

CARLOTTA SORBA

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PROFILE

Carlotta Sorba (born 30.01.1959) is Professor in Contemporary European History within the Department of History, Geography and the Ancient world at the University of Padua. She obtained her first degree in Bologna and her PhD in Turin. Since 2012 she is the director of the CSC (Interuniversity Center of Cultural history), founded by a convention between the University of Padua, Bologna, Venice, Pisa and Verona (<http://centrostoriaculturale.org>). She is one of the coordinator of the Padua University Scientific Committee (section of History, Geography, Philosophy) and a member of the University Board for studies and politics on gender. She collaborates with many journals and she is co-director of "Contemporanea Rivista dell'800 e del 900", published by Il Mulino.

She is a cultural historian of XIXth century Europe with special research interests on the relationship between cultural productions (music, theatre, proto-mass culture), society and politics.

She has published intensively on Italian and European Nineteenth century history and particularly on theater as a physical, social and imaginative space and as the breeding ground of social and cultural representations. Her current research focuses on the material culture of politics (objects and clothing) during the XIXth century. She is working on a collective volume on *Political objects in XIXth century Europe* and a special issue of the journal "Contemporanea" on *The clothing of politics: dress, appearances and political identities (XIXth-XXth centuries)*.

She is the author of three books and of many articles and book sections; and she is the editor of 4 volumes. Her last book, *Il melodramma della nazione. Politica e sentimenti nell'età del Risorgimento* (Roma: Laterza 2015), focused on the relationship between melodramatic imagination and national movement in the Italian Risorgimento. The book just received the Senior prize 2016 from the Italian Society for studies on contemporary history (Sissco).

She is the coordinator of the scientific board for the next biennial Sissco conference (*Cantieri di storia 2017*), the main appointment for contemporary history scholars in Italy (Padua 13-15 september 2017).

EDUCATION

1992: Ph.D., History, Università di Torino

1982: Laurea in Lettere, Summa Cum Laude, Università di Bologna

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

from 2011 Full Professor in Contemporary History, Dipartimento di scienze storiche Università di Padova

2001 - 2011 Associate Professor, Dipartimento di scienze storiche Università di Padova.

1998 - 2001 Researcher, Dipartimento di scienze storiche Università di Padova.

1996 - 1998 Temporary professor of the History of the Risorgimento, Università di Parma

1995 - 1996 Temporary professor of Urban history, Università di Bologna

TEACHING

- History and cultural theory
- Cultural history of the XIX century
- Women and gender history

RESEARCH SUPERVISION

PhD theses and post-doctoral research currently under supervision

- Patriots in the Bourbon prisons. A collective transnational biography of the Risorgimento (1848-1870c)
- Communicate War Technologies in Europe: techno-scientific popularization through illustrated magazines (1914-1918)
- Leisure and war: Theatres-Kino-Variété in Trieste (1914-1918)
- Building Alterity: the ethnographic collections of catholic missionaries in Italy, 1850-1925
- ! Fascism, Historicity, Architecture. Historical Representation and Narrative between the two wars
- ! Writing to the Magazines. Italian women and relationship column from 1960's to 1980's

EDITORIAL BOARDS AND/OR MAJOR SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

Journals

from 2011 co-director of *Contemporanea. Rivista dell'800 e del 900*

from 2015 member of the Comité de lecture at the *Revue d'Histoire du XIXe siècle*

1997 - 2000 member of the Editorial Board of *Bollettino Sissco* (Società italiana per lo studio della storia contemporanea)

1993 - 2001 member of the Editorial Board of *Storia amministrazione costituzione* (ISAP, Milano)

Series/Collections

From 2012 editor of the collection *Storia delle donne e di genere* (Viella publisher, Roma)

From 2010 editor of the series *Studi culturali. Concetti e pratiche* (ETS publisher, Pisa)

Scientific and academic committees

2016 - 2018 member of the national committee for ASN (Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale) in Contemporary History

2016 - 2020 coordinator of the Padua University Scientific Committee (section History, Geography, Philosophy)

Since 2013 member of the Directive Board of the *Centro Diritti Umani* (Padua)

Since 2013 member of the Directive Board of the *Centro studi e politiche di genere* (Padua)

Since 2012 Director of the *Centro interuniversitario di storia culturale* - CSC (joining scholars from the Universities of Padua, Bologna, Venice, Verona and Pisa)

FELLOWSHIPS and GRANTS

2016 (jan - febr.) Visiting Professor at the Université de Versailles, St - Quentin - en - Yvelines

2015 (jan -febr.) Visiting Professor at the Université Paris 1 Panthéon- Sorbonne

2009 - 2010 (winter): Invited Fellow of the Université Paris Diderot (Paris 7)

2009 - 2011: Research grant of the Università di Padova for the project « Trasformazioni dello sguardo. Cultura visuale e spettacolarizzazione della sfera pubblica nell'Italia dell'Ottocento »

2003 - 2006: Research grant of the Università di Padova for the project « Per una storia sociale delle scene italiane: palcoscenici, pubblici e rappresentazioni tra 800 e 900 »

2003 (december): Visiting professor at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

2003 (march): Invited Fellow of the Ecole Normale Supérieure (Paris)

1992 - 1994 : Research postdoctoral grant of the Università di Parma - Dipartimento di storia

1985 - 1986: Research grant of the Ministero Affari esteri - CNR-CNRS - Centre de Sociologie Urbaine (CSU), Paris

REFEREEING

Journals: “Génèses”; “Società e storia”; “Memoria e ricerca”; “Passato e presente”; “Genesis”; “S-nodi”; “Diacronie”

Publishers: Routledge, Palgrave MacMillan, Viella

JURIES FOR HISTORICAL PRIZES

2006 Prize for literature and essays on migration Borgo Val di Taro (*Scritture dell'emigrazione*)

2005 Prize Anci Storia (Sissco)

CONFERENCES ORGANIZATIONS (from 2011)

She organized several international conferences, workshop, summer schools

- *Communicating politics. Media, communication, activism from the French revolution to the present* (International Summer school in partnership with Université de Lausanne and Université Versailles St. Quentin, Padua 2016)

- *Political objects in XIX century Europe* (International workshop, Padua 2016)

- *The Great laboratory of Humanity. Collection, patrimony and the repatriation of humans remains* (International conference - Padua 2016)

- *Far from home. Women and migration* (International conference, Padua 2013)

- *The gazing society. Approaches to the history of vision in the modern period* (International conference, Padua 2011);

- from 2009 she organizes every year the CSC cycles of seminars (autumn and spring)

(<http://centrostoriaculturale.org>)

PAPERS AND CONFERENCES (from 2011)

2016 *Les Etats italiens ont-ils eu une politique culturelle dans la première moitié du XIX siècle?*, Key-note lecture in “L’administration des institutions culturelles en France et en Italie” (Rouen, 8-9 dec.)

2016 *Attilio Magri (1830-1898): la società europea dello spettacolo*, in “Mantova, il Risorgimento, l’Europa” (Istituto di storia, Mantova 20-21 ottobre)

2016 *Who is afraid of cultural history? Different trajectories in Italy and in France*, in “International Cultural History Society Conference” (Trieste 18-22 july)

2016 *Il business dell’opera: emozioni sui palcoscenici*, in “La storia in piazza” (Genova 7-10 april)

2015 *De Ernani aux Masnadieri: brigands, chevaliers et patriotes dans l’opéra de Verdi et l’Italie du Risorgimento* (Montreal, 5 october)

2015 *Emotions, sentiments et passions en Italie XIXè siècle* (Paris- SciencePo 7 april)

2015 *Revolutionary fashion: patriotic bodies in 1848 Italy*, in “Fashion - 84th Anglo-American Conference of historians” (Institute of Historical research, London 2-3 july)

2014 e 15 *World exhibitions in Europe* (Padua and Milan 2014-15)

2014 *L’Unità d’Italia a teatro* (Biblioteca di storia moderna e contemporanea, Roma 4 april)

2014 *Mazzini, il teatro, le arti* (Milan, Museo del Risorgimento, 24 january)

2013 *Le public des romans et du théâtre en Italie dans la première moitié du XIXe siècle* (ENS, Paris 31 january)

2013 *Verdi nell’Italia del Risorgimento*, Concert-conference with P. Gossett and the Corale Verdi - (Parma, Auditorium Toscanini 3 dec)

2013 *Il corpo dei patrioti*, in “Il corpo in scena, rappresentazioni, tecniche, simboli” (Padua 24-26 september)

2013 *Risorgimento mediatico. Comunicazione e politica nel primo Ottocento*, in “Fare storia, praticare la storia, Per ricordare Franco Della Peruta” (Milan 29-31 january)

2011 *Melodramatic emotions in italian Risorgimento*, in “Italy Made! Passions and projects”, Los Angeles, UCLA and Italian Cultural Institute (17-19 november)

2011 *Tra cosmopolitismo e nazione: l'opera italiana nel Risorgimento*, in “Il Risorgimento in prospettiva transnazionale” (Istituto storico germanico, Roma 14-15 april)

2011 *National theatre in an age of municipalities*, in “Opera and nation in 19th century Italy” (London, Institute of Historical research 25 march)

2011 *Melodrama in Post-revolutionary Europe: the genealogy and diffusion of a “popular” theatrical genre and experience, 1780-1830*, in “ESF Exploratory Workshop on The origins of Modern Mass Culture: European Leisure in a comparative perspective 1660-1870” (Gregynog Hall, Newtown (UK) 16-19 september)

RESEARCH TRAJECTORIES

Her trajectory as a scholar initially developed around a specific interest in the relations between institutions, society and urban space in modern times. A series of researches was concerned with social and urban policies in the immediate aftermath of the First World War, ranging from the French case (Henri Sellier et le habitations à bon marché) to the Italian one. Since her doctorate she has chosen to concentrate her work upon the relationship between centre and periphery, nation and locality, viewed as a key theme in Italian contemporary history. This gave rise to a book on the role of municipalities at the turn of the XIXth century, focusing on the case of Parma (*L'eredità delle mura*, Venezia, Marsilio 1994), but also to a specific interest in the historical construction of cultural identities between the local and the national, a theme to which she has dedicated numerous articles and books chapters.

This increasingly close alignment with cultural history has led her to pay more attention to the role of the theatre in Nineteenth-century society, viewed at once as a physical space, as a social occasion and as a laboratory of imagery and social representations. Around this new field of interest she published a very known and appreciated book: *Teatri. L'Italia del melodramma nell'età del Risorgimento* (Bologna, Il Mulino 2001). She was also the editor of some books or journal special issues devoted to a closer exploration of specific themes relating both to the material conditions of theatrical production (sites, audiences, distributional circuits) and to the relationship between the stage, politics and society.

In recent years she has continued to investigate, from a methodological perspective, the relationships between history and music, history and theatre in Nineteenth-century Italy and Europe. Her more recent research work has been dedicated to the relations between political culture and theatricality in Romantic Europe, and they develop the notion of a “melodramatisation” of the politics that flourished in Risorgimento Italy. Her new volume *Il melodramma della nazione. Politica e sentimenti nell'età del Risorgimento* has been published by Laterza in 2015.