

Peter Carravetta

POSITIONS

Official: Alfonse M. D'Amato Professor of Italian and Italian American Studies, in the Department of European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, at Stony Brook University, NY.

Previous: Professor of Italian, European Languages and Literatures, Queens College/CUNY, 1983-2008; & Doctoral Faculty, Comparative Literature, Graduate Center/CUNY, 1998-2008.

As Visiting: Professore a Contratto, Faculty of Aesthetics, Univ. of Rome/2, Spring 1990.
Exchange Professor, Dept. of European Studies, Univ. of Paris/8, Fall 1999.
Visiting Professor, Dept. of Italian, Middlebury College, Summer 2001
Fulbright Senior Lecturer, Dept. of English, Univ. of Madrid/Complutense, Spring 2003
Visiting Professor, Dept. of Italian, Columbia University, Fall 2006.
Visiting Professor, Dept. of American Studies, Nanjing University, January, 2009.
Visiting Professor, University of St. Petersburg, Russia, July-August, 2014.

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D., New York University, Dept of French & Italian, 1983 (Thesis Title: The Problem of Method and the Hermeneutic Perspective).
- Doctoral Program in Comparative Literature, Univ. of Chicago 1975-76
- M.A. in Italian, 1975, City College/CUNY
- Faculty of Aesthetics, Univ. of Bologna, 1973-74 (through CUNY Study Abroad Program)
- B.A. in English, 1973, City College/CUNY.

GRANTS & AWARDS (selection)

- SUNY Chancellor's Award for *Excellence in Scholarship & Creative Activities*, Oct. 7, 2014
- Bogliasco Foundation Fellowship in-residence Award, Apr-May 2011, Bogliasco (GE), Italy
- Fulbright Senior Lectureship Award, Univ. Complutense, Madrid, Spain, Spring 2003,
- President's Award for *Excellence in Teaching*, Queens College, October 2001
- U.S. Department of Education, two-year Title VI Grant to renew World Studies Program, *Languages and Cultures in Global Education*, Co-Director, 1997-99 (\$ 150,000)
- Twelve PSC/CUNY Research Awards (summer grants) between 1987 and 2007 for research on Italian philosophy, postmodernism, colonialism in Africa, and migration
- Fulbright Junior Research Grant, Rome, Italy, January-June 1991.

PUBLICATIONS

Books Published

-- **After Identity. Migration, Critique, Italian American Culture.** New York, Bordighera, 2017 (240 pp). A collection of articles and papers that span over twenty years on Italian Americans as seen through the lens of literature and through historical developments. Contains a theory of migration as the engine of history, a critique of ethnicity, and introduces criticism as topology.

--**Sulla rivoluzione incompiuta di Pasolini.** A long article originally published in 1989 in *Art & Text* 33 (Australia) on Pasolini's interdisciplinary work and his ethical foundation, was reissued in translation as a small book by *Diaphoria* (Viareggio, Edizioni Cinquemani, 2015), 76 pp.

--**La funzione Proteo. Ragioni della poesia e poetiche della fine.** Roma, Aracne Editrice, 2014 (418 pp). Sixteen studies and essays, and three interviews, which span over thirty years of my work on Italian poetics and the avant-gardes, and on authors Spatola, Porta, Valesio, Oberto, Milazzo, Rimanelli, with chapters on American expats Gertrude Stein and Madison Morrison.

--**The Elusive Hermes. Method, Discourse, Interpreting** (Aurora (CO), Davies Group Publishing, 2012; 486 pp). Entirely rewritten and augmented versions of the 1996 **Il fantasma di Hermes**, and the 2002 **Dei parlanti**, this book is a general theory of interpretation that explores the co-enabling relation between method and rhetoric, and is anchored on the trichotomy Interpreter, Work, Interpreting process. Tested through additional studies on the Sophists, Hegel, Peirce, and contemporary authors on the philosophy of rhetoric.

-- **Sulle tracce di Hermes. Migrare, narrare, riorientarsi** (Milano, Morellini, 2012; 192 pp). Introd. by Remo Bodei. Three long papers dealing with the phenomenology of the journey, the theory of migration (transl. from 2004 English article, now the introd. to *After Identity*, above), and the origins of Italian emigration to the United States.

--**Del Postmoderno. Critica e cultura in America all'alba del duemila** (Milano, Bompiani, 2009; 620 pp). Gathers 20 years of studies and essays on postmodernism in American culture, with chapters on popular culture, post-colonial studies, feminism, globalization, literary theory, public intellectuals, utopism, higher education, philosophy and history. *A shorter English version is forthcoming.*

--**Dei Parlanti. Studi e ipotesi su metodo e retorica dell'interpretare** (Torino: Marcovalerio, 2002; 300 pp). Continuation of *Hermes* project (see next entry), with studies in the rhetorical hermeneutics present in the work of P. Valesio, G. Hartman, L. Pareyson, P. Ricoeur, G. Vico.

--**Il fantasma di Hermes. Saggio su metodo, retorica, interpretare** (Lecce: Milella, 1996; 420 pp.) New analyses of the notions of method, theory and rhetoric, and implications for hermeneutics; from Aristotle and Plato through Descartes, Husserl, Gadamer, Perelman, De Man.

--**Prefaces to the Diaphora. Rhetorics, Allegory, and the Interpretation of Postmodernity** (W. Lafayette: Purdue Univ. Press, 1991; 350 pp). With studies on avant-gardes vs postmodernism, a

rethinking of rhetoric and allegory, Nietzsche, D'Annunzio, Vattimo, Lyotard, and Heidegger.

Edited Book

--**Theater of the Mind, Stage of History.** Italian Legacies between Europe, the Mediterranean and North America on the 150th Anniversary of Unification. NY, Bordighera P, 2014 (291 pp).

Co-Edited Books

--**Poesaggio. Poeti italiani d'America** (with P. Valesio). (Treviso: Pagus, 1994; 302 pp). Wrote Introduction, poems, and essay on poetics. This is the very first gathering of 12 Italian poets living in the US, establishing the beginning of an *italophone literature* abroad.

--**Postmoderno e letteratura. Percorsi e visioni della critica in America** (with P. Spedicato). (Milano: Bompiani, 1984; 340 pp); with chapter on Yale Critics, translated four of 14 American authors. This book is credited with having launched the debate on postmodernism in Italy.

Translated Five Books, including

-- Gianni Vattimo & Pier Aldo Rovatti, eds., **Weak Thought**, edited, translated, and with an Introduction by Peter Carravetta, Albany, SUNY Press, 2012. 276 pp. (original title: **Il pensiero debole**, Milano: Feltrinelli, 1983, 260 pp.)

-- Martino Oberto, **ANAPHILOSOPHIA**, Bilingual Edition. Udine: Campanotto, 1993 (transl. from rare 1975 Futura edition, with essay, "High Fidelity", pp. 530-38).

Journals Edited

Founding Editor of **DIFFERENTIA review of Italian thought**, studies, essays, reviews, art. First journal to basically introduce contemporary Italian philosophy into the Anglophone world.

No. 1, 1986, 326 pp. Topic: "The Place(s) of the Subject."

No. 2, 1988, 336 pp. A general issue.

No. 3/4, 1989, 400 pp. Topic: "Modernity/Postmodernity, Humanism."

No. 5, 1991, 232 pp. Topic: "Language and Logic."

No. 6/7, 1994, 340 pp. Topic: "On Italian/American Culture."

No. 8/9, 1999, 448 pp. A general issues, with Cumulative Index.

Book with a Press

Mercury's Thresholds. Studies in Method and Critique in Contemporary Italian Culture, 300 pp MS, 90% ready, as most was written in the 1980-2000 period, gathers previously published papers and covers major critical schools from post WWII to early nineties; applies & develops hermeneutical model from the *Hermes* book, which focuses on Method as the key issue. Being considered by SUNY Press for their Series in Contemporary Italian Philosophy.

Book nearly completed (Provisional title)

-- **Nation, Identity, Colonialism in late XIX Century Europe.** Collection of ten chapters spanning 1848-1896 on various aspects of Italian and French culture, geography, positivism, mass media, emigration, rhetoric of history. Projected completion of MS, Spring 2018.

SELECTED ARTICLES

(from over 100; some are posted under the tab “Academic Work,” others in Academia.edu)

----“After Thought: From Method to Discourse (Rhetoric),” in *RSA J (Rivista di Studi Americani; Journal of the Italian Assoc. of North American Studies)*, 26/2015:121-140.

----“After All: Critical Theory and the Geography of Culture at the End of the Postmodern Age,” in Rolando Perez, ed., *Agorapoetics. Poetics After Postmodernism*. Aurora (CO): Davies Group Publishers, 2016:29-70.

----“Postmoderno ed ecocritica: problemi, paradossi, prospettive,” in *Nótos. Espaces de la création*, Numéro 3/2015 [“Ecologie de la création”], electronic journal, Université Paul Valéry, Montpellier, France; http://www.revue-notos.net/?page_id=808

----“Perspectives on Critique and Italian American Studies,” in Tamburri, A. J. and F. Gardaphe’, eds. *Transcending Borders, Bridging Gaps. Italian Americana, Diasporic Studies, and the University Curriculum*, New York, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, 2015):114-128.

----“Italian Philosophy Through the War Years,” *NEMLA*, special issue on “Contemporary Italy,” Vol XXXVI (2013-2014):1-38.

----“History, Empire, and Political Reason. Campanella and the Dawn of Modern Europe,” in Peter Carravetta, ed., *Discourse Boundary Creation*, New York, Bordighera Press, 2013:19-54 (a Spanish translation of this study appeared in the journal *Despalabro* (Madrid), 2012, VI:45-60).

----“No Longer a Paradox: Protagoras as Philosopher of Language and Interpretation,” in Stefano Arduini, ed., *Paradoxes*, Rome, Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura, 2011:61-80

----“The Canon(s) of World Literature,” in *Routledge Companion to World Literature*, ed. by T. D’haen, D. Damrosch, & D. Kadir. Oxon, Routledge 2012:264-272.

---- “Historiography” in Gaetana Marrone, ed., *Encyclopedia of Italian Literary Studies*, New York, Routledge, 2006:941-46

----“Italian Theory and Criticism” in *The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism*. 2nd Ed., Baltimore, Johns Hopkins UP, 2005:534-541.

----“Migration, History and Existence,” in Vangelis Kyriakopoulos, ed., *Migrants and Refugees* Athens, Komotini, 2004:19-50 (revised version is now Introduction to *After Identity*, see above).

----“La questione dell’identità nella formazione dell’Europa,” in Franca Sinipoli, ed., *La letteratura europea vista dagli altri*. Roma, Meltemi, 2003:19-66

---- “Inter-literary Communities and Decolonization: New Approaches to Comparative and Cultural Studies” in *Literary Research*, no. 37/38, 2002:203-15.

---- “Hermeneutic Aspects of Eco’s Later Work,” in *The Politics of Culture and the Ambiguities of Interpretation*, ed. By N. Bouchard & V. Pravadelli. New York, Peter Lang, 1998:63-79.

REPRESENTATIVE PAPERS & CONFERENCES. Read over 150 papers at various institutions or professional meetings, including:

----“Re-reading Pico’s *Heptaplus* in a hermeneutic perspective,” at RSA (Renaissance Society of America), Chicago, March 30, 2017.

----“Contested Beginnings. Social and Existential Conditions of Italian Immigrants to the US, 1880s-1914,” at the *Italian Diaspora Studies Summer Seminar*, UNICAL (Univ. d. Calabria, June 13-July 1, 2016); June 21, 2016.

--“Theorizing Along Way: Interpretation, History, Literature.” Loyola University, J. Felice Rome Center, Dec. 6, 2015.

--“A Geographical Instinct: Science, Public Discourse, Colonialism. Italians in the Horn of Africa,” June 24, 2015, Università per Stranieri, Siena (AATI annual conference).

----“Metaphor, History, and Language in the Later Ricoeur,” SPEP annual conf., New Orleans, Oct. 25, 2014.

----“Dante: Poetics of Judgment and Birth of Humanism,” Univ. of Toronto, Oct., 16, 2014

----“Are you Italian? Really? Then Prove It!” Wake Forest U., Winston-Salem, NC, Oct 9, 2014

----“Subjectivity, Rhetoric, and the Poetics of History,” at Nietzsche International Lab, Institute for the Philosophy of Language, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, May 14, 2014.

----“Migration, Translation, History,” conference *The American Mosaic*, at Instituto Franklin, Universidad de Alcalà de Henares, Spain, May 9, 2013.

----“Geography and Epistemology. The opening up of the Atlantic and the scientific revolution of the XVII century,” at Florence Univ. for the Arts, annual conference, *Florence in Italy and Abroad: from Vespucci to Contemporary Innovators*, Nov. 9, 2012.

----“Threshold Poetics: paradox and parallax in immigrant writing,” NEMLA annual convention, Rochester, NY, March 18, 2012.

----“Of Praxis: Regional Theory, Rhetorical Method, and Local Purpose,” at conference, *Hermeneutic Communism*, Stony Brook Univ. (Manhattan Campus), NYC, October 19, 2011

----“From *Abgrund* to *Urgrund*: On Luigi Pareyson’s Constructivist Hermeneutics,” at 6th Annual Meeting of *The Comparative & Continental Philosophy Circle*, Cork, Ireland, March 4, 2011.

---- “Migration: The Engine of History,” at conference *Migrations and Transnational Identities. Crossing Borders, Bridging Disciplines*, SUNY/Stony Brook, Nov. 12, 2009.

---- “Eclipse of the Sun. Campanella and the Rhetoric of History,” at *The Society for Utopian Studies* 34th annual convention, Wrightsville Beach, NC, Oct. 31, 2009.

---- “Geography between Science and Political Economy: The *Società Geografica Italiana* (1867-86) and the origins of Italian colonialism,” Casa Italiana, Columbia Univ., Oct. 12, 2007.

---- “The End of Postmodernity, Globalization, and the Orwellian Warp,” Middlebury College, July 25th, 2007.

----- “The Hermeneutics of Pico della Mirandola,” at Renaissance Society of America annual convention, Miami, FL, March 23, 2007.

---- “Re-reading the *Bollettino dell’Emigrazione*,” Third Annual *Robert Dombroski Italian Conference*, Univ. of Connecticut/Storrs, Sept. 30, 2006.

---- “The Berlin Act of 1884-85 and its impact on *The Southern Question*,” Second Annual *Robert Dombroski Italian Conference*, Univ. of Connecticut/Storrs, Sept. 17, 2005.

----- “*Metron*: Between Historical Space and Geographical Time: The French and Italian Geographical Societies in Africa to 1885,” Keynote Speaker at conference *Cryptic Cartographies*, Univ. of Oregon/Eugene, Oct. 18-20, 2002.

Organized many conferences, see under *D’Amato Chair Activities* on this website. Served on several administrative and promotion committees over the years. Referee for several journals and publishers. Full CV available upon request.