

DEBORAH AMBERSON
University of Florida

Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Italian, University of Pennsylvania, December 2004
- M.Phil. in Italian (1st Class Hons), University College Cork, 1997
- B.A. in French/Italian (1st Class Hons), University College Cork, 1995

APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Chair, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, University of Florida, 2017-present
- Associate Professor of Italian, University of Florida, 2012-present
- Assistant Professor of Italian, University of Florida, 2005-2012
- Visiting Ph.D. Lecturer, Department of French and Italian, University of California at Santa Barbara, 2004-2005
- Part-time lecturer in Italian, University of Pennsylvania, 2003-2004
- Teaching Fellow, University of Pennsylvania, 1998-2003

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

- University of Florida Term Professorship, 2017-2020
- Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida, summer 2006
- School of Arts & Sciences Dissertation Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2002-2003
- University Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2001-2002
- Dean's Scholar Award, University of Pennsylvania, 2002
- Mellon Dissertation Proposal Grant, Summer 1999
- University of Pennsylvania Teaching Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 1998-2001
- Italian Government Scholarship for Graduate Research at University of Florence, 1996-1997

PUBLICATIONS

In progress

- *In Their Element: Prewar Florentine Modernism and the Natural World*. Book length ecocritical project on the writers and intellectuals associated with modernist literary journal *La Voce*.
- *Thinking Italian Plants*. Co-edited volume with Elena Past.

Books

- *Giraffes in the Garden of Italian Literature: Modernist Embodiment in Italo Svevo, Federigo Tozzi and Carlo Emilio Gadda*. London: Legenda, 2012.

Edited Volumes and Journal Issues

- *The Human-Animal Bind*. Special Issue of *California Italian Studies*. Ed. Deborah Amberson and Andrea Moudarres. *California Italian Studies* 10.1 (2020).
- *Animal Humanities*. Special issue of *Ecozon@: European Journal of Literature, Culture, and Environment*. Ed. Deborah Amberson and Elena Past. *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

- "Riflessioni sui pesci nell'acqua," *Tellūs: Quaderni di Letteratura, Ecologia, Paesaggio*, 1 (2022): 9-38.
- "Introduction: The Human-Animal Bind," co-authored with Andrea Moudarres. *California Italian Studies*, 10.1 (2020): 1-14.
- "Temporalities of Stone in Scipio Slataper's *Il mio Carso*." *Italian Culture*, 36.1 (2018): 1-17.
- "Gadda's *Pasticciaccio* and the Knotted Posthuman Household," co-authored with Elena Past. *Relations: Beyond Anthropocentrism*, 4.1 (2016): 63-78.
- "Animal Humanities, or, On Reading and Writing the Nonhuman," co-authored with Elena Past. *Ecozon@*, 7.1 (spring 2016): 1-9.
- "Zeno's Dissonant Violin: Italo Svevo, Judaism, and Western Art Music." *Italian Studies*, 71.1 (2016): 98-114.
- "Masochism and its Discontents: from Franciscan Orgies to Schreberian Unmannings in Pasolini's *Petrolio*." *The Italianist*, 30.3 (2010): 374-394.

- “Battling History: Narrative Wars in Roberto Rossellini’s *Paisà*.” *Italica*, 86.3 (2009): 392-407.
- “Neo-capitalism, *Acedia* and Non-style in Pier Paolo Pasolini’s *Petrolio*.” *Quaderni d’italianistica*, 29.2 (2008): 53-72.
- “A Singular Detective: Methodological and Aesthetic Proliferation of Justice in Carlo Emilio Gadda’s *Quer pasticciaccio brutto de via Merulana*.” *MLN*, 123.1 (2008): 22-39.
- “An Ethics of Nicotine: Writing a Subjectivity of Process in *La coscienza di Zeno*.” *Forum Italicum*, 39.2 (2005): 441-460.

Book Chapters

- “Confronting the Specter of Animality: Tozzi and the Uncanny Animal of Modernism.” *Thinking Italian Animals: Human and Posthuman in Modern Italian Literature and Film*. Ed. Deborah Amberson and Elena Past. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014. 21-38.
- “Introduction: Thinking Italian Animals,” co-authored with Elena Past. *Thinking Italian Animals: Human and Posthuman in Modern Italian Literature and Film*. Ed. Deborah Amberson and Elena Past. Palgrave Macmillan, 2014. 1-17.
- “From Philology to Piracy: Pier Paolo Pasolini’s Passionate Impegno of Self and Style.” *Creative Interventions: The Role of the Intellectual in Contemporary Italian Culture*. Ed. Eugenio Bolongaro, Rita Gagliano, & Mark Epstein. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2009. 92-114.

Book Reviews

- Serenella Iovino, *Calvino’s Animals: Anthropocene Stories*. *Italian Studies*, 78.2 (2023): 251-253.
- Felice Cimatti and Carlo Salzani, *Animality in Contemporary Italian Philosophy*. *Humanimalia*, 13.1 (2022): 281-288
- Karl Schoonover, *Brutal Vision: The Neorealist Body in Postwar Italian Cinema*. *Italian Culture*, 31.2 (2013): 131-33.
- Loredana Polezzi and Charlotte Ross (eds), *In corpore: Bodies in Post-Unification Italy*. *Italian Culture*, 31.1 (2013): 49-51.
- Federica Pedriali, *Altre carceri d’invenzione: studi gaddiani*. *Quaderni d’italianistica*, 31.2 (2010): 196-98.
- Luca Somigli, *Valerio Evangelisti*. *Quaderni d’italianistica*, 30.2 (2009): 176-78.

- Stephen Gundle and Lucia Rinaldi (eds), *Assassinations and Murder in Modern Italy: Transformations in Society and Culture*. *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, 14.4 (2009): 514-16.

Translations (Italian to English)

- Selected poems by Paolo Gentiluomo. *Rivista di studi italiani*, Gabriele Belletti and Ivano Schiavone (eds.), XXXIX.1 (2021): 649-656.
- Roberto Marchesini, "Postmodern Chimeras," *Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities*, 21.1 (2016): 95-109.
- Mario Perniola, "Remembering Derrida," *SubStance* 34.1 (2005): 48-49.

INVITED TALKS

- "Thinking Italian Olives: Giovanni Boine, La Voce, and Rooted Modernism," Keynote Address, "Early Career Researcher Workshop," University College Cork (Ireland), June 10, 2022.
- "Thinking Italian Animals: Humanist Anxieties, Posthumanist Hybridities," Keynote Address, "Mechanimalia," UCLA Italian Graduate Student Conference, January 2014.
- "The 'Generazione dell'80' and the Pursuit of Italian Musical Modernity," in "Music between Nation and Form: Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco and the Boundaries of *Italianità*," Brown University, Providence RI, September 2012.
- "Craiese's Nuovo mondo," Dante Alighieri Society of Gainesville, April 2010 (local).
- "Fellini's Roma," Dante Alighieri Society of Gainesville, November 2007 (local).
- "A Screen onto the World: Nation, Reality and Italian Cinema," Dante Alighieri Society of Gainesville, March 2006 (local).
- "A Re-evaluation of Sicilian Norms: The Triumph of Dysfunctionality in *Moonstruck*," Italian Roots, American Soil, University of Pennsylvania, October 2003 (local).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- "Aquatic Elements: Piero Jahier and the Waldensian Valleys," American Association of Italian Studies Conference, Dallas Fort Worth, May 2023.
- "The Work of Cultural Roots: Giovanni Boine and the Olive Groves of Liguria," American Association of Italian Studies Conference, Bologna, May 2022.
- "Honey and Stone: La Voce and the Modernist Afterlives of Petrarch and Dante," American Association of Italian Studies Conference, Winston-Salem, NC, March 2019.

- “Giovanni Boine and the Sounds of Sin,” American Association of Italian Studies Conference, Baton Rouge, April 2016.
- “Millicent Marcus's Legacy: Inspiring Research, Empowering Community,” Roundtable presentation. Italian Cinema in the Present Tense: New Narrative Practices from Adaptation to Transmedia and Transnational Cinema. Seminar in Honor of Millicent Marcus. Franklin & Marshall College, November 2015.
- “Patchwork Landscapes of Human and Nonhuman in Scipio Slataper’s *Il mio Carso*,” American Association of Italian Studies Conference, Boulder, March 2015.
- “Zeno’s Dissonant Violin: Svevo, Judaism, and Western Art Music,” American Association of Italian Studies Conference, Charleston, May 2012.
- “Palazzeschi and the Body of Smoke,” American Association of Italian Studies Conference, Pittsburgh, April 2011.
- “Diagnosing the Future: Pasolini’s Final Crafting of the Split Subject of Consumerism,” South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, November 2010.
- “Struggles with the Flesh: Animality in the Italian Modernist Novel,” American Association of Italian Studies Conference, Ann Arbor, April 2010.
- “Murder under Federigo Tozzi’s Tuscan Sun,” American Association of Italian Studies Conference, New York, May 2009.
- “Resisting Neo-capitalist Power: Political Love and the Excluded Other,” Roundtable on Pasolini, American Association of Italian Studies Conference, New York, May 2009.
- “A Subjectivity of Tiers, Tears and Tatters in Federigo Tozzi,” Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, Boston, February 2009.
- “Servitude and Anti-Style in Petrolio: Pasolini’s Transgressive Lust of Anti-Possession,” American Association of Italian Studies Conference, Taormina (Sicily), May 2008.
- “Boundless Sex: Pasolini’s Anti-consumerist Ethics of a Mystical Feminine Jouissance,” Kentucky Foreign Languages Conference, Lexington, April 2008.
- “Women, Bags and Celery in a Skin of Bicycles: Removing Subjective Hierarchies in Carlo Emilio Gadda’s Amorphous Mass of Plurilingual Reality,” Canadian Society of Italian Studies Conference at University of Trieste (Italy), July 2007.
- “The Infinite Body: Investigations and Descriptions in Gadda’s *Quer pasticciaccio*,” American Association of Italian Studies Conference, Colorado Springs, May 2007.
- “Non-style: Pier Paolo Pasolini’s Final Refusal to Produce,” Northeast Modern Language Association Convention, Philadelphia, March 2006.

- “Structures of Rupture and Paralysis: Traumatic Collapses of Narrative in Roberto Rossellini’s *Paisà*,” 31st Annual Conference on Literature & Film, Florida State University, Tallahassee, February 2006.
- “Rebelling against Rhythm: The Ethics of Aberration in Italo Svevo,” American Association of Italian Studies Conference, Georgetown University, Washington D.C., March 2003.
- “Epic Cinema: Harnessing the Power of Paradox in Luchino Visconti’s *Bellissima*,” South Atlantic Modern Languages Association Conference, Baltimore, November 2002.
- “Speaking with a Cigarette in His Mouth: Italo Svevo’s Minor Stutterings,” American Association Italian Studies Conference, University of Pennsylvania, April 2001.

OTHER

- Member of UF inter-departmental reading group funded through the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere by the Rothman Endowment. Topic: “In Praise of Uselessness,” 2019-2021.

TEACHING

Assistant/Associate Professor of Italian, University of Florida, 2005-present

- The Usefulness of Literary Uselessness
- Modern Italian novel
- Literary Beginnings: Novel Openings
- Contemporary Topics in Italian Conversation
- Animals and Animality in Modern Italian Culture
- Gangsters and Godfathers: Italian Mafia Movies
- Murder Italian Style: Italian Crime Fiction and Film
- Mad Love in Modern Italian Literature
- *Delitto all’italiana*: Italian Crime Fiction
- The Demolition of Man: Italian Perspectives on the Holocaust
- Representing the “Humble Italy”: Literature and cinema of the Italian South
- Configuring and Reconfiguring the Italian Subject in Italian Cinema
- Mapping Italy: Inventing and reinventing the Nation
- Sickness and the Self: Madness, Ill-health and Death in Modern Italian Literature
- A Screen onto Worlds: Paradigms of Reality in Italian Cinema since World War II
- Advanced Italian Grammar and Composition

- A Rome with a View: Cinematic Communities in the Italian Capital (UF in Rome)

Ph.D. Lecturer in Italian, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2004-2005

- Detecting Problems: Contemporary Italian Crime Fiction
- Literary Sickness: Disease in the Italian Novel
- A Screen onto a World: Directorial Visions in Italian Cinema since WWII
- L'Italia unita?: Cultural and Linguistic Diversity on the Italian Peninsula
- Communities: Transformations of Identity in the Middle Ages and Renaissance
- Telling Tales: Changing Narrative in Italian Fiction and Film
- Italianità: Introduction to Italian Culture and Society
- Italia nel mondo: Topics in Advanced Italian Conversation

Language Instructor/Graduate Student Teacher, University of Pennsylvania, 1998-2004

- Cycling through History: Italian Culture across time
- Viva voce: Topics in Contemporary Italian culture
- Elementary and Intermediate Italian Language Courses
- Penn in Florence Study Abroad, summer 2000, Italian 134, Intermediate Language Course

SELECTED SERVICE

Department

- Associate Chair, Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, fall 2017-present
- Italian Undergraduate Coordinator, spring 2010-present
- LLC Graduate Program Committee (Chair), fall 2017-present
- LLC, Assistant Professor in Italian/French Search Committee (Chair), August 2022-March 2023
- LLC Strategic Planning Committee, spring 2022
- LLC Curriculum Committee, 2012-present (Chair: 2014-2016)
- LLC Integrated Foreign Languages and Literatures Major, Proposal Preparation, 2014-2016
- LLC Lecturer in Arabic Hiring Committee, Chair, fall 2012
- LLC Merit Pay Committee, 2008-2010
- Italian Language Program Coordinator, University of Florida, 2006 to spring 2010
- LLC Italian Lecturer Hiring Committee, 2008-2009
- LLC Transition Committee, 2008-2009

- RLL Departmental Advisory Committee, 2007-2008
- RLL Adjunct Faculty Evaluation Committee, 2006-2007 (Committee Chair)

College/University

- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Strategic Goal Task Force, 2016
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Curriculum Committee, 2011-2013
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Associate Deans Search Committee (3 positions), 2009

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Article Reviewer, *California Italian Studies*, 2020-present
- Article Reviewer for *Ecozon@*, 2014-present
- Article Reviewer, *The Italianist*, 2023
- Manuscript Reviewer for Vernon Press, 2022
- Manuscript Reviewer for Cambridge UP (Environmental Humanities series), 2021
- Prospectus Reviewer, Palgrave Macmillan, 2019
- Tenure and Promotion Review, Auburn University, 2017
- Article Reviewer for *Romance Studies*, 2015
- Manuscript Reviewer for Legenda Press, 2014

MEMBERSHIP ON DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

- 2022, Nancy Pinzon-Acevedo, Ph.D. Spanish, UF: “El humor y el dolor, las dos caras de una misma moneda. Literatura y film transatlántico: Argentina, Colombia, e Italia.”
- 2019, Patricia Cosendey Tavares, Ph.D. Spanish, UF: “Ciencia y el científico transgresor en la literatura del cono sur: Brasil, Argentina y Uruguay 1870-1925.”
- 2016, Carlos Andrea Bertoglio, Ph.D., Spanish, UF: “Football is Dead! Long Live Football! Argentine Football Literature between Tradition and Resistance.”
- 2016, Rossella di Rosa, Ph.D. Italian, Rutgers: “Itinerari nomadici ed ecologici nella narrativa di Anna Maria Ortese, Elsa Morante e Fabrizia Ramondino.”
- 2014, Roberto Weiss, Ph.D. Spanish, UF: “Between triumph and Lament: Malvinas and the Politics of Nationalism in Argentine Literature and Film.”
- 2013, Said Al-jahdhami, Ph.D. Linguistics, UF: “Kumzari of Oman: A grammatical analysis.”

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Modern and contemporary Italian literature, Italian cinema, modernism, modernism and the environment, music in literature, animal studies, ecocriticism, blue humanities, detective fiction, Jewish studies.

LANGUAGES

- Italian, near native fluency
- French, advanced proficiency
- Irish, basic
- German, basic
- Spanish, reading proficiency

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Association of Italian Studies (AAIS)
 - Modern Language Association (MLA)
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