cinema Politico: Public Life, Imaginary, and Identity in Contemporary Italian Film*. Eds. Giancarlo Lombardi and Christian Uva. New York: Peter Lang (Italian Modernities), 2016. 81-92.

"(Re)membering Kinship: Living with Goats in *The Wind Blows Round* and *Le quattro volte*." *Thinking Italian Animals: Human and Posthuman in Modern Italian Literature and Film*. Eds. Deborah Amberson and Elena Past. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014. 233-50.

"Introduction: Thinking Italian Animals," co-authored with Deborah Amberson. *Thinking Italian Animals: Human and Posthuman in Modern Italian Literature and Film*. Eds. Deborah Amberson and Elena Past. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014. 1-17.

"Una Ricetta Per Longo e Iocundo Vivere: Il Libreto de tutte le cosse che se magnano." *Michele Savonarola: Medicina e cultura di corte*. Eds. Chiara Crisciani and Gabriella Zuccolin. Florence: SISMEL, Edizioni del Galluzzo, 2010.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES

"Andrea Camilleri." *Encyclopedia of Italian Literary Studies*. Eds. Gaetana Marrone and Paolo Puppa. New York-London: Routledge, 2006.

BOOK AND FILM REVIEWS

Review of *Lazzaro felice*. Dir. Alice Rohrwacher. Forthcoming in *gender/sexuality/Italy* (2019).

Review of Barbara Pezzotti. *Politics and Society in Italian Crime Fiction: An Historical Overview*, in *Italian Culture* 34.2 (2016): 117-119.

Review of Gaard, Greta, Simon C. Estok, and Serpil Oppermann, eds. *International Perspectives in Feminist Ecocriticism*. New York: Routledge, 2013. 290 pp., in *Women's Studies* 43 (2014): 847-51.

Review of Robert Lumley. *Entering the Frame: Cinema and History in the Films of Yervant Gianikian and Angela Ricci Lucchi*, in *Journal of Italian Cinema and Media Studies* 1.1 (2013): 112-14.

Review of *Memoria in Noir: Un'indagine pluridisciplinare*. Eds. Monica Jansen and Yasmina Khamal, eds, in *Journal of Modern Italian Studies* 16.5 (2011): 747-8.

Review of *Differences, Deceits and Desires: Murder and Mayhem in Italian Crime Fiction*. Mirna Cicioni and Nicoletta Di Ciolla, eds, in *Journal of Modern Italian Studies* 14.4 (2009): 516-17.

Review of Robert A. Rushing. *Resisting Arrest: Detective Fiction and Popular Culture*, in *Annali d'italianistica* 26 (2008): 569-71.

TRANSLATIONS

Translation of Roberto Marchesini, "Nonhuman Alterities," *Angelaki* 21.1 (2016), *Philosophical Ethology* III: 161-72.

Translation of Roberto Marchesini, "Mimesis: The Heterospecific as Ontopoetic Epiphany," *Thinking Italian Animals: Human and Posthuman in Modern Italian Literature and Film*, ed. Deborah Amberson and Elena Past. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

Translation of Neera, "The Lady of the Evening," "Paolina," and "Aunt Severina." *Writing to Delight: Nineteenth-Century Short Stories by Italian Women*, U of Toronto P, 2006.

Translation of Dacia Maraini, "Theater Performance with American Students," *Set the Stage! Teaching Italian through Theater*. Ed. Nicoletta Marini-Maio and Colleen Ryan-Scheutz. New Haven: Yale UP, 2008.

INVITED TALKS

"On Location: Italian Ecocinema," invited lecture at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, October 24, 2018.

Marsico Visiting Scholar, University of Denver, Denver, Colorado, May 17, 2018.

"Cinematic Sound Beyond the Human: Disanthropocentric Listening and Italian Film," invited plenary lecture at "Foreign Languages and the Environment: Seed Projects for Sustainable Humanities," symposium at University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, March 1-2, 2018.

"Fire and Ice: Thinking Film, Climate Change, and the Environmental Humanities with Paolo Sorrentino's *Youth*," invited lecture at Schoolcraft College's International Institute, November 15, 2017.

"Fire and Ice: Northern Natures, Southern Neighbors, and the Future of the Environmental Humanities," invited keynote address at "Ecocriticism in the Nordic Countries: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," Mälardalen University, Västerås, Sweden, May 4-5, 2017.

"Mediterranean (R)evolutions, or Italian Cinema and the Consequences of Loving Petroleum," invited lecture at Colby College, October 27, 2016.

"Giov vs. the Volcano: Itinerant Cinema, Gendered Ecologies, and the Aeolian Islands," invited lecture at Michigan State University, March 25, 2016.

"Volcanic Matters: Magmatic Narratives, Ecocriticism, and Italy," invited keynote lecture at "Ecocritica e Ecodiscorso: Quale nuova reciprocità tra l'uomo e il pianeta," symposium at Università Cattolica di Milano, Milan, Italy, October 16-17, 2015.

"Location, Dirty Cinema, and Storytelling: Filming *Gomorra* on the Neapolitan Stage," invited lecture at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, October 6, 2015.

"When Goats Make Films: Cinema Beyond the Human," invited TEDx lecture at Wayne State University, April 17, 2015.

"Molten Landscapes: Memory, Ecology, and the Aeolian Islands," invited lecture and roundtable presentation at Cincinnati Conference on Romance Languages and Literatures, March 27-9, 2014.

"Gianrico Carofiglio and the Violence of the Law," invited lecture at Auburn University, Auburn, GA, November 8, 2013.

Presentation on Gianrico Carofiglio's *Testimone inconsapevole*, invited videoconference, Dickinson College, Pennsylvania, April 23, 2013.

"Toxic Napoli," invited podcast for Duke University's Humanities On Demand course, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, delivered April 19, 2013.

"Ecomafia in Campania," invited videoconference, Ohio State University, March 27, 2013.

"Island Hopping, Liquid Materiality, and the Mediterranean Cinema of Emanuele Crialese," invited lecture, Ohio State University, November 2, 2012.

"Memento: The Case of the Disappearing Case," invited lecture, Franklin and Marshall College, February 1, 2006.

"Machiavelli's Bodies: Self, Politics, and Literature in Cinquecento Italy," invited lecture, Bucknell University, January 31, 2006.

"Art and Politics in Carlo Lucarelli's *Guernica*," invited lecture, Franklin and Marshall College, April 26, 2005.

CONFERENCE PAPERS PRESENTED

"Translating Light: Ferrania and Italian Celluloid's Global Lines of Flight," Italian Cinema(s) Abroad Symposium, Ohio State University, March 22-23, 2019.

"Ferrania and the Afterlives of Italian Celluloid," American Association for Italian Studies Annual Conference, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, March 14-16, 2019.

"Collaborative Research in the Environmental Humanities," Roundtable Presentation at American Association for Italian Studies Annual Conference, Sorrento, Italy, June 14-17, 2018.

"Screening Fellini in the Anthropocene," Italian Film Symposium, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, April 19-21, 2018.

"Eating/Italian Ecofutures," Roundtable Presentation at American Association for Italian Studies Annual Conference, Columbus, Ohio, April 19-22, 2017.

"Reading the Screen: ThingLink and Mafia Movies," CALICO-IALLT Conference, Michigan State University, May 10-14, 2016.

"Paolo Sorrentino and the Sublime Sounds of Petroleum," American Association for Italian Studies Annual Conference, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, April 20-22, 2016.

"Cohabitation and Sacrifice: Ideology and the Posthuman in Italian Cinema," Modern Language Association Convention, Austin, Texas, January 7-10, 2016.

"Italian Cinema and the Consequences of Loving Petroleum," Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE) Conference, Moscow, Idaho, June 23-27, 2015.

"Acoustic Footprints and Canine Footfalls: Nonhuman Sound in *Le quattro volte*," American Association for Italian Studies Annual Conference, Boulder, CO, March 26-29, 2015.

"*Le quattro volte* and the Sounds of Silence," South Central Modern Language Association Conference, Austin, Texas, October 19-22, 2014.

"Michelangelo Antonioni and the Ecology of Form," American Association of Italian Studies Annual Conference, Zurich, Switzerland, May 23-25, 2014.

"Giov vs. the Volcano: Itinerant Cinema, Gendered Ecologies, and the Aeolian Islands," Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Seattle, March 19-23, 2014.

"I Alone Love You: Transcendentalism, Urban Wilderness, and *The Consequences of Love*," American Association of Italian Studies Annual Conference, Charleston, SC, April 3-5, 2012.

"Ecoterrorism vs. Ecomafia? Contested Language, Contested Landscapes, and Italian Cinema," Re-Visioning Terrorism, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, September 8-10, 2011.

"Cinema and EcoMafia: *Gomorra*, *Biùtiful cauntri*, *Toxic Napoli*," Symposium on New Trends in Modern and Contemporary Italian Cinema, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, April 13-16, 2011.

"Crimes Against Posthumanity: Eco-Investigation in the VerdeNero Series," American Association of Italian Studies Annual Conference, Pittsburg, PA, April 7-10, 2011.

"Italian Cinema On the Margins of Nations and Species," Humanities Center Brown Bag Talk, Wayne State University, November 30, 2010.

"On the Margins of Nations and Species: Questions of Identity in Giorgio Diritti's *E l'aura fai son vir* (2005)," American Association of Italian Studies Conference, Ann Arbor, MI, April 22-25, 2010.

"Cinema and the Ecology of Arrival in *Two New Worlds*," Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Los Angeles, March 17-21, 2010.

"*Testimone Consapevole*: Intemperate Crime and Tempered Language in Carofiglio's Literary Courtroom," American Association of Italian Studies Conference, New York, NY, May 7-10, 2009.

"The Specter of Lombroso in Contemporary Italian Crime Fiction," Humanities Center Faculty Fellows Conference, "Hauntings," April 3, 2009.

"Vivisectioning the Criminal Body: Lombrosian Specters in Carlo Lucarelli's Crime Fiction," Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, Boston, MA, February 26-March 1, 2009.

"Brave New Worlds?" Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, Lexington, KY, April 17-19, 2008.

"Sub-Aqueous Eco-Warriors: An Ethics of Mediterranean Existence in *The Life Aquatic* (2004) and *Respiro* (2004)," Canadian Society for Italian Studies Conference, Trieste, Italy, June 29-July 2, 2007.

"The Dying Diva: Violent Ends for Clara Calamai in *Ossessione* and *Profondo rosso*," American Association of Italian Studies Conference, Colorado Springs, Colorado, May 3-6, 2007.

"Lives Aquatic: Cinema in Italy and an Ethics of Underwater Existence," Literature/Film Association Conference, Towson University, November 3-5, 2006.

"Encyclopedic Translation?" Round Table, "The Encyclopedia of Italian Literary Studies (Routledge): Reference Works, Editors, Authors, and the General/Academic Reader," American Association of Italian Studies and American Association of Teachers of Italian Conference, Genoa, Italy, May 25-28, 2006.

"Una ricetta per 'longo e iocundo vivere': il *Libreto de tutte le cosse che se magnano*," Michele Savonarola: Medicina, Etica, e Cultura di Corte, Pavia, Italy, November 11-12, 2005.

"Guernica Remembered: Pop Art and the Aesthetics of Violence," Murder and Mayhem in the Mare Nostrum: Contemporary Configurations of Mediterranean Detective Genres, Prato, Italy, July 5-7, 2004.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Wayne State University

"Trieste," Seminar (2016)

"Mafia Movies," Seminar (2018, 2015)

"Italo Calvino," Graduate Seminar (2014)

"Slow Thought, Slow Food, Slow Cinema," Seminar, Gagliano Aterno, Italy (2012, 2014, 2015)

"The Formation of the Italian Body Politic: Heroes, Women, Children" (2013)

"Ecologia letteraria," Graduate Seminar (2012)

"Introduction to Literary Theory," Graduate Seminar (2012)

"Public Lives: Carlo Goldoni and the *Commedia dell'arte*" (2008, 2011)

"Italian Modernism," Graduate Seminar (2008, 2011)

"Italian Cinema and the Environment," Seminar, Gagliano Aterno, Italy (2011)

"Italian Cinema and Contemporary Culture," Seminar, Gagliano Aterno, Italy (2010)

"Constructing and Deconstructing Italy," Graduate Seminar (2010)

"Delitto all'italiana: Letteratura e cinema del novecento," Graduate Seminar (2009, 2006)

"Romanzo, storia, e romanzo storico," Graduate Seminar (2007)

"Italian Cinema and the Sister Arts," Seminar (2007)

"Italian Cinema of the Margins" (2007, 2008, 2010)

"Italian Cultural Studies: Italianità" (2007)

"Letteratura e identità nazionale," Survey of Literature from the Enlightenment to the Present (2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014)

"Viaggio nella letteratura italiana," Survey of Literature from Dante to Galileo (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2017)

Bucknell University

Coordinator, Italian Language Program, 2005-2006

"Da Da Vinci a Dario Argento: L'Italia e la questione di una cultura nazional-popolare," Seminar (2005)

"Mantegna at the Movies: Italian Cinema and the Arts," Seminar (2006)

Introductory Italian (2005, 2006)

Intermediate Italian (2005, 2006)

Franklin and Marshall College

Faculty in Residence, Franklin and Marshall Summer Program in Vicchio, Mugello, Italy, 2006

Program Director and Instructor, Franklin and Marshall Summer Program in Vicchio, Mugello, Italy, 2005

SELECTED SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Co-editor, *The Italianist Film Issue*, 2018-2022

Reviewer, ACLS Dissertation Fellowship Awards, 2017-2019

Executive Committee Member, 20th and 21st Century Italian Forum, Modern Language Association, 2017-2022

Host Committee Co-chair, Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment Biannual Conference, Wayne State University, 2017

Treasurer, American Association for Italian Studies, 2013-2019

SELECTED DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Member, President's Standing Committee on Environmental Initiatives, 2018-present

Member, Faculty Advisory Board, Wayne State University Press, 2017-2020

Member, Editorial Board, *Criticism*, 2017-present

Faculty Advisor, Global Language Forum, CMLLC's undergraduate student organization, 2015-present

Chair, Undergraduate Committee, CMLLC Department, 2015-present

Member, Organizing Committee, Rushton Undergraduate Conference in Language, Literature, and Culture, 2015-present

Member, Wayne State University Humanities Center Advisory Board, 2010-2012

Faculty Advisor, Graduate Student Forum, 2007-2017

Organizer, Italian Awards Day ceremony in collaboration with colleagues, 2006-present

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Moderator, Fare Cinema event, Detroit Film Theatre, May 21, 2019

Introduced Ann Goldstein for *Ferrante Fever* event, organized by Dante Alighieri

Society of Michigan, October 27, 2017

Member, Organizing Committee, Italian Film Festival USA-Metro Detroit, 2013-18

Introduced theatrical performance of *Hanno Tutti Ragione*, Detroit Institute for Arts, June 14, 2014

Chair, Organizing Committee, Italian Film Festival USA-Metro Detroit, 2008-2012
Member, Dante Alighieri Society Cultural Committee, 2008-2011
Lecturer, *Gomorra* (dir. Matteo Garrone) for the Detroit Film Theatre at the Detroit Institute of the Arts, in collaboration with Raffaele DeBenedictis, March 8, 2009
Lecturer, *Days and Clouds* (dir. Silvio Soldini) for the Detroit Film Theatre at the Detroit Institute of the Arts, November 20, 2008
Lecturer, *Mafioso* (dir. Alberto Lattuada), for the Detroit Film Theatre at the Detroit Institute of the Arts, April 29, 2007
Organizer, Italian reading group and videoconference discussion with author Gianrico Carofiglio, December 1, 2006

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Contemporary Italian literature and cinema, literary theory, criminology, detective fiction, horror cinema, Slow Foods, ecocriticism and ecomedia studies, posthumanism, the Italian Enlightenment, art and literature.

LANGUAGES

Italian, near-native fluency
Spanish, advanced proficiency
French, reading proficiency

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Association of Italian Studies (AAIS)
Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE)
Modern Language Association (MLA)
Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS)

REFERENCES

Prof. Millicent Marcus, Department of Romance Languages, Yale University
Prof. Serenella Iovino, Department of Languages and Literatures, Università degli Studi di Torino
Prof. Anne Duggan, Chair, Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Wayne State University