

Senior Lecturer
Programme Lead for Italian Studies

[Department of Modern Languages: Italian Studies \(/schools/lcahm/departments/italian/index.aspx\)](/schools/lcahm/departments/italian/index.aspx)

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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, Admissions Tutor and Undergraduate Programme Lead for Italian Studies. I teach modules on society and identity, and theatre for Italian Studies. I teach seminars on gender, sexuality and cultural theory for the MRes in Cultural Inquiry and the MRes in 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 currently working on an AHRC-funded project called *Eccentricity and Sameness: Lesbian Cultural Identity in Italy, 1870 to the present day*, which explores the discursive construction and representation of lesbian identities and desire in literature and film. For more information about this project, see my blog: <http://charlotterossresearch.wordpress.com/> (<http://charlotterossresearch.wordpress.com/>). In previous work, I have focussed on issues of embodiment; my book, *Narratives of Embodiment in the Work of Primo Levi: Containing the Human* (<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415880411/>) (Routledge, 2011), analyses Levi's engagements with and representations of embodiment, from the imprisoned and abject body in the Lager to the posthuman technologized bodies of his science fiction writing. In 2008 I co-organized a conference entitled 'Gender and Sexuality Studies Italian Style', in Prato, Italy, which has led to a **special issue of the journal *Italian Studies*** (<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/maney/its/latest>) on gender and sexuality (July 2010). I am also co-editor (with Dr Daniele Albertazzi, Dr Clodagh Brook and Dr Nina Rothenberg) of *Resisting the Tide: Cultures of Opposition under Berlusconi 2001-06* (<http://www.continuumbooks.com/Books/detail.aspx?ReturnURL=/Search/default.aspx&CountryID=1&ImprintID=2&BookID=125748>) (Continuum, 2009).

Research groups

I am part of a university network of researchers with interests in **Gender and Sexuality** (<http://www.gender.bham.ac.uk>) Studies. I am also on the editorial committee of the online journal 'altrelettere': <http://www.altrelettere.uzh.ch/index.html> (<http://www.altrelettere.uzh.ch/index.html>). I am also part of the Editorial Committee of the series *Altera*. Collana di Intercultura di Genere, published by ETS Edizioni, Pisa: <http://www.facebook.com/events/140128649385003#!/altera.interculturadigenere?fref=ts> (<http://www.facebook.com/events/140128649385003#!/altera.interculturadigenere?fref=ts>)

Other activities

I regularly attend conferences and give research seminars and public talks to discuss and present my work. Recent and forthcoming presentations include:

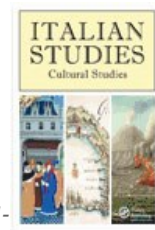
- 'Framing "obscene" confessions: discourses of female same-sex desire in early 20th century Italy', University of Kent, February 2013
- Presentation of the film *The Hunger* at 'Shout', Birmingham's festival of queer culture, 15 November 2012
- 'Matrimoni Bostoniani', at 'Immaginaria' film festival, Milan, 5 October 2012
- 'Self-same tongues of condemnation or approval: 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
- 'Inverts, tribades, sapphists and the mannish lesbian: subversive desires in Italian cultural texts, 1877-1908' at the workshop 'The Female 'Other': Subversive Women in 19th and 20th Century Literary and Cultural Production', University of Warwick, 18 May 2012
- 'Goliarda Sapienza: an eccentric revolutionary', at the 18th Lesbian Lives conference, 'Revoluting, bodies, politics and genders', University of Brighton, February 2011
- 'The "Body" in Fragments: anxieties, fascination and the ideal of "wholeness"', presented at the conference 'Thinking in Fragments', University of Birmingham, December 2010

- '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 à aujourd'hui. Entre libération sexuelle et nouveaux tabous', University of Grenoble, November 2010
- 'Discourses and Counter-discourses of lesbian subjectivity', presented at the conference 'Language, Space and Otherness', British School in Rome, June 2010
- Invited keynote presentation, 'Queer bodies: fluidity, materiality and stickiness' at the interdisciplinary conference 'Queer Crossings', University of Palermo, June 2010

Publications

Books

- *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

- '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 Communities: Issues around LGBTQ Ageing in Italy', *Modern Italy*, 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

