

# Andrea Capra

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## Employment

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2025- **New York University**, Assistant Professor of Italian Studies  
2022-25 **Princeton University**, Cotsen Postdoctoral Fellow in the Society of Fellows

## Education

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2022 **Stanford University**; Ph.D. in Italian, with Minor in French  
2020 Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris 3; Visiting Student  
2019 Stanford-Leuphana, Berlin; Media Studies Summer Academy “Against Presentism”  
2018 Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School, Freie Universität Berlin; Visiting Student  
2016 **University of Milan**; M.A., Modern Humanities, 110/110 *cum laude*  
2014 **University of Milan**; B.A., Humanities, 110/110 *cum laude*

## Fellowships and Awards

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2022-25 **Open Fellowship**; Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts, Princeton University  
2020-21 **Gerald J. Lieberman Fellowship**; Stanford University  
2019 **Centennial Teaching Award**; Stanford University  
2016-22 **Stanford Graduate Fellowship**; Stanford University

## Grants

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2025 **Frank D. Graham Research Fund Grant**; Princeton University  
2024 **Humanities Council Team Teaching Grant**; Princeton University  
**William Hallam Tuck '12 Memorial Research Fund Grant**; Princeton University  
2023 **Humanities + Data Science Faculty Institute Grant**; Princeton University  
**University Committee on Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences Grant**; Princeton University  
**Council on Science and Technology's Course Development Grant**; Princeton University  
2020 **Travel Grant**; American Comparative Literature Association (returned due to COVID-19)  
2019 **Collaborative Teaching Project Grant**; Stanford University  
**Visiting Student Research Fellowship**; France-Stanford Center, Stanford University  
**Travel and Lodging Grant**; Media Summer Academy “Against Presentism”; Stanford University, Leuphana University  
**DAAD University Summer Course Grant**; Goethe Institute

2017 **Humanities & Sciences Intensive Language Grant**; Stanford University

## **Scholarly Publications**

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### Books

2026 ***Ordinary Horror: The Aesthetics of Deformation from Leopardi to Ferrante***  
(forthcoming with Stanford University Press)

### Edited Journal Issues

2024 ***What is Horror? Italian Perspectives***, with Marco Malvestio, special issue of *Italian Quarterly*, LXI, 239-240  
Reviewed in *[Italian Studies](#)*, 80, 2 (2025): 236-37

### Refereed Articles

2025 **Giacomo Leopardi or: How to Turn a Garden Horrifying**, in *Journal of Italian Philosophy*  
(under peer-review)  
**Weird Leopardi**, in *Annali d'Italianistica* (under peer-review)  
“Una realtà zibaldonica: attualità e inattualità della *Proposta di premi fatta dall'Accademia dei Sillografi*” in *Cahiers d'études italiennes*, 40, 2025, [online](#)

2024 “**To Dissolve and to Shatter: The Role of Horror in Elena Ferrante**” in *Italian Quarterly*, LXI, 239-240: 88-109  
“**Horror and *Orrore*: A Canon Hiding in Plain Sight**” with Marco Malvestio, in *Italian Quarterly*, LXI, 239-240: i-xii  
“**Descartes at War: Curzio Malaparte and Primo Levi**” in *Modern Language Notes*, 139: 108-31

2022 “**Torquato Tasso o GPT-3? Giacomo Leopardi e la ‘computisteria’ del mondo**” in *il verri*, 79: 105-19

2021 “**Staying with the Darkness: Peter Sloterdijk’s Anthropotechnics for the Digital Age**” in *Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities*, 26, 1: 124-41  
Republished in *Sloterdijk’s Anthropotechnics*, eds. Patrick Roney and Andrea Rossi, Routledge, 2022, pp. 124-41

2018 “**«Questa nebbia maledetta». Un itinerario nella poesia di Michelstaedter**” in *Studi novecenteschi*, 96, 2: 243-65

2016 “**«Essenzialmente regolarmente e perpetuamente persecutrice»: Leopardi e d’Holbach**” in *Italianistica*, 45, 2: 89-106

### Book Chapters

2024 “**The Essay and the American Left**,” in *The Cambridge History of the American Essay*, eds. Jason Childs and Christy Wampole, Cambridge University Press: 378-94

2022 “«Je suis Cartésien, hélas!» Malaparte e Descartes,” in *Curzio Malaparte e la cultura europea. Cartografia dei palinsesti letterari*, ed. Maria Pia De Paulis, Franco Cesati Editore: 259-70

“Giacomo Leopardi e la critica al soluzionismo: dall’Accademia dei Sillografi all’intelligenza artificiale,” in *In difesa dell’umano. Problemi e prospettive*, eds. Luciano Boi, Umberto Curi, Lamberto Maffei, Luigi Miraglia, Accademia Vivarium Novum: 793-808

2021 “Giacomo Leopardi’s ‘Terrifying’ Tale of Reason and Negativity,” in *Gegen das Leben, gegen die Welt, gegen mich selbst. Figuren der Negativität*, eds. Jan Knobloch and Antonio Lucci, Winter Verlag: 295-317

#### Book Reviews

2026 Marco Malvestio, Stefano Serafini, *Italian Gothic. An Edinburgh Companion*, Edinburgh University Press, in *Quaderni d’Italianistica*, 46, 2 (forthcoming)

#### Book Translations

2021 Laura Wittman, *La Tomba del Milite Ignoto. Storia e mito*, LEG Edizioni

### Media Presence

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#### Texts in Magazines and Newspapers

2025 “[Gravity and Gravitas](#),” in *Notch*, 002

2024 “[L’identità digitale di Luigi Mangione: tecno-libertarismo, psichedelia e self-betterment](#),” in *Domani*, December 12

“[How to Think with Robert Pogue Harrison](#),” in *The Book Haven* and *3Quarks*, April 24

2022 “[Sense and Nonsense in California: A Conversation with Markus Gabriel](#),” in *Los Angeles Review of Books*, October 23

“[Ci sono ragazze su internet? Anonimato, genere, 4chan, MMORPG](#),” in *Domani*, September 28

2020 “[Silicon Valley: Noch immer der Ort für Cyber-Outlaws](#),” trans. Helmut Reuter, in *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, February 17

#### Podcasts

2023 “[Letteratura e intelligenza artificiale](#),” in *Ricercati. Storie di cervelli italiani nel mondo*, May 4

### Teaching Experience

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#### New York University

2026 **Weird Italy**

2025 **Ordinary Horror: Aesthetics and Phenomenology** (Graduate seminar)  
**What is Horror?**

## Princeton University

2025      **Nostalgia**, co-taught with Federico Marcon

2024      **Making Sense of Artificial Intelligence: Fiction, Technology, Storytelling**

2023      **Identity Crises from Dante to the Present: Italian Civilization through the Centuries**,  
co-taught with Gaetana Marrone-Puglia

**Weird Italy: Topics in Contemporary Italian Civilization**

2022      **What is Horror?**

## Stanford University (Instructor of Record)

2022      **Is Horror (also) Italian?**

2021      **Pirandello, Sartre, and Beckett**, co-taught with Robert Pogue Harrison

2019      **Spectacles of Love, Spectacles of Horror: Introduction to Medieval Italian Literature**

**Symbolism in Literature and the Arts**, co-taught with Robert Pogue Harrison and Laura Wittman

2018      **Second-Year Italian Accelerated**, First Quarter

**First-Year Italian**, Second and Third Quarter

2017      **First-Year Italian**, First Quarter

## Stanford University (Teaching Assistant)

2020      **Introduction to the Profession of Literary Studies**, with Héctor Hoyos

2019      **CAPITALS: How Cities Shape Cultures, States, and People**; with Adrian Daub and Dan Edelstein

## Talks and Conferences

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### Invited Academic Talks

2025      **The Essay and the American Left**, Princeton University, “Essay Week,”  
**The Haunting of Naples: Poverty and Ordinary Horror in Anna Maria Ortese’s *Neapolitan Chronicles***, Stanford University, Italian Lecture Series

2024      **Dall’horror all’orrore: letteratura e filosofia del linguaggio ordinario**, University of Padua, Graduate Seminar of Literary Theory and Comparative Literature “In teoria”  
**Matters of Ordinary Mentorship or: How to Think with Robert Pogue Harrison**; Stanford University, Conference to Celebrate the Career of Robert Pogue Harrison

Featured on: [The Book Haven](#), [3 Quarks Daily](#)

**Anna Maria Ortese and the Haunting of Naples**; University of Kansas, Gamma Kappa Alpha Italian Honors Society Annual Lecture

**Ordinary Horrors: Anna Maria Ortese's *Il mare non bagna Napoli***; New York University, Department of Italian Studies

**Nothing Weirder Than Reality: Giacomo Leopardi for the Twenty-First Century**; Yale University, Giornata di Studi "Leopardi Today. The Relevance of Giacomo Leopardi for Contemporary Critical Thought"

**Ordinary Horrors: Anna Maria Ortese's *Il mare non bagna Napoli***; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Romance Languages

2023 **Malaparte and His Dogs**; Yale University, First-Year Seminar "Six Pretty Good Dogs"

**What Can the Humanities Bring to the Study of Artificial Intelligence?** The New School for Social Research, Institute for Philosophy and the New Humanities Fall Workshop "Mind-Dependent Artifacts: Artifact-Dependent Minds"

**Post-Leopardian Horror: Horror Studies and Tommaso Landolfi**; Yale University, Graduate Seminar "Talking Animals"

2022 **Leopardi, vero poeta e vero filosofo: un esempio dallo *Zibaldone* e dalle *Operette***; Accademia Vivarium Novum, Convegno Internazionale "La forza della filosofia"

#### Invited Public-Facing Talks

2025 **Primo Levi's "Periodic Table" at 50: Scientists and Writers Speak**, Italian Academy, Columbia University

2024 **Humanity and Progress: Olivetti S.p.A.**; Italian Cultural Association "Dorothea's House"

2023 **Insegnare letteratura in America**; Cultural Association "I fiori blu"

**Professor Picks: David Lynch's *Blue Velvet***; Princeton Garden Theater, Introduction to the Screening of David Lynch's *Blue Velvet*

2022 **The Weirdness of David Lynch's *Lost Highway***; Princeton Garden Theater, Introduction to the Screening of David Lynch's *Lost Highway*

**With the Sea in Your Eyes. On Michelstaedter: Conversation with Paolo Magris**; UCLA Department of European Languages and Transcultural Studies and the Italian Cultural Institute

#### Conference Panels Organized

2025 **Horror Studies, Italian Studies: New Perspectives**; American Association for Italian Studies, University of Pennsylvania

2023 **What is Horror? Italian Perspectives**; American Association for Italian Studies, Texas Christian University

2021 **The Great Catastrophe: Fiction, Representation, Politics**; American Comparative Literature Association, Online

2020 **The Great Catastrophe** (canceled due to COVID-19); American Comparative Literature Association; University of Chicago, March

### Conference Presentations

2025    **From Horror to *orrore***; American Association for Italian Studies, University of Pennsylvania  
**Can Giacomo Leopardi and Carlo Collodi Help Us Making Sense of Artificial Intelligence?** Modern Language Association, New Orleans

2024    **Giacomo Leopardi's Garden of Suffering or: Turning the Sublime Upside Down**; American Association for Italian Studies, Sant'Anna Institute  
**Is Literature Bullshit? Is AI Bullshit Literature?**; Modern Language Association, Philadelphia

2023    **Elena Ferrante's *smarginatura* and the Phenomenology of Horror**; American Association for Italian Studies, Texas Christian University  
**When a Disease Turns Horrifying: Giuseppe Berto's *Il male oscuro***; Northeast Modern Language Association, University of Buffalo

2021    **«Je suis cartésien, hélas!» – Malaparte e Descartes**; Curzio Malaparte. The Literary Palimpsest, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3  
**The Aesthetics of the Catastrophe in Giacomo Leopardi**; American Comparative Literature Association, Online

2019    **«L'uomo umanato». *La rivolta dei santi maledetti* and War as Disclosure**; American Association for Italian Studies, Wake Forest University

2018    **Beppe Fenoglio's Milton, the Forest Rebel**; Conference of the Canadian Society for Italian Studies, University of Ottawa

2017    **The Horrification of the City in Curzio Malaparte's *The Skin***; Nightmare Spaces/Uncanny Places, National University San Diego  
**Curzio Malaparte's Naples: A Stylistic Inquiry on Irrationality**; California Interdisciplinary Consortium for Italian Studies, UCSD  
**«Lasciami andare oltre al deserto, al mare:» Carlo Michelstaedter's Maritime Path**; Italian Graduate Conference, UCLA

### Campus Talks

2025    **Office Hours: Burnt Toast**, with Trine Falch; NYU Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, New York University  
**First-Gen: Between Videogames and Horror**, New York University, First-Gen Seminar “Thinking Across the University”  
**Solutionism and Storytelling**; Princeton University, Society of Fellows

2024    **An E-Gamer's Story: A Talk Over Dinner with Andrea Capra**; Princeton University, New College West  
**How I Think About Horror**, Princeton University, Behrman Undergraduate Society of Fellows

**Faculty Discussion: Engaging GAI in Innovative Ways**, Princeton University, Faculty Workshop at McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning

2023 **ChatGPT for Language Education or: How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love Bullshit**; Princeton University, Consortium “Current and Future Trends in AI: Practical Applications to Language Teaching and Assessment”

**Teaching and Learning Now: ChatGPT**; Princeton University, Faculty Workshop at McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning

2022 **Deforming Modernity: The Aesthetics of Horror in Modern Italian Literature**; Princeton University, Society of Fellows

## **Service**

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### Conferences Co-Organized

2019 **California Interdisciplinary Consortium for Italian Studies**; Stanford University

2018 **(Dis)figuring War: Literature and the Arts, 1918-2018**; Stanford University

### Talks Co-Organized

2026 **The Gothic and Italian Modernity**; Stefano Serafini (Georgetown University and University of Padua); New York University

2025 **Malaparte: A Biography**; Maurizio Serra (Académie Française) and New York Review Books; New York University

2024 **Antikythera: Philosophy of Planetary Computation in the Design Studio (Recent Projects and Provocations)**; Benjamin Bratton (UC San Diego); Princeton University

**Large Language Models Forum: A Conversation with Simon DeDeo**; Simon DeDeo (Carnegie Mellon University); Princeton University

2022 **Against Reductionism: Some Considerations on Scaling**; Claus Pias (Leuphana University); Stanford University

2019 **The Game: Digital Culture & Contemporary Humanities**; Alessandro Baricco; Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco and Stanford University

**Of Walking in Ice. A Conversation with Werner Herzog**; Werner Herzog; Stanford University

**In Opposition to the Social Media: Poetry and Poetics in Italy Today**; Thomas Harrison (UCLA); Stanford University

**Between Emporion and Imperium: Making Italians and Mediterranean Imaginaries** Claudio Fogu (UCSB); Stanford University

**Close Reading of a Title: Primo Levi's Survival in Auschwitz**; Maria Anna Mariani (University of Chicago); Stanford University

**Avant-Garde Idealism: The Ambivalence of Futurist Vitalism**; Michael Subialka (UC Davis); Stanford University

2018    **The Unbearable Lightness of Non-Being: Calvino's *Six Memos* Today**; Joseph Luzzi (Bard College); Stanford University

**Cinematic Perspectives of Italy's Migrant Crisis**; Andrea Segre, Thomas Harrison (UCLA), Vetri Nathan (UMass-Boston); Stanford University

2017    **Rethinking Materialities. Media Theory Between Image and Word**; Claus Pias (Leuphana University); Stanford University

#### Workshops/Research Groups

2021-22    **Job Market Workshop**, Stanford University, Co-Organizer

2018-22    **Philosophical Reading Group**, Stanford University, Co-Organizer

2018-22    **Italian Modernities Lecture Series**, Stanford University, Co-Founder and Co-Organizer

2017-19    **Veterans in Literature Research Group**, Stanford University, Co-Organizer

2017    **Rethinking Materialities Workshop**, Stanford University, Co-Organizer

2016-18    **Romance Languages Reading Group**, Stanford University, Co-Founder and Co-Organizer

#### Manuscripts Referee

*Annali d'Italianistica*; [transcript] "Technosophy Series"; *Italian Quarterly*; *Journal of Italian Philosophy*; *Classical World*

#### Other

2025-28    **Juror**, "The Bridge" Award

2023-25    **Faculty in Residence**, New College West, Princeton University

2023-25    **Freshman and Sophomore Advisor**, Princeton University

2022-25    **Faculty Fellow**, Scholars Institute for First Generation Low-Income Students, Princeton University

2022    **External Reviewer for Residential Fellowship**, Nantes' Institute for Advanced Studies

2022-23    **Faculty Fellow**, Yeh College, Princeton University

2020    **Juror**, "Premio Strega"

2019    **Assistant Professor Search Committee Member**, Italian Department, Stanford University

2018-21    **Ph.D. Admission Committee Member**, Italian Department, Stanford University

2017-19    **Student Representative**, French & Italian Department, Stanford University

2016-18    **Italian Language Tutor**, Office of Accessible Education, Stanford University

#### Languages

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Italian: Native

English: Fluent

French: Fluent

German: Intermediate

Latin: Reading Competence

## References

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Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht – Albert Guérard Professor of Literature, Emeritus, Stanford University ([sepp@stanford.edu](mailto:sepp@stanford.edu))

Robert Pogue Harrison – Rosina Pierotti Professor in French & Italian, Emeritus, Stanford University ([harrison@stanford.edu](mailto:harrison@stanford.edu))

Thomas Harrison – Professor, Italian, UCLA ([harrison@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:harrison@humnet.ucla.edu))

Gaetana Marrone-Puglia – Professor, Italian, Princeton University ([marrone@princeton.edu](mailto:marrone@princeton.edu))

Christy Wampole – Professor, French, Princeton University ([cwampole@princeton.edu](mailto:cwampole@princeton.edu))

Laura Wittman – Associate Professor, French & Italian, Stanford University ([lwittman@stanford.edu](mailto:lwittman@stanford.edu))