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EDUCATION

1990 Stanford University. Ph.D in Italian.
1987 Cornell University. M.A. in Medieval Studies.
1984 University of California, Berkeley. B.A. in English.

EMPLOYMENT

2018- New York University
Department of Italian Studies, Professor
2011-2018 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Romance Languages and Literatures, Professor
2000-2011 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Romance Languages and Literatures, Associate Professor
1995-2000 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Romance Languages and Literatures, Assistant Professor
1991-1995 Yale University
Italian Language and Literature, Assistant Professor

BOOKS

Believing in Dante: Truth in Fiction. Cambridge, UK.: Cambridge University Press, 2022.
Vernacular Translation in Dante's Italy: Illiterate Literature. Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2011.
Reading Dante's Stars. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000.

COMMENTARY

Alighieri, Dante. *Paradiso*. Translated by Stanley Lombardo. Introduction, Notes, and Headnotes by Alison Cornish. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2017.

EDITED BOOK

Sparks and Seeds. Medieval Italian Literature and Its Afterlife. Essays in Honor of John Freccero. With an Introduction by Giuseppe Mazzotta. Ed. Dana Stewart and Alison Cornish. Binghamton and Turnhout: Center for Medieval and Early Renaissance Studies and Brepols, 2000.

PODCAST SERIES

Canto per Canto: Conversations with Dante in Our Time. Curator for series of 100 conversations - one for each Canto of the Divine Comedy - by members of the Dante Society of America. A collaborative initiative of the Department of Italian Studies and Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò at NYU together with the Dante Society of America, conceived during the 2020 Covid-19 lockdown in anticipation of the seventh centennial commemoration of Dante's death in the year 2021.
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/ItalianStudiesNYU/654621688521568/>

JOURNAL ARTICLES

"A worldview requires a center." Forum on Cosmology. Ed. T. Cachey. *Dante Studies* 140 (2022; but 2023): 152-160.
"Politics without Belief in the *Divine Comedy*." *Berkeley Forum*
(<https://berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/responses/politics-without-belief-in-the-divine-comedy>). 12

October 2021.

Dante and the Legibility of the Universe: Facts and Narratives, Bernardo Lecture Series, No. 21 (SUNY: Excelsior Editions, 2021).

“Paradiso 29: Saving the Appearances.” *Dante Studies* 137 (2019): 107-123.

“*Sonus qui non est vox*: Sound and Voice in the Body Politic.” *Bibliotheca Dantesca: Journal of Dante Studies* 2.1 (2019). Available at: <https://repository.upenn.edu/bibdant/vol2/iss1/1>

“Music, Justice and Violence in *Paradiso* 20.” *Dante Studies* 134 (2016): 112-141.

“Words and Blood: Suicide and the Sound of the Soul (*Inferno* 13).” *Speculum* 91.4 (2016): 1015-1026.

“Sons and Lovers: Guido in Paradise.” *Modern Language Notes* 124 (2009): S51-S69.

“Translatio Galliae: Effects of Early Franco-Italian Literary Exchange.” *Romanic Review* 97 (2006): 309-330.

“Not like an Arab’: Poetry and Astronomy in the Episode of Idalgos in Boccaccio’s *Filocolo*.” *Annali d’Italianistica* 23 (2005): 55-68.

“When Illiterates Read: The Anxiety of Volgarizzamento.” In *Translation in the Middle Ages and Renaissance: The Survival of Culture*. Ed. M. G. Rose. Special Issue. *Mediaevalia* 26 (2005): 59-98

“A Lady Asks: The Gender of Vulgarization in Late Medieval Italy.” *Publications of the Modern Language Association* 115.2 (March 2000): 166-180.

“Getting There: The physics of moral advancement in Dante’s *Paradiso*.” *Dialoghi: Rivista di Studi Italiani* 1.1-2 (1997): 73-85.

“Beatrice and the Astronomical Heavens.” *Lectura Dantis*, 18-19 (Spring-Fall 1996): 20-29.

“A King and a Star: The cosmos of Morante’s *L’isola di Arturo*.” *Modern Language Notes* (Jan. 1994): 73-92.

“Interpretazioni fiorentine della ‘concupina di Titone antico.’” *Studi danteschi* 62 (1991): 85-95.

“Planets and Angels in *Paradiso* 29: The First Moment.” *Dante Studies* 108 (1990): 1- 28.

“The Epistle of James in *Inferno* 26.” *Traditio* 45 (1989-90): 367-379.

“‘Quali i fioretti’: Euryalus, Hyacinth, and the Pilgrim.” *Stanford Italian Review* (1987): 205-215.

BOOK CHAPTERS

“A Drama of Choice at the Extremity of the Universe (*Paradiso* 27–30).” In *Dante’s Paradiso: A Reader’s Guide*. Ed. F. Gianferrari and R. Herzman. In preparation.

“Dante’s Total Eclipses.” In *Eclipse & Revelation: Total Solar Eclipses in Science, History, Literature, and the Arts*. Ed. H. C. Lange and T. McLeish. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2024. 157-172.

“Cotanto Amante: Come ingannarsi sui fatti.” In *Atti del Convegno Cinque Continenti per il V Canto*. Ed. Ferruccio Farina. Florence: Vallecchi, 2023.

“Where the *sz* sounds’: Dante’s dissonant vernaculars and their sensual signs.” *The Sound of Writing*, ed. Steven Justice and Christopher Cannon. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2023. 200-214.

“Lifting the Mask: Performance and Real Presence in Dante.” In *Dante & Performance*. Special issue of *Quaderni d’Italianistica* 45, 2024.1. Ed. Francesco Ciabattini. Submitted. 6969 words.

“Orientarsi.” *Purgatorio. Temi, personaggi, episodi*. Ed. Giuseppe Ledda. Florence: Società Dantesca Italiana. Submitted. 9874 words.

“Incarnation in Venice. Lectura Boccaccii IV.2.” *The Decameron: Fourth Day in Perspective*. Ed. Michael Sherberg. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020. Pp. 45-58

“Vernacular Translation in Italy: *volgarizzamento*.” *A Companion to Medieval Translation*. Ed. Jeanette Beer and Carol Sweetenham. Amsterdam: M.I.P./Arc Humanities, 2019. Pp. 107-123.

Entries on [MS214](#) and [MS219](#) for Newberry Library [Italian Paleography website](#) (2018).

“Lombardy: Milan and Pavia.” *Regeneration: a Literary History of Europe, 1348-1418*. Ed. David Wallace. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016. 2 vols. 1: 673-686.

“A Lady Asks: The Gender of Vulgarization in Late Medieval Italy.” *PMLA* 115.2 (2000): 166-80. Reprinted in *Classical and Medieval Literary Criticism on Guido Cavalcanti*. 2013.

“Damnation vs. Demography. The Contrasting *Infernos* of Dante and Dan Brown.” In Dan Burstein and Arne De Keijzer, *Secrets of Inferno. In the Footsteps of Dante and Dan Brown*. Stamford, CT: The Story Plant, 2013. Pp. 49-56.

“Traces of the Translators in Late Medieval Italian Vernacularizations.” *Translating the Middle Ages*. Ed. Karen Fresco and Charles Wright. Ashgate, 2013. Pp. 97-110.

- “Vernacularization in Context: (Volgarizzamenti of Livy, Valerius Maximus, and Ovid).” *Boccaccio: A Critical Guide to the Complete Works*. Ed. Victoria Kirkham, Janet Smarr, Michael Sherberg. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2013.
- “Volgarizzamenti: To Remember and to Forget.” *Memory and Invention: Medieval and Renaissance Literature, Art, and Music*, ed. Anna Maria Busse Berger and Massimiliano Rossi, I Tatti Studies. Florence: Olschki, 2009. Pp 1-14.
- “Embracing the Corpse: Necrophilic Tendencies in Petrarch.” *Dead Lovers Erotic Bonds and the Study of Premodern Europe*. Ed. Basil Dufallo and Peggy McCracken. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2007. Pp. 57-70.
- “The Vulgarization of Science: Dante’s Meteorology in Context.” *Science and Literature in Italian Culture from Dante to Calvino*. Ed. Pierpaolo Antonello and Simon Gilson. Oxford: European Humanities Research Centre, 2004. Pp. 53-71.
- “Vulgarizing Science: Dante’s Translation of Natural Philosophy.” *Dante for the New Millennium*. New York: Fordham University Press, 2003. Pp. 169-182.
- “Time in Purgatory.” In *Sparks and Seeds*. Ed. D. Stewart and A. Cornish. Binghamton and Turnhout: CMRS and Brepols, 2000.
- “La sapienza di Salomone e le arti magiche.” *Dante: mito e poesia*. Edited by Michelangelo Picone and Tatiana Crivelli. Florence: Franco Cesati Editore, 1998. Pp. 391-404.
- “Cambiamenti istantanei nel viaggio attraverso le sfere.” *Dante e la scienza*. Edited by Patrick Boyde and Vittorio Russo. Ravenna: Longo, 1995. Pp. 233-242.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES

- Description of new acquisition to be included in the catalog held at the Newberry Library. “Newberry Library, MS 214. Domenico Cavalca, *Della pazienza* and other religious texts in Italian vernacular. Italy, 15th c. Manuscript on paper.” (2700 words). 2011.
- Articles on “Angels,” “Eternity,” “Furies,” and “Messo celeste.” In *The Dante Encyclopedia*. Edited by Richard Lansing. Garland, 2000.
- “Dante’s Moral Cosmology.” In *Cosmology. Historical, Literary, Philosophical, Religious, and Scientific Perspectives*. Edited by Norriss S. Hetherington. New York and London: Garland, 1993. Pp. 139-148.

REVIEWS

- Turner, Denys. *Dante the Theologian*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022. In *Theological Studies* 84.2 (2023): 363-364.
- Gaimari, Giulia, and Catherine Keen, eds., *Ethics, Politics and Justice in Dante*. London: University College London Press, 2019. In *Speculum* 96.1 (2021): 220-221.
- Kriesel, James C. *Boccaccio’s Corpus. Allegory, Ethics, and Vernacularity*. Notre Dame: Notre Dame University Press, 2019. In *Renaissance Quarterly* 73.2 (2020): 719-721.
- Lancellotto. *Versione italiana inedita del “Lancelot en prose”*. (*Archivio Romanzo* 32.) Ed. Cadioli, Luca. Florence: SISMEL Edizioni del Galluzzo, 2016. In *Speculum* 94.2 (2019): 506-508.
- Webb, Heather. *Dante’s Persons. An Ethics of the Transhuman*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016. *Renaissance Quarterly* 70.3 (2017):1207–1208.
- Boccaccio 1313-2103*. Ed. F. Ciabattone, E. Filosa, and K. Olson. Ravenna: Longo Editore, 2015. *Renaissance Quarterly* 70.1 (2017).
- Eisner, Martin. *Boccaccio and the Invention of Italian Literature*. Cambridge, Eng., Cambridge University Press, 2013. *Modern Philology* 114 (2016): E9-E11.
- Olson, Kristina M. *Courtesy Lost. Dante, Boccaccio, and the Literature of History*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2014. *Renaissance Quarterly* 69 (2016): 360-362.
- Steinberg, Justin. *Dante & the Limits of the Law*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013. *The Medieval Review* 15.05.21. (2015)
- Baranski, Zygmunt G. and Theodore J. Cachey, Jr. (eds.). *Petrarch and Dante. Anti-Dantism, Metaphysics, Tradition*. Notre Dame: Notre Dame UP, 2008. *Renaissance Quarterly* 63 (2010): 180–181.

- Sbacchi, Diego. *La presenza di Dionigi Areopagita nel Paradiso di Dante*. Florence: Olschki, 2006. *Speculum* 85/2 (2010): 104-105.
- Barolini, Teodolinda Barolini. *Dante and the Origins of Italian Literary Culture*. *Italica* 84 (2007): 856.
- Gorni, Guglielmo. *Dante prima della Commedia*. Florence: Cadmo, 2001. *Italica*. 81 (2004): 92-93.
- Boyde, Patrick. *Human Vices and Human Worth in Dante's Comedy* (Cambridge, Eng., Cambridge University Press, 2000). *Italica* 78 (2001): 414-15.
- Kay, Richard. *Dante's Christian Astrology* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1994). *The Medieval Review* 96.11.13 (1996).
- Parker, Deborah. *Commentary and Ideology* (Durham: Duke UP, 1993). *Speculum*. 69.4 (October 1994): 1240-1242.

INVITED LECTURES

- “Leggere senza credere.” *Prospettive internazionali degli studi danteschi*. Congresso Dantesco Internazionale / International Dante Conference. 20 May 2023.
- “Fede, fiducia e credibilità nell'*Inferno* dantesco.” Università di Siena. 18 May 2023.
- “A che serve il *Paradiso*?” Seminari di docenti esterni. Università di Roma Tre. 10 March 2023.
- “Heaven as a Way of Thinking: Dante's *Paradiso*.” Keynote for *Life of the Mind* series. Department of English Language and Literature. University of Michigan. 12 January 2023.
- “‘To Live among Those Who Will Call this Time Ancient’: Fictions Worthy of Faith.” *Make It New: The Many Dantes of the Twenty-First Century*. *The Global Dante Project of New York*. 1 December 2022.
- “Cotanto Amante: Come ingannarsi sui fatti.” *Convegno Cinque Continenti per il V Canto*. 2 July 2022, Rimini, Italy.
- “What Would it Mean to Believe in Dante.” Von Hügel Institute. St Edmund's College, University of Cambridge. 23 May 2022.
- “Believing in Dante.” Keynote. Biennial conference of the Society for Italian Studies. University of Warwick, England. [Virtual]. April 22, 2022.
- “Lifting the Mask: Performance and Real Presence in Dante.” Keynote. *Dante and Performance*. Georgetown University. Villa le Balze, Florence, Italy. April 8, 2022.
- “The Point of the Soul: Facts and values from Ulysses' quest to Dante's examination on love.” Center for Medieval Studies. Fordham University. March 7, 2022.
- “Boccaccio's *Decameron*.” Six-session course for Yale Alumni College. Oct-Nov, 2021. [Virtual].
- “Factionalism and the Facts in Dante's Circle of Violence.” Scholars Lecture Series. New York University. September 20, 2021.
- “Summer in Paradise.” Eight-session course on Dante's *Paradiso* for Yale Alumni College. May-June, 2021. [Virtual].
- “*Purgatorio*- The Climb.” Eight-session course on Dante's *Inferno* for Yale Alumni College. March-April, 2021. [Virtual].
- “Belief in Hell: Breaking faith in the Circle of Violence (*Inferno* 10 and 13).” The Centre for Dante Studies in Ireland. University College Cork, Ireland. February 8, 2021. [Virtual].
- To Hell with Dante*. Eight-session course on Dante's *Inferno* for Yale Alumni College. Taught Fall 2020, Winter 2021, and Spring 2022. [Virtual].
- “Cheap Seats in Dante's Heaven.” The Pre-Modern Colloquium. The University of Michigan. December 13, 2020. [Virtual].
- “Le stelle del *Purgatorio*.” WORKSHOP 2013-2021 della Società Dantesca Italiana. December 3, 2020. [Virtual].
- “Factionalism and Facts among Dante's Heretics (*Inferno* 10).” Cambridge Italian Research Seminar. Cambridge, England. November 16, 2020. [Virtual].
- “Belief in Hell: Breaking Faith in the Circle of Violence (*Inferno* 10 and 13).” Fairfield University. November 30, 2020 [Virtual]
- “Faith: What is it? The problem of credibility.” Keynote. *Dante somma luce*. Dante Society of America Annual Conference, sponsored by Washington University in St. Louis. September 26, 2020.

- [Virtual].
- “Planets and Angels, Facts and Values: Paradiso 29.” Center for Medieval Studies. Fordham University. March 10, 2020. *Canceled due to Covid-19*.
- “Dante and the Legibility of the Universe: Facts and Narratives.” Bernardo Lecture. Binghamton University. November 7, 2019.
- “Paradiso 26.” *Lectura Dantis Andreapolitana*. University of St. Andrews, Scotland. September 27, 2019.
- “Paradiso 29.” *Three Days in Paradise*. University of California, Berkeley. June 6-8, 2019.
- “Where the *sì* sounds’: Dante’s dissonant vernaculars and their sensual signs.” *The Sound of Writing*. Johns Hopkins University. March 8-9, 2019.
- “*Sonus qui non est vox*: Sound and voice in Dante.” Annual Dante Lecture. Yale University. November 29, 2018.
- “*Sonus qui non est vox*: Sound and voice in Dante.” Inaugural Imelde Della Valle Lecture in Dante Studies. University of Pennsylvania. October 18, 2018.
- “Dante’s Horizon of Translation.” The Dante Society of America Annual Meeting. The University of Oregon, Eugene. May 6, 2017.
- “The Matter of Words: Sound and Voice in Dante.” Johns Hopkins University, April 24, 2017.
- “Sound It Out: Talking Beasts and Human Instruments in Dante’s Theory of Language.” Global Dante Project of New York: “*De vulgari eloquentia*: Dante’s Laboratory of Vernacular Speech.” Columbia University. April 7, 2017.
- “The Matter of Words: Sound and Voice in *Purgatorio* 9.” University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. March 24, 2017.
- “Vernacular Remediation: Old wine in new bottles.” Keynote address to the Society for Italian Studies Interim Conference, “Turning Points: Cultures of Transition, Transformation and Transmission in Italy.” Trinity College Dublin. Friday April 29, 2016.
- “The Violence of Sound: Music, Justice and Bodies in Heaven and Hell.” New York University. 4 March 2016.
- “MS214.” [Presentation of a 15th c. manuscript vernacular miscellany containing encyclopedic and devotional works.] Society of Collectors, The Newberry Library. February 25, 2014.
- “Squeaky Hinges: Music as media in Dante.” New York University. February 20, 2014.
- “Dante and the Project of Translation”. The Newberry Library. November 2, 2012. “Poor Reception: Vernacular Translation in Dante’s Italy”. Princeton University. September 20, 2012.
- “Dante and *volgarizzamento*.” University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, March 1, 2012.
- “Treasures and Banquets: *Convivio* in the context of *volgarizzamento*.” Tagung: Commento ed ermeneutica. Contesto e tradizioni intorno al *Convivio*. Göttingen, Germany. November 23, 2011
- “Vernacular Translation in Dante’s Italy.” Michigan State University. September 22, 2011.
- “The Treasure of the Translator: Dante and Vernacularization.” University of Notre Dame. March 1, 2011.
- “The Treasure of the Translator: Dante and Vernacularization.” University of Texas, Austin. April 20, 2009.
- “Sons and Lovers: Paradiso X.” Freccero Symposium. Johns Hopkins University. May 2-3, 2008.
- “What Should the Illiterate Read? Vernacular Translation in Italy Before Humanism.” Duke University. October 16, 2007.
- “Translation as Miracle: Illiterate learning and religious translation”. “A ben manifestar le cose nove”: New Directions in Medieval Italian Studies.” UC Berkeley. April 28, 2007.
- “Volgarizzamenti: To Remember and to Forget.” *Giornata sulla memoria*. Villa I Tatti. Florence, Italy. May 11, 2006.
- “Vernacular Translation in Early Trecento Florence.” Villa Spelman. Florence, Italy. February 13, 2006.
- “Vulgarizing Science: Dante’s Translation of Latin Learning.” Dante2000 Conference.

Columbia University, April 7-9, 2000.

“Losing the Meridian. From *Purgatorio* to *Paradiso*.” Annual lecture for the Winter Meeting of the Dante Society at the MLA. Toronto, Canada. December 27-30, 1997.

“The Wisdom of Solomon and the Magical Arts.” International Dante Seminar, “Dante: mito e poesia,” Ascona, Switzerland, June 22-27, 1997.