

Andrea Capra

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Employment

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

Education

- 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

- 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

- 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

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 Sillogrifi 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

Texts in Magazines and Newspapers

- 2025 “[Gravity and Gravitās](#),” 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

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

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

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

Italian: Native

English: Fluent

French: Fluent

References

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

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

Thomas Harrison – Professor, Italian, UCLA (harrison@humnet.ucla.edu)

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

Christy Wampole – Professor, French, Princeton University (cwampole@princeton.edu)

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