Dr Charlotte Ross PhD

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About

Programme Lead and Admissions Tutor for Italian Studies; School Quality Officer.

Main research interests and areas of PG supervision: gender, sexuality and embodiment in modern and contemporary Italian culture.

Biography

I studied Combined Honours English and Modern Languages at Newnham College, Cambridge and for a Master of Studies in Modern Languages at Balliol College, Oxford before completing a PhD at the University of Warwick, under the supervision of Professor Ann Hallamore Caesar and Dr Jenny Burns.

Teaching

I am Director of Education and Undergraduate Programme Lead for Italian Studies. I teach modules on literature, society, identity and translation for Italian Studies. I teach seminars on gender, sexuality and feminism for the MRes in Sexuality and Gender Studies, as well as supervising PhD students.

Postgraduate supervision

I am currently supervising several postgraduate students working on issues relating to gender and sexuality in Italian culture. I would be happy to hear from prospective doctoral candidates wishing to pursue research in this area, or on other aspects of twentieth-century and contemporary Italian culture and society.

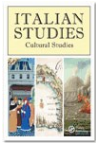
Research

My research focuses on how bodies, gender and sexuality are understood, constructed and represented in socio-cultural contexts. I am particularly interested in elaborations of sexuality and identity, in cultural texts as well as in practices of social engagement and activism. I am current working on an AHRC-funded project called Eccentricity and Sameness: Lesbian Cultural Identity in Italy, which explores the discursive construction and representation of lesbian identities and desire in literary and cultural texts. This has led to the publication of a monograph, ***Eccentricit and Sameness. Discourses on Lesbianism and Desire between Women in Italy, 1860s-1930s*** (http://www.peterlang.com/index.cfm?event=cmp.ccc.seitenstruktur.detailseiten&seitentyp=produkt&pk=82519) . For more information about this project, see my blog: **http://charlotterossresearch.wordpress.com/ (https://mail.bham.ac.uk/owa/redir.aspx?SURL=lBRqHXNLTlh321IZHWNjNVKeu9Vp28v2N76TewrBuv8wiXW8YynSCGgAdAB0AHAAOgAvAC8AYwBoAGEAcgBsAG8AdAB0AGUAcgBvAHMAcwByAGUAcwBlAGEAcgBjAGgALgB3AG8AcgBkAHAAcgBlAHMAcwAuAGMAbwBtAC8A&URL=http%3a%2f%2fcharlotterossresearch.wordpress.com%**

Other activities

- Visiting Professor at the University of Palermo, Spring 2015
- "'Cunnilingui" and "l'amore lesbiano" in late 19 and early 20th century Italy' at the American Association of Italian Studies conference, Zurich, May 2014
- Keynote presentation: 'Goliarda Sapienza's French Connections' at the conference 'Goliarda Sapienza in Context', IGRS, University of London, May 2013
- Presentation of the film *The Hunger* at 'Shout', Birmingham's festival of queer culture, 15 November 2012
- 'Matrimoni Bostoniani', at 'Immaginaria' film festival, Milan, 5 October 2012
- 'Self-same tongues of condemnation or approof:discourses around lesbian and female same-sex desire, 1870-1914' at the workshop 'Italian Sexualities Uncovered: The Long Nineteenth Century (1789-1914)', Bologna, 20-22 September 2012
- ''Goliarda Sapienza: an eccentric revolutionary', at the 18th Lesbian Lives conference, 'Revolting, bodies, politics and genders', University of Brighton, February 2011
- 'Goliarda Sapienza e l'arte della fluidità sessuale', presented at the conference ' "On ne naît pas, on le deviant". Les Gender Studies et le cas italien, des années 70 a aujourd'hui. Entre libération sexuelle et nouveaux tabous', University of Grenoble, November 2010
- Invited keynote presentation, 'Queer bodies: fluidity, materiality and stickiness' at the interdisciplinary conference 'Queer Crossings', University of Palermo, June 2010

Publications



Books

- ***Eccentricity and Sameness. Discourses on Lesbianism and Desire between Women in Italy, 1860s-1930s*** (http://www.peterlang.com/index.cfm?event=cmp.ccc.seitenstruktur.detailseiten&seitentyp=produkt&pk=82519) *(Oxford and New York: Peter Lang 2015)*
- *Primo Levi's Narratives of Embodiment: Containing the Human*(New York: Routledge, 2011)

Edited collections

- Co-edited with Susanna Scarparo, special issue of *Italian Studies*: Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Italian Culture: representations and critical debates, Vol. 65 No. 2, July 2010
- Co-edited with Daniele Albertazzi, Clodagh Brook and Nina Rothenberg, *Resisting the Tide: Cultures of Opposition in the Berlusconi Years 2001-06*(London: Continuum, 2009)
- Co-edited with Loredana Polezzi, *In corpore: Bodies in Post-Unification Italy*(Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2007)
- Co-edited with Rochelle Sibley, *Illuminating Eco: On the Boundaries of Interpretation*(Aldershot: Ashgate, 2004)

Book chapters

- 'Pathologies and Eroticism: Paolo Mantegazza's Ambiguous Reflections on Female Same-sex Sexuality'. In *Homosexuality in Italian Literature, Culture, and Society 1789-1919*, edited by Lorenzo Benadusi, Paolo Luca Bernardini and Paola Guazzo (Cambridge: Cambridge Schola Press, forthcoming 2015).
- 'Goliarda Sapienza's "French Connections". In *Goliarda Sapienza in Context: Intertextual Relationships with Italian and European Culture*. Eds Alberica Bazzoni, Emma Bond and Katrin Wehling-Giorgio (Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, forthcoming 2015).
- 'Italian medical and literary discourses around female same-sex desire, 1877-1906'. In *Discourses of Italian Sexualities Uncovered*, edited by Valeria Babini, Chiara Beccalossi and Lucy Riall (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015)
- 'Queer Embodiments: Fluidity, Materiality, Stickiness' in Silvia Antosa (ed.) *Queer Crossings. theories, Bodies, Texts* (Milan: Mimesis, 2012)
- 'Identità di genere e sessualità nelle opere di Goliarda Sapienza: finzioni necessariamente queer' in *"Quel sogno* d'essere*" nell'opera di Goliarda Sapienza. Percorsi critici nel caleidoscopio artistico di una delle maggiori autrici del Novecento italiano, ed.Giovanna Providenti* (Rome: Aracne, 2012)
- 'Feminist Activism and Practice: Asserting Autonomy and Resisting Precarity', co-authored with Manuela Galetto, Chiara Lasala, Sveva Magaraggia, Chiara Martucci, and Elisabetta Onori, in Daniele Albertazzi, Clodagh Brook, Charlotte Ross and Nina Rothenberg (eds), *Resisting the Tide: Cultures of Opposition in the Berlusconi Years 2001-06*(London: Continuum, 2009)
- 'Collective Association in the LGBT Movement', in Daniele Albertazzi, Clodagh Brook, Charlotte Ross and Nina Rothenberg (eds), *Resisting the Tide: Cultures of Opposition in the Berlusconi Years 2001-06*(London: Continuum, 2009)
- Chapter 7, 'Levi's Thought Experiments: Science-Fiction', in Robert Gordon (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Primo Levi*(Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007)
- 'Rita Levi Montalcini', in Angela Barwig and Thomas Stauder (eds) *Intellettuali italiani fra il dopoguerra e l'inizio del ventunesimo secolo. Saggi sulla trasformazione dei rapporti fra cultura e potere*(Frankfurt: Verlag für deutsch-italienische Studien, 2007)
- 'Porno girl da fumetto' in Charlotte Ross and Loredana Polezzi (eds), *In corpore: Bodies in Post-Unification Italy*(Madison NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2007)
- 'Who are you calling robot? Cyberfeminisms and fictions' in Alessia Ronchetti and Maria Serena Sapegno (eds) *Dentro/ fuori/ sopra/ sotto*(Rome: Longo, 2007)
- (with Derek Duncan), 'Reading Allowed: Contemporary Lesbian and Gay Fiction in Italy' in Gillian Ania and Ann Hallamore Caesar (eds), *Trends in Contemporary Italian Narrative, 1980-2007*(Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2007)
- Chapter 8, 'The Serendipities of Semiotics, or Knowledge as a "theory of next Thursday"' in Charlotte Ross and Rochelle Sibley (eds) *Illuminating Eco: On the Boundaries of Interpretation*(Aldershot: Ashgate, 2004)

Journal articles

- 'Imagined Commuities: Issues around LGBTQ Ageing in Italy', *Modern Itay*, Vol.17, no. 4, 2012, 449-464
- 'Critical Approaches to Gender and Sexuality in Italian Culture and Society'.*Italian Studies*, Vol. 65 no. 2, July, 2010, 164–77
- 'Visions of Visibility: LGBT Activism in Turin', *Modern Italy*(Vol.13, no.3, August 2008: 241-260)
- Incarnando la sessualità: performatività, parodia e piacere', in *Omosapiens. Studi e ricerche sull'orientamento sessuale/1*, ed. by Domenico Rizzo, DiGayProject ONLUS, Rome (Rome: Carocci, Oct. 2006)
- 'Parallel Productions: Rita and Paola Levi Montalcini', *Italian Studies*, Vol. LIX, 2004, 132-51
- 'Queering the habitus: lesbian identity in Stancanelli's *Benzina*', *Romance Studies*, Vol.22 (3), November 2004, 237-50
- 'Creating the Ideal Posthuman Body? Cyborg Sex and Gender in Twentieth Century Italian Literature', *Italica*, Vol. 82, no. 2, Summer 2005, 222-47

Electronic

- 'Primo Levi: Lively Machines and Machinic Bodies', ***Arachnofiles*** (http://www.selc.ed.ac.uk/arachnofiles/) , Issue 3, Spring 2004

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