

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, half semester pay

--Martin Luther King, Jr., Fellowship, New York Univ., 1977, covered graduate tuition.

PUBLICATIONS

Books Published

--**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 the journal *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, essays and interviews which span over thirty years of my work, mostly 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 Sophists, Hegel, Peirce, and contemporary authors on the philosophy of rhetoric.

-- **Sulle tracce di Hermes. Migrare, narrare, riorientarsi** (Milano, Morellini, 2012; 192 pp). Three long papers dealing with the phenomenology of the journey, the theory of migration (transl. from English), and the origins of Italian emigration to the United States. Previously published and now expanded, with Introduction.

--**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. *English version forthcoming in 2014.*

--**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.

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

- **After Identity. Perspectives in Italian American Culture and Poetics**. A collection of ten papers, most previously published, but rewritten and expanded, Bordighera Press, NY. Projected publication date: Spring, 2016.

Book nearly completed

-- **Migrations of History. Nation, Identity, Colonialism in late XIX Century Europe**. Collection of ten chapters spanning 1848-1896 on Italian and French culture, geographical societies, origins of Italian emigration, European colonialism and imperialism in Africa, impact of mass media on literature and politics. Projected completion of MA, Fall 2016.

SELECTED ARTICLES (from over 100)

--"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.”
 - “An Introduction to Italian Poetry in the United States,” for Luigi Bonaffini & Joseph Perricone, eds., *Poetry of the Italian Diaspora*, New York, Fordham Univ. Press, 2014:1061-71. With individual Introductions to twenty poets.
 - “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.
 - “Form, person, and inexhaustible interpretation,” in *Parrhesia*, Vo. 12 (an online journal, at www.parrhesiajournal.org)
 - “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.
 - “Take a Stand, Again: On the Ethics of Critique,” in *Italian Cultural Studies 2001*, ed. By A. Tamburri, M.S. Ruthenberg, G. Parati, B. Lawton. Bordighera, Boca Raton (FL), 2004:13-33.
 - “Migration, History and Existence,” in Vangelis Kyriakopoulos, ed., *Migrants and Refugees* Athens, Komotini, 2004:19-50.
 - “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.
 - “Naming Identity in the Poetry of Maria Mazziotti Gillan,” in *Estudios de la mujer*, vol. III, Madrid, Univ. Complutense, 1998:1-23
 - "Tuning in/to the Diaphora. Lyric, Metaphysics, and the Reasons of Allegory," in *RLA. Romance Languages Annual* (Purdue Univ.), Vol. VI (1994):v-vx.

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

- “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).
- “Reuniting the Twins: Method and Rhetoric from Agricola to Ramus,” MLA annual convention, Vancouver, BC, Jan. 10, 2015.
- “The Method in the Dialogue: Galileo and Scientific Language,” conference *Genius Loci: Florence and Galileo*, Florence University for the Arts, Nov. 7, 2014
- “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
- "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.
- "Of Praxis. Regional Theory, Rhetorical Method, and Local Purpose," at conference, *Hermeneutic Communism*, Stony Brook Univ. (Manhattan Campus), 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.
- "History and Empire: Campanella's Perception of the Role of Geopolitical Blocks at the Dawn of Modern Europe," at RSA (Renaissance Soc. of America.), Chicago, April 5, 2008.
- "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.
- "Re-reading the *Bollettino dell'Emigrazione*," Third Annual *Robert Dombroski Italian Conference*, Univ. of Connecticut/Storrs, Sept. 30, 2006.
- "The Poetics of Judgment: Re-reading *Purgatorio* 16," at 41st International Congress of Medieval Studies, E. Michigan Univ., Kalamazoo, May 5, 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.

BOOKS of POETRY

- **The Other Lives**. Toronto, Guernica, 2014, 112 ppp.
- **L'infinito (poesie scelte 1972-2012)**. Udine: Campanotto, 2012, 198 pp.
- **The Sun and Other Things**. Toronto: Guernica, 1997, 140 pp.
- **Metessi (1980-1989)**, Salerno, Ripostes, 1990, 100 pp.
- **Dialogi V**, Reggio Emilia, Edizioni Tam Tam, 1987, 32 pp.
- **delle voci**, Verona, Edizioni Anterem, 1980, 64 pp.
- **Existenz**, Chicago, Adams Press, 1978, 64 pp.
- **percorso masticato**, Bologna, Seledizioni, 1974, 36 pp.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Born in Calabria, immigrated to the US in 1963. American citizen since 1969. Resides in New York. While at CUNY have been Chair of Dept of European Languages (1995-99), and Director of a World Studies Program (1993-99). Curated four art exhibits, and organized over twenty conferences and panels in philosophy, cultural studies, Italian Studies, and Italian American Studies. Presently developing an *MA & PhD Program in European Studies* with two tracks, Literatures and Cultures, and Globalization and Migrations, at Stony Brook University. Full CV available upon formal request.