

Irene Bulla

Lecturer, Italian Language Coordinator
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Education

- Ph.D., Italian and Comparative Literature, Columbia University, 2018
Dissertation title: *'Impossible Tales': Language and Monstrosity in the Literary Fantastic*
Sponsor: Elizabeth Leake
- M.A., Languages and Literatures of the Euro-American Area, Università di Roma Tre, 2009
- M.A., Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama, University College Dublin, 2008
- B.A., Foreign Languages and Literatures (Translation Studies, English, German), Università di Roma Tre, 2005

Research interests

Modern and Contemporary Italian Literature and Culture, Literary Theory, Fantastic Literature, Italian Cinema, Genre Cinema, Italian Pop Culture

Professional appointments

- Lecturer of Italian, Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics, University of Oklahoma (2019 – present)
- Study-Abroad Program Coordinator, Department of Italian and Department of Art History and Archaeology, Columbia University in Venice (Summer 2017, Summer 2018)

Publications

Book project (in progress)

Linnaean Nightmares: Monstrosity in Italian Literature (1870-1970). An investigation of the monstrous figure in 19th- and 20th-century Italian literature, from the *Scapigliati* to Primo Levi, from a comparative perspective (3 chapters completed out of 5).

Articles and book chapters

“Monstrosity and the Fantastic: The Threats and Promises of Monsters in Tommaso Landolfi’s Fiction.” *Disgust and Desire: Humanity’s Paradoxical Relationship with Monsters*, ed. by Kristen Wright, 143-168. Leiden: Brill Publishing, 2018. Book chapter.

“Language and Monstrosity in the Works of Tommaso Landolfi.” *Monstrous Reflections*, edited by Petra Rehling and Elsa Bouet. Oxford: Inter-Disciplinary Press, 2014. Conference proceedings.

“Trolljegeren.” *Monsters and the Monstrous Journal* 4 (2014): 123-125. Critical review.

“Individuo e contesto: follia, tempo e genealogia in *Enrico IV e Uno, nessuno e centomila* di Luigi Pirandello.” *La figura nel tappeto: letteratura, spettacolo, traduzione IV* (2013): 9-20. Journal article.

Other work in progress

“Nineteenth-Century Fantastic Literature as Apophatic Discourse.” Journal article in submission, November 2021.

“The Language of Ineffability in H.P. Lovecraft and Tommaso Landolfi.” Journal article, completed.

Translations

Storey, David. *Il campione*. Rome: 66thand2nd, 2010.

“Molta memoria, poca speranza e (forse) un po’ di confusione. Alcune riflessioni su Tzvetan Todorov.” *Igitur: Yearly Review of Modern Languages, Literature and Culture V* (2005): 23-32.

Conference presentations

Invited talks

“Parlare di mostri: H.P. Lovecraft.” Invited talk for lecture series Decamerette, virtual, July 26, 2020. https://youtu.be/sj_cWpKDc4k

“Parlare di mostri.” Invited talk for lecture series Decamerette, virtual, June 27, 2020. <https://youtu.be/csgEgxYGvIw>

“Literary Teratology.” Invited lecture at the Emeritus Professors in Columbia Association, Columbia University, November 1, 2018.

“L'autotraduzione di Tommaso Landolfi.” Invited talk for the seminar *Forme dell'esperienza estetica*, University of La Sapienza, Rome, December 12, 2013.

Panels organized and chaired

“Italian Fantastic Literature.” Panel organized and chaired at the NeMLA convention, Baltimore, March 23-26, 2017.

“Moving Minds: How to Build Better Learners Through Physical Engagement.” Workshop organized and led, Department of Italian and Center for Teaching and Learning, Columbia University, March 30, 2017.

“Pixels with a Purpose: The Struggle with Technology in the Classroom.” Workshop organized and led, Department of Italian and Center for Teaching and Learning, Columbia University, November 17, 2016.

“Male/Female Power.” Panel chaired at the Evil Women and the Feminine Conference, Dubrovnik (Croatia), May 6-8, 2015.

Conference papers

“Creatures of the Apocalypse: Sirens in Twentieth-Century Italian Literature.” NeMLA Convention, Baltimore, March 10-12, 2022 (paper accepted)

“Mermaid Meat and the Taste of Apocalypse.” ACLA Conference, Chicago, March 19-22, 2020 (paper accepted, conference canceled)

“The Upside Down: Monstrosity and Space in the TV series *Stranger Things*.” ACLA Conference, Utrecht, July 6-9, 2017.

“Patterns of Narcissism in Camillo Boito’s *Senso*.” Columbia Summer Program in Venice, Ca’ Foscari University (Italy), July 1, 2016.

“Monsters (Un)told: The Rhetoric of the Monstrous.” ACLA Conference, Harvard University, March 17-20, 2016.

“Monstrosity in Italian Fantastic Literature.” Canadian Society for Italian Studies Conference, Sant’Anna Institute, Sorrento (Italy), June 19-22, 2015.

“«The Maternal Sin»: Traumatic Memory and Sublime Violence in Gabriele D’Annunzio’s *Fedra*.” Evil Women and the Feminine Conference, Dubrovnik (Croatia), May 6-8, 2015.

“Ghosts in the Sun: The Strange Case of Italian Fantastic Literature.” Tales Beyond Borders Conference, University of Leeds (UK), April 24-25, 2015.

“The Monstrous Body in Italian Fantastic Literature.” 12th Global Conference on Monsters and the Monstrous, Mansfield College, Oxford University (UK), July 25-27, 2014.

“Warts and All? Tommaso Landolfi's «Gogol's Wife» and the Question of Biography.” ‘Elliptical and Ephemeral’ Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, New York University, April 20, 2013.

“On Translating David Storey's *This Sporting Life*.” *Italian Poetry Review* lectures, Columbia University, February 17, 2011.

Teaching experience

University of Oklahoma

MLLL 4970, Italian Pop Culture (Spring 2020, Spring 2021)

ITAL 3663, Survey of Italian Literature and Culture II (Spring 2020)

MLLL 3313, Introduction to Italian Literature and Culture (Fall 2019)

ITAL 3073, Italian Conversation & Culture (Fall 2019, Fall 2021)

ITAL 2113, Intermediate Italian I (Fall 2020)

ITAL 1225, Beginning Italian II (Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Spring 2019)

ITAL 1115, Beginning Italian I (Spring 2019)

Columbia University

UN3590, Anatomy of Fantastic Fiction: The Uncanny, the Monstrous and the Other in Modern and Contemporary Italy (Spring 2017)

UN2121, Intensive Intermediate Italian (Columbia Program in Venice, Summer 2014)

UN2102, Intermediate Italian II (Spring 2013)

UN2101, Intermediate Italian I (Fall 2012)

UN1102, Elementary Italian II (Fall 2016, Spring 2016, Spring 2012)

UN1101, Elementary Italian I (Fall 2015, Fall 2011)

UN3336, Advanced Italian (as teaching assistant for the digital humanities project *Collaborating Overseas. Columbia Students and Italian Pre-Service Teachers: A New Framework for Online Teaching and Learning*, with Università di Urbino; Spring 2017)

Teaching development (selection)

Diversity Ally Certificate, Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, University of Oklahoma, 2021

Innovative Teaching Summer Institute Certificate, Center for Teaching and Learning, Columbia University, 2016

Innovative Teaching Certificate, Center for Teaching and Learning, Columbia University, 2016

Collaborative Learning Certificate, Center for Teaching and Learning, Columbia University, 2015

Service

Italian Language Coordinator (University of Oklahoma, Fall 2020-present)

Exploratory Working Committee Member, Center for Diaspora, Displacement and Migration Studies (Spring 2021-present)

Event organizer and mentor for Baccano Italian Club (University of Oklahoma, Spring 2019-present)

Supervisor of online pilot program Italian Language Lab, a collaboration between the Italian section, OU in Arezzo and the College of International Studies (University of Oklahoma, Fall 2021)

Creator and manager of online platforms for the Italian section (Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics, University of Oklahoma, Spring 2019-present; <https://italian.oucreate.com>; @OUItalian)

Lead Teaching Fellow of the Center for Teaching and Learning (2016-2017, Columbia University)

NeMLA Diversity Caucus member (2021-present)

NeMLA CAITY Caucus member (2021-present)

Fellowships and Awards

Teaching Scholar Fellowship (2017, Columbia University)

Lead Teaching Fellowship (2016-2017, Columbia University)

Innovative Teaching Summer Institute (Summer 2016)

Mellon Humanities International Travel Fellowship (2014-2015, Columbia University)

Conference Travel Grant (2014, Columbia University)

Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship (2007, Department of Science and Education, Ireland)

Other skills

Knowledge of programming technologies (HTML, HTML5, CSS) and languages (C); creation and managing of websites and social media channels; extensive knowledge of online platforms for teaching and learning.

Professional affiliations and memberships

North-Eastern Modern Languages Association
American Association for Italian Studies

Languages

Italian (native)

English (near native)

Spanish (intermediate)

German (beginner)

French (reading)

Latin (good working knowledge)

Ancient Greek (good working knowledge)