

FRANCESCA D’ALESSANDRO BEHR

Professor of Classics and Italian Studies
Department of Modern and Classical Languages, University of Houston
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FIELDS OF INTEREST

Epic, Gender Studies, Italian Renaissance, Education, Reception, Satire, Narratology, Comparative Literature.

EDUCATION

Ph.D (2000)

State University of New York at Buffalo

Faculty of Arts and Letters

Department of Classics

Dissertation Title: “Apostrophe, Irony and Death in
Lucan’s *Bellum Civile*.”

Dissertation Director: Martha Malamud

Special Field: Women’s Studies

M.A. (1997)

Special field: Greek Literature

Advisor: Prof. John Peradotto

Cumulative GPA: 3.9

Undergraduate Studies **Università degli studi di Roma “La Sapienza”**
(1988-1991)

Faculty of Letters and Philosophy

Department of Ancient History, Anthropology and History of Art

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Classes typically taught:

- Beginning and Intermediate Latin (face to face and online)
- The Augustan Age: texts and images
- Upper Level Latin: Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* or *Amores*
- Upper Level Latin: Virgil’s *Aeneid*
- Upper Level Latin: Lucan and his World
- Upper Level Latin: Seneca and tragedy
- Upper Level Latin: Latin elegy
- Latin Classics in Translation
- Women in the Ancient World (Graduate and Undergraduate)
- Beginning and Intermediate Italian
- Upper Level Italian: Women, Men and Ideas of the Italian Renaissance
- Upper Level Italian: Manzoni and the Novel
- Survey of Italian Literature
- Italian for Reading Comprehension (Graduate Course)

- Italian Cinema and Literature
- Upper Level Italian: Women Writers and Filmmakers of Modern and Postmodern Italy
- Culture of Italy
- Italian Conversation and Composition

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

- Book: *Arms and the Woman: Classical Tradition and Women Writers in the Venetian Renaissance*, Ohio State University Press, 2018.
Reviewed at <http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2019/2019-03-17.html>
Reviewed at <http://www.gendersexualityitaly.com/22-francesca-dalessandro-behr-arms-and-the-woman-classical-tradition-and-women-writers-in-the-venetian-renaissance/>
- Book: *Feeling History: Lucan, Stoicism and the Aesthetics of Passion*, Ohio State University Press, 2007.

Articles, Conference Proceedings and Book Chapters

- Article in volume: “Female Audiences and Translations of the Classics in Early Modern Italy“ ed. John Decker [**accepted**]
- Article in volume: “Philosophy, Religion and the Praise of Women in Lucrezia Marinella” in *Women and Ideal in the Italian Renaissance* eds. Elena Brizio and Marco Piana (Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies) [**submitted**]
- Article in volume: “Women and the Translation of Classical Texts in the Italian Renaissance: Between Humanism and Divulgation, Academies and the Printing Press” in *Companion to the Translation of Greek and Latin Epic*, ed. A. Lianeri and R. Armstrong. Wiley-Blackwell. [**accepted**]
- Article in volume: “Sage, Soldier, Politician, and Benefactor: Cato in Seneca and Lucan” in *Lucan in his Contemporary Context*, eds. L. Zientek and M. Thorne, Bloomsbury Publishing. [**forthcoming**]
- Article in volume: “Philosophy and the Aesthetics of Apostrophe in Lucan’s *Bellum Civile*” In Ed. P. Roche’s volume on Lucan (University of Oklahoma Press). [**forthcoming**]
- Article in volume: “Lucan’s and Dante’s Narrative Voice” in *A Companion to Latin Epic, ca. 14-96 CE*, eds. Lee Fratantuono and Caroline Stark, Wiley-Blackwell. [**forthcoming**]
- Article in volume: “Pasolini’s *Orestiaide*, the Irrational and Greek Tragedy,” in *Death, Eros, and the Literary Enterprise in the Works of Pier Paolo Pasolini*, ed. Ryan Calabretta-Sajder, Cambridge Scholars Press, 2018, pp. 63-91.
- Journal Article “Thinking Anew about Lavinia,” *Illinois Classical Studies* 39 (2014) pp. 191-121.
- Article in volume: “Consolation, Lamentation, Philosophy and Gender in Lucan’s *Bellum Civile* 8” in *The Philosophising Muse: the Influence of Greek Philosophy on Roman Poetry*, eds. Myrto Garani and David Konstan (general editors of the series Stratis Kyriakidis and Philip Hardie), Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014, pp. 217-44.

- Article in volume: “Lucan’s Cato, Joseph Addison’s Cato and the Poetics of Passion” in *Companion to Lucan*, ed. Paolo Asso, Brill 2011, pp. 525-49.
- Article in volume: “Archetypal Encounters: Circe and Odysseus in the Imagination of a Renaissance woman artist,” in ed. H. Frenndo, *The European Mind: Narrative and Identity* (Vol. I & II), Malta: Malta University Press, 2010.
- Book Review: SANNICANDRO (L.) *I personaggi femminili del Bellum civile di Lucano. Litora classica, 1.* Pp. viii+298. Rahden, Westfalia: VML Verlag Marie Leidorf, 2010. €34.80 (pb). ISBN: 9783867574716 in *Classical Review* 2015 65.2, pp. 458-59.
- Article in volume (reprint) “Open Bodies and Closed Minds? Persius’ *Saturae* in the Light of Bakhtin and Voloshinov,” *Oxford readings in Persius and Juvenal* in the series Oxford Readings in Classical Studies, edited by Maria Plaza (Göteborg University 2009), reprint of Behr 2005 in ed. R. Bracht Branham.
- Book Review Essay: on Richard Heitman, *Taking Her Seriously. Penelope and the Plot of Homer’s Odyssey*, University of Michigan Press 2007; Jane Rawlings, *The Penelopeia*, Boston: David R. Godine, 2003 and Margaret Atwood, *The Penelopiad*, Canongate 2005 in the journal *Classical and Modern Literature*, 27.2 (2007), pp. 131-141.

PAPERS, LECTURES AND SEMINARS

2020 “Women, Education and the Classics in the Italian Renaissance,” Italian Cultural and Community Center, April 1.

2019 “Books, the Translation of the Classics, and Women in the Italian Renaissance,” 14th Conference of Italian Researchers in the World, Miami, FL, December 14.

2019 “Peace, War, History and the Epic Agenda in Lucrezia Marinella’s *Enrico*” paper presented at the Sixteenth Century Society & Conference, October 17-20, St. Louis, Missouri.

2019 “Arms and the Woman: Classical Tradition and Women Writers in the Venetian Renaissance,” presented by Prof. Federica Ciccolella (Texas A&M) and Q&A with author Francesca D. Behr, April 10, University of Houston.

2019 “Translation of the Classics and the Empowerment of Women in Early Modern Italy,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, March 17-19, Toronto, Canada.

2018 “Arms and the Woman: Classical Tradition and Women Writers in the Venetian Renaissance”: A Book and a Presentation, Texas A&M, November 13.

2018 “Between Philosophy, Religion and the Praise of Women: Lucrezia Marinella’s *Erina*,” paper presented at CSIS/AAIS Conference (Canadian Society for Italian Studies and American Association for Italian Studies), May 11-13 Ottawa, Canada.

2017 “The Aesthetics of Apostrophe in Lucan’s *Bellum Civile*,” Lucan in his Contemporary Context, Brigham Young University, Provo, April 14-15.

2017 “The Homeric Hymn to Demeter in context,” University of Houston, Lecture given in Dr. Tamber-Rosenau course “Female Divinities.” February 28.

2015 “Artemisia Gentileschi,” Italian Cultural and Community Center, under the auspices of the Italian General Consulate, May 13.

2012 “Classical Allusions and Renaissance Illusions: On the Education of Women in Renaissance Italy,” lecture given at State University of New York at Buffalo, November 3.

2012 “A Woman Reads the *Aeneid*: Echoes of Vergil in Lucrezia Marinelli’s Epic *L’Enrico*,” 108th Annual Meeting of CAMWS, Baton Rouge, March 28-30.

2011 ““Giuseppe and Anita Garibaldi, heroes of the Italian Unification,”” Italian Cultural and Community Center, under the auspices of the Italian General Consulate, November 2.

2011 “Sallust, Cato, Caesar and the End of the Republic,” lecture given on November 26th in Casey Dué Hackney’s course LATN 3301.

2011 “Demeter in the Greek World” talk given on September 29 in Prof. Theresa Hernández’s course WCL3355 *Female Divinities*.

2011 “Appreciating the *Aeneid* with Le Guin’s *Lavinia*,” 107th Annual Meeting of CAMWS, Grand Rapids, April 6-9, 2011.

2010 Participant to Colloquium “Federalists and Anti-federalists Papers,” sponsored by Liberty Fund, Colonial Williamsburg, 2009.

2010 “Remembering Turnus: Pompey’s death in Lucan’s *Bellum Civile*,” Texas Classical Association, November 4-6.

2010 “Seneca’s *Agamemnon*,” University of Houston, lecture given in Prof. Dué-Hackney’s Latin course.

2009 “Ancient and New Tragedies: Recreating Phaedra,” paper presented at the Fifth Conference of the Italian Researchers in the World, December 4-5, Houston, TX.

2009 Participant to Colloquium “Paradoxes of Liberal Education in the Age of Democratization and Internationalization,” sponsored by Liberty Fund, Colorado Spring, September 24-27, 2009, organizer Timothy Fuller.

2007 Participant to Colloquium “Liberty and Responsibility in Cicero’s *on Duties* and Addison’s *Cato*,” sponsored by the Center for the American Idea and Liberty Fund, Houston TX.

2007 “Catullus’ *Carmen* 64,” lecture presented at Episcopal High School

2007 “Cultura Italiana,” lecture presented at Bellaire High School.

SCOLARSHIP AND AWARDS

2019 Provost Travel Grant (UH)

2018 Provost Travel Grant (UH)

2017 Book Completion Grant (UH)

2017 Provost Travel Grant (UH)

2016-17 MCL Travel Grant (Michelangelo's *Rime*)

2015 UH Grant for creation of LATN 1301-1302 (Elementary Latin) online

2015 NEH Summer stipend (finalist for UH)

2014 Knighthood: Order of the Star. Republic of Italy; honor bestowed by President of the Italian Republic Giorgio Napolitano

2014 CLASS Research Outreach Grant (UH)

2013 Sabbatical Leave (Spring)

2012-13 University of Houston Teaching Excellence Award

2012 University of Houston Small Grant "Women and Reception of Classical Authors in Early Modern Venice: Humanism, Education, Gender, and Resistance."

2012 Giorgio Cini Foundation Residential Scholarship

2011 Women's Studies Travel Grant (UH)

2010 Ross M. Lence Teaching Excellence Award (UH)

2008 QEP Grant: The Ancient World through Web-based Technology (UH)

2005 The University of Houston's Small Grant

2004 The University of Houston's Women Studies Summer Grant (UH)

2003: NEH Summer Institute: "A Literature of their own? Women Writing: Venice, London, Paris 1550-1700." University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (Director: A. Rabil)

2001: Summer Faculty Seminar, Erasmus Institute (Notre Dame)

2001: Research Development Grant, University of Houston

1993 -1998: Teaching Assistantships, SUNY Buffalo

ADMINISTRATIVE and PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE/SERVICE

2019-2010 Interim Program Director for Classical Studies (UH)

2018 Organizer and Scientific Committee of THE 13th CONFERENCE OF ITALIAN RESEARCHERS in cooperation with Consulate General of Italy in Houston, December 1, Richland College, Dallas TX

2017 Organizer and Scientific Committee of THE 12th CONFERENCE OF ITALIAN RESEARCHERS in cooperation with Consulate General of Italy in Houston, March 26.

2017 Chair Provost Travel Committee (UH)

2017 Interim Program Director for Italian Studies (UH)

2016 Organizer and Scientific Committee of the 11th CONFERENCE OF ITALIAN RESEARCHERS under the auspices of the Consulate General of Italy in Houston and COMITES (Committee of Italians Living Abroad), February 26-27

2015 External examiner hired by the American Council of Education (ACE) to assess and specify University credit hours for Latin Advance Placement Exam

2015-16 Advance Placement Question Leader (Latin)

2014 Advance Placement Table Leader (Latin)

Summer 2007-11 Advanced Placement Latin Reader

2014 Organizer of THE 10th CONFERENCE OF ITALIAN RESEARCHERS in cooperation with Consulate General of Italy in Houston, December 1, 2014

2012-15 Faculty Promotion and Tenure Committee (MCL)

2012-16 Provost Travel Committee

2010-13 UH Senator for the Department of Modern and Classical Languages

2010-18 Responsible for Institutional Effectiveness for B.A. in Italian Studies

2012 Evaluator for Dipartimento di Studi Letterari Filologici e Linguistici, Università di Milano (Italy)

2013 Organizer of THE 9th CONFERENCE OF ITALIAN RESEARCHERS in cooperation with Consulate General of Italy in Houston, December 1, 2012

2013-18 Judge for Concorso Letterario (sponsored by Comites and Italian Consulate)

2012-18 Organizer of THE 8th CONFERENCE OF ITALIAN RESEARCHERS in cooperation with Consulate General of Italy in Houston, December 1, 2012

2012 Organizer of ISSNAF event: Lecture "Dante in Auschwitz" by Prof. Alessandro Carrera

2011-12 Secretary and Board Member for ISSNAF (Italian Scientists and Scholars of North America—South West Chapter)

2011-12 Education and Culture Committee for ICCC

2011 Organizer of THE 7th CONFERENCE OF ITALIAN RESEARCHERS in cooperation with Consulate General of Italy in Houston, December 1, 2011

2012-2009 Education Committee for Italian Cultural and Committee Member

2011 Committee Member for PLIDA exam

2009 Committee for Selection of Intern at Museum of Fine Arts (MFA), Houston.

Fall 2008-Spring 2009 Director of Italian Studies

Spring 2005 Director of the Women's Studies Program at the University of Houston