

VETRI NATHAN, PH.D.
Associate Professor

Department of European Languages and Transcultural Studies (ELTS)
University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)
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EMPLOYMENT

University of California, Los Angeles July 2024 – Present
Associate Professor (Tenured)
Department of European Languages and Transcultural Studies (ELTS)
Founder and P.I. – The Cybercene Lab www.thecybercenelab.org

Research and Teaching Interests: Environmental and Multispecies Humanities, Migrations and Postcolonial Studies, Public Humanities, Media Studies, Italian and Mediterranean Studies

Rutgers-The State University of New Jersey July 2022 – June 2024
New Brunswick, NJ
Associate Professor of Italian (Tenured)

Rutgers-The State University of New Jersey July 2022 – June 2024
Mellon Associate Professor of Global Racial Justice
Rutgers Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice

University of Massachusetts Boston September 2017 – May 2022
Associate Professor of Italian (Tenured)
Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures (MLLC)

University of Massachusetts Boston September 2011 – August 2017
Assistant Professor of Italian (Tenure-Track)
Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures (MLLC)

University of Denver, Department of Languages and Literatures Fall 2009 - Spring 2011
Lecturer in Italian (Full-time, Non Tenure-Track)

EDUCATION

Stanford University, Stanford, CA June 2009
Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Arts in Italian

Film Arts Foundation, San Francisco, CA April – December 2005
Semester-long courses devoted to learning the practical aspects of filmmaking: Screenwriting, Alternative Techniques in Documentary Filmmaking, Location Sound Recording.

Connecticut College, New London, CT May 2003

Bachelor of Arts (Honors)

Major: Italian, Minor: Zoology

Certificate in Environmental Studies

PUBLICATIONS

In Print (Peer Reviewed):

Monograph: *Marvelous Bodies: Italy's New Migrant Cinema*. Purdue University Press, 2017

“Edible Nation: Imagining Somalia Through Cuisine.” In *Longing for an African Future: Mal d’Afrique, Somali Pain and Afro-Optimism*, Routledge Press, December 2023

“From Intersectionality to Interstitiality: Pathways in Italian Race, Migration and Diaspora Studies.” *Italian Culture Journal*, Fall 2023

“Hybridize or Decline: Practical Solutions towards a sustainable future for Italian Studies.” In *Diversity in Italian Studies*. Siân Gibby and Anthony Julian Tamburri, eds. New York: John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, 2021

“L’altrove è sempre qui: L’eredità della commedia all’italiana in *Scontri di civiltà per un ascensore a Piazza Vittorio* di Amara Lakhous.” In L’altro e l’altrove nella cultura italiana, Cuneo: Nerosubianco Press, Fall 2011, p.197-205

"Transgression, Integration, Suspension: The Sense Wars/Space Wars of the Body in Italian Literature and Film of Immigration." In The Cultures of Italian Migration: Diverse Trajectories and Discrete Perspectives, Lanham, Maryland: Farleigh Dickinson University Press, Fall 2011, p. 169-184

“Mimic Nation – Mimic Men: Contextualizing Italy’s Migration Culture through Bhabha” in National Belongings: Hybridity in Italian Colonial and Postcolonial Cultures, Bern, Switzerland: Peter Lang, Winter 2010, p. 41-62

“*Nuovo Cinema Inferno*: The Affect of Ambivalence in Giuseppe Tornatore’s *La sconosciuta*.” In From Terrone to Extra-Comunitario: The New Manifestations of Racism in Contemporary Italian Cinema, Leicester, U.K.: Troubador Italian Series, Troubador, Winter 2010, p. 264-279

Works in Progress:

Monograph: *The Cybercene: Multispecies Habitability and Healing in a Transformed World* (Estimated publication mid-2025)

“Black and Migrant Ecologies in the Mediterranean: Intra-actions and Co-becomings” (article to be submitted to *California Italian Studies* special issue on Race and Blackness in Italy) – estimated submission date, October 2024

Agrigento 2025 – An Ecocultural Project – A Cybercene Lab and Montclair State University joint project, Sicily, Italy, Forthcoming, Summer 2025

Documentary Film: *Our Multispecies Futures: Bison in the American West* (post-production to be completed in Winter 2025)

CONFERENCE PAPERS

“The Cybercene Lab: A Humanities-Based Exploration of Healing and Habitability in a Transformed World” Western Literature Association Conference, Fort Hall Reservation, Idaho, October 2023

“Extinction Paranoia and Replacement Theory in the 2022 Italian General Elections” North East Modern Languages Association (NEMLA) Conference, Niagara Falls, March 2023

“Pathways between Critical Race Theory and Italian Studies” American Association of Italian Studies (AAIS) Conference, Virtual, May 2021

“Intersectionality and Hybridity: Disrupting the “Vision” of Italian Studies” Diversity and Decolonization in Italian Studies, Roundtable Series, Virtual, May 2021

“Manufactured Hate: Imagining the Italian Nation's Boundaries through Migrant Stereotypes”, North East Modern Languages Association (NEMLA) Conference, Boston, March 2020

“Immigrant as Masquerade: Racial and Cultural Mimicry in Contemporary Italian Cinema”, Conference on New Trends in Modern and Contemporary Italian Cinema, Indiana University, Bloomington, April 2014

“You Say ‘Neo-Neorealism’ and I say ‘TomAhto’: *Pummarò* and *Lettere dal Sahara*”, Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association Conference (PAMLA), San Diego, November 2013

“It’s a Med-aphor, silly!” The Mediterranean-as-Nation in Italian Popular Culture”, Mediterranean Cultures Conference, California State University Chico, November 2013

"Origins of a Young Auteur: Matteo Garrone’s Immigrant Trilogy", Symposium on Contemporary Italian Cinema, Indiana University, Bloomington, April 2013

“New Cartographies: Emanuele Crialesè’s *Terraferma*”, North East Modern Languages Association (NEMLA) Conference, Boston, March 2013

“Language Learning with Wikis and Voice Thread”, Center for Innovative Teaching (CIT) EdTech Conference, University of Massachusetts Boston, May 2012

“Eat Pray Love Under the Tuscan Sun: Orientalizing Contemporary Italy.” "Images of the Road" Conference, Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery, Colorado Springs, March 2012

“Naples as the Other: Transnationality in Garrone’s *Gomorra*”, Conference on Transcultural Italy, California State University Chico, November 2011

“Invisible Cities: The Migrant Topographies of Italy.” Conference on Mediterranean Encounters in the City, University of Colorado Boulder, April 2011

“An Oneiric Realism: Matteo Garrone’s *Terra di mezzo*.” Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association Conference (PAMLA), Honolulu, Hawaii, November 2010

“Commedia all’italiana in Amara Lakhous’ *Scontro di civiltà per un ascensore a Piazza Vittorio*.” Conference on L’altro e l’altrove nella cultura italiana, California State University Chico, November 2010

Garrone, Tornatore, Tullio Giordana: The Ambivalent Realisms of Italian Immigration”, North-East Modern

Languages Association (NEMLA) Conference, Montréal, Canada, April 2010

“Towards dialogue: Postcoloniality and Migration Italy,” European Association of Commonwealth Literatures and Languages Conference - Rewriting Rights in/through Postcolonial cultures, Venice, Italy, March 2008

“Transgressive Bodies: the New Realism of Contemporary Italian-Immigrant Literature and Film,” Conference on The Italian Cultures of Migration, Dartmouth College, Hanover, June 2007

INVITED ROUNDTABLES AND FOCUSED SEMINARS

Respondent, *Critical Conversations in Transnational Italian Studies*, AAIS *Giornata di studio*, Virtual, March 2024

Respondent, *Multipli Forti* – Italian Literary Festival, New York, NY April 2023

Speaker, *The 2022 Italian Election Results: Past, Present and Futures*, Virtual, Rutgers University, November 2022

Speaker “Beloved Communities in a Troubled World” Virtual Event, *Ethical Imaginaries*, October 2022

Respondent, Lecture by Professor John Champagne “Categorical Miscegenation and Queer Italia” Columbia Seminar in Modern Italian Studies, Virtual, Forthcoming, November 12, 2021

Respondent, Seminar, “Black Italian Lives across Centuries and Disciplines” Mediterranean Studies Group, University of Colorado, Boulder, April 2021

Workshop Co-Facilitator “Teaching Social Justice through Italian Food Studies: Personal Reflection and Community Engagement.” With Professor Rosetta Giuliani Caponetto, Teaching Italian XIII, Equity in the Italian Curriculum, Montclair State University, October 2020

“Brown/Black Bodies in an Italian Classroom: An Inevitable Disruption?” Symposium on Diversity in Italian Studies, John D. Calandra Institute, Queens College, NY, January 2019

Moderator/Discussant, Public Film Screening of “The Order of Things” by Director Andrea Segre, Italian Cultural Institute, San Francisco, CA, October 12, 2018

“Cinematic Perceptions of Italy’s Migrant Crisis”, Graduate Symposium, with Professor Thomas Harrison (UCLA) and film director Andrea Segre, Stanford University, October 11, 2018

“Ghosts of Cinemas Past in Italy’s New Migrant Cinema.” Symposium on The Geopolitics of Italian Cinema: Expanding Postcolonial Approaches. Concordia University, Montréal, Canada, October 2017

“Faculty led Study Abroad Programs – Best practices.” Faculty Research/Study Abroad Workshop, Office of International and Transnational Affairs, UMass Boston, October 2014

“Food as Culture: Developing a Study Abroad course in Italy”, Italian Studies Colloquium, California State University Chico - Foreign Languages and Literatures Department, Chico, November 2013

“È Morto il Neorealismo: Viva il Neorealismo!” Roundtable on Contemporary Cinema and the Ghost of Neorealism, North East Modern Languages Association (NEMLA) Conference, Boston, March 2013

Roundtable Discussant “Ridere (per non piangere?): Humor in the Italian Literature of Immigration.” Roundtable on Italian Immigration, Mount Holyoke College, Hadley, April 2012

Workshop, "Why Should I Watch Antonioni? Unmasking the Art Film." California State University, Chico, November 2011

INVITED LECTURES

Public Talk, “Guess Who’s Coming to an Italian Dinner?: Black Bodies in Italy’s New Migrant Cinema”, Scarlet Speakers Series, Virtual, Rutgers University, March 2024

Lecture, “Mediterranean Migrations: Italy’s Cinematic, Cultural and Biopolitical Responses.” Flame University, Pune, India, January 2023

Lecture, “Migrations/Race/Diasporas in Europe/Italy: Interdisciplinary and Transnational Approaches”, Purdue University, November 2022

Book Presentation, “Marvelous Bodies: Italy’s New Migrant Cinema”, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, December 4, 2018

Cinematic Responses to Italy’s Migration Crisis, Panel Discussion with Film Director Andrea Segre, Stanford University, October 8, 2018

Public lecture, “Of Stereotypes and Mimics: Imagining Immigrants in Contemporary Italy”, Trinity College, Hartford, CT, September 19, 2016

Guest Lecture “Why read Dante?” UMass Boston, September 23, 2015

Public Lecture, “Italian Food Culture: You are what you Eat?” Department of French, University of Mumbai, India, January 2015

“Colonizer/Colonized? Contemporary Italy’s Immigrants and the Postcolonial Question.” University of Mumbai, January 13, 2015

Public Lecture, “Slippery Stereotypes: Cinematic Immigrants in Italy Today”, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and the International Affairs Program Lecture Series, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, April 2014

Public Mini-Lecture “Eat, Pay, Leave: Revisiting Julia Roberts’ Journey to Italy”, CLA Welcome Day Mini-Lecture, College of Liberal Arts, UMass Boston, April 2014

Guest lecture, "Ethnic Food and Foreign Immigration in Italy: Daniele Luchetti's Chocolate Flavored Lessons." Auburn University, Auburn, April 2012.

Public Lecture, “When the Book becomes a Journey: A Literary Exploration of Post-War Italian Society.” Dante Alighieri Society of Massachusetts, Cambridge, March 2012

Public Lecture, “Globalization, Italian-Style: Immigrants in Contemporary Italian Cinema”, Lecture Series, Connecticut College Lecture Series, New London, March 2012

Research Presentation, “The Curious Case of Postcolonial Italy.” School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Denver, March 2010

“The New Italians.” Lecture for the *Società Dante Alighieri di Denver*, February 2010

“La canzone napoletana,” *Casa Italiana* Seminar Series, Stanford University, October 2008

Presenter, Film screening of *L’orchestra di Piazza Vittorio* by Agostino Ferrente. Introduced the film and led the Q&A session with the director, Stanford University, October 2008

“The grotesque and desperate comedies of Pietro Germi,” *Casa Italiana* seminar series, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, November 2007

Presenter, Film screening of *Verso Sera* by Francesca Archibugi. Introduced the director and led the Q&A session with director after the screening, Stanford University, November 2007

“Immigrants in Italy Today,” *Casa Italiana* Seminar Series, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, October 2005

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS and HONORS

\$185,000 Mellon Named-term Chair in Global Racial Justice Fall 2022 – Spring 2027
Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice, Rutgers University
Awarded to enhance research and teaching in transnational critical race studies
\$100,000 in research funds plus summer research stipend

Visiting Scholar, University of Arizona (Sabbatical) Fall 2019

\$1200 UMass Boston Book Subvention Fund Award May 2015

\$1500 CLA Dean’s Research and Travel Fund December 2015
Awarded for travel to deliver two lectures at the University of Mumbai.

Outstanding Faculty Annual Award, University Professional & Continuing Education Association (UPCEA) October 2013

North-Eastern USA region award received for the “Food and Culture” study abroad course established in Italy.

\$4000 Faculty Research / Study Abroad Grant, Office of International and Transnational Affairs (OITA), University of Massachusetts Boston February 2013
Competitive grant to fund development of new study-abroad course in Italy in Summer 2013.

\$50,000 Mellon Fellowship at the University of California Los Angeles - “Cultures in Transnational Perspective”, UCLA Visiting Assistant Professor of Italian (declined to accept position at University of Massachusetts). April 2011

Scholarship, Office of the Dean, School of Humanities and Sciences, Stanford University September 2009

Full funding for 6th year of graduate school.

Stanford University Fellowship

2003 – 2008

Full funding for 5 years of graduate school.

\$3000 Vice Provost Diversity Research Grant, Stanford University

June 2008

\$3000 Graduate Research Opportunity Grant, Stanford University

June 2007

Competitive grants awarded to undertake dissertation-related research in Rome and Naples, used to research and write thesis and network with protagonists of the migration culture relevant to the thesis – authors and poets such as Amara Lakhous and Igiaba Scego.

MULTI-UNIT GRANTS:

\$1.1 Million Grant, National Resource Centers - Center for European Studies, U.S. Department of Education. (Principal Investigator): Not awarded, October 2014

June 2014

The grant application requested funds to set up a *Center for European Studies* to carry out research, teaching and public service on a national level.

\$1.34 Million Grant, Foreign Language and Area Studies Program, U.S. Department of Education.

(Principal Investigator): Not awarded, October 2014

June 2014

The grant application requested funds to provide 10 academic-year and 20 summer European Studies research funds for graduate and undergraduate students.

TEACHING

Courses at the Rutgers University (Fall 2022 – Spring 2024)

* Indicates New and Significantly Revised Courses

*218: Global Food Studies – Diversity and Sustainability (Comparative Literature course)

*232: Italian Culture II: Italian Cultural History and Sustainability Through Food

*Graduate Seminars: Postcolonial Italy and Multispecies Humanities

Courses at the University of Massachusetts Boston (Fall 2011 – Fall 2021)

ITAL 101 Elementary Italian I (In-person and Online)

ITAL 102 Elementary Italian II

*ITAL 150, Italian Food and Culture (Study Abroad course)

*ITAL 268L Italian American Experience (In-person, Hybrid and Online)

*CINE/ITAL 276, Italian Cinema (In-Person and Remote)

*MLLC 270, Global Food Studies (In-person, Hybrid and Online)

*ITAL 301 Composition and Conversation

*ITAL 305, Language of Modern Italy

*ITAL 312 Introduction to Italian Literature II

*ENVSCI/MLLC/ITAL/FREN/ARABIC 350 (Proposed for Fall 2022) Mediterranean Food Studies: An Ecocultural Approach (Study Abroad, In-Person and Online)

ITAL 378/379 Independent Study

*MLLC/ITAL 405 (Proposed for Spring 2022) Black Italy: European and Mediterranean Identities

*ITAL 476, *Cinema e letteratura*
ITAL 479 Readings and Research
*ITAL 480, Special Topics, *L'arte della commedia*
ITAL 498 Honors Thesis Research

Courses at the University of Denver

Elementary Italian 1, 2 and 3, Intermediate Italian, *Cinema oltre il neorealismo, L'Italia globalizzata*

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS ATTENDED

Tutorial "Teaching Online 101-102 Language Courses", UMass Boston, October 2014

"Faculty Research / Study Abroad", Workshop, Office of International and Transnational Affairs (OITA), UMass Boston, Fall 2012 and 2013

"Using iMovie," Workshop, UMass Boston, May 2012

"Publishing 101" Workshop, UMass Boston Faculty Development, March 2012

"Intro to Wikispaces," Workshop, UMass Boston, September 2011

"Synopsis" Three-week Comparative Literature Seminars – European School of Comparative Studies, Bertinoro and Pontignano, Italy, August 2005 and September 2006

Three-day ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Oral proficiency Interview (OPI) Workshop, Stanford University, August 2004

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SERVICE CONTRIBUTIONS

(UMass Boston and Rutgers University)

In the Department:

Graduate Studies Advisor Mentored students at various stages of graduate study, from year one to dissertation writing	Fall 2022 – Present
Program Director , Italian Studies Duties include scheduling, management of instructors, curricular development, advising and overall administration of Italian Studies major and minor	May 2016 - 2022
Faculty Liaison , Italian Consulate General Boston	2011-2022
Coordinator , Elementary Italian Language Courses	Fall 2013-2022
Faculty Sponsor , Revived Italian Club " <i>Club Italia!</i> "	2011 – Spring 2019
Committee Member , Proposal for New Departmental Major in <i>Global Cultural Studies</i>	January 2011 – 2022
Chair , Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Italian and French	Oct 2015 – April 2016

Vetri Nathan, Ph.D.

- Chair**, Departmental Personnel Committee AY 2014-15 and 2015-16
- Committee Member**, Departmental Personnel Committee AY 2012-14 and 2021-2022
- Search Committee Member**, Assistant Professor of Arabic November 2013 – April 2014

Service to the College of Humanities/School of Sciences and Arts:

- Co-Leader** *Working Group in Environmental Humanities and Environmental Justice* Fall 2023 – Present

Co-convened group through the Rutgers' interdisciplinary *Center for Cultural Analysis* in order to further knowledge of these fields and to expand their presence at Rutgers. Activities starting Spring 2024 include faculty and graduate student meetings across departments to create a new Graduate Certificate in EH and new Minor in Food Studies.

- Committee Member**, Proposal for New Minor in *Food Studies* Fall 2018 - 2022
Collaborated with two faculty in American Studies and Anthropology departments to create new interdisciplinary minor

- Committee Member (Invited)**, College Personnel Committee Fall 2018 – Spring 2019
Reviewed and recommended faculty Tenures and Promotions

- Executive Committee Member**, CLA minor in *Cinema Studies* May 2013 – May 2018

- Search Committee Member**, Assistant Professor of Video Art December 2015 – April 2016

- CLA Faculty Senator** Fall 2013 – Spring 2015

- Departmental representative** for campus interviews, Asian Studies Faculty Search April 2012

- CLA Welcome Day Mini-Lecture April 2013

- CLA Welcome Day Participant April 2016, April 2012

Service to the University:

- Founding Director**, *Catherine Frisone-Scott Italian Cultural Studies Center* Fall 2017-2022

Founded and directed annual activities of the new, million-dollar fund through the creation of an interdepartmental faculty committee. Carried out ongoing outreach to donor and passed proposal to create the new center through governance as per donor vision.

- Committee Member (Invited)**, Review Committee for Dean Philip DiSalvio, College of Advancing and Professional Studies (CAPS) Fall 2014

- Study Abroad Founder/Director**, “Food and Culture: The Italian Experience” Program in Siena, Italy Summer 2013 - 2022

Service to the Profession:

- Book Proposal Reviewer**, Peter Lang Press Spring 2024
- Monograph Peer-Reviewer**, Indiana University Press Fall 2023
- Founding Co-Director** *Critical Race, Diaspora and Migrations (CRDM) Studies Caucus*, American Association of Italian St. Fall 2021- Spring 2022
Co-organizing events and creating structure and vision for new caucus within AAIS to promote the study of race and identity.
- Steering Committee Member** *Critical Race, Diaspora and Migrations (CRDM) Studies Caucus*, American Association of Italian Studies Fall 2022- Present
- Monograph Peer-Reviewer**, Purdue University Press Fall 2021
- Peer Reviewer**, *Continuum* – Journal of Media and Cultural Studies Fall 2021
- Founding Member**, *DTIS Initiative* (Diversity and Transformation in Italian Studies) Fall 2020
This is a new space empowers scholars, educators, artists, and practitioners to promote diversity and transform Italian Studies by rejuvenating pedagogy, curriculum, and research via an annual virtual conference.
- Book Review**, *Journal for Italian Cinema and Media Studies* Fall 2019
- Peer Reviewer**, *Italian Culture Journal* Spring 2019
- Board of Directors, Diversity Member-at-Large (Elected)**, North-East Modern Language Association (NEMLA) April 2014 – April 2017
Responsible for enhancing diversity and equity content and programming across all languages and disciplines hosted by the NeMLA conference.
- Reviewer (Invited)**, *California Italian Studies journal* Summer 2016
- Reviewer (Invited)**, *North-East Modern Language Association (NEMLA) journal* Spring 2012

Community Outreach:

- Committee Member**, United World Colleges (UWC-USA) American National Committee Fall 2018 – Spring 2019
Responsible for selecting 50 full merit scholarship recipients annually from a large pool of students from all 50 states for attendance to the prestigious high schools with global reach.
- Elected Member, Board of Directors**, Dante Alighieri Society of Massachusetts, Cambridge May 2013 – May 2015
- Curator**, Literature exhibition, Dante Alighieri Society of Massachusetts, Cambridge Spring 2012

LANGUAGES

English, fluent; Italian, fluent; Hindi, conversational; Marathi, conversational; French, reading knowledge and basic conversation

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

ASEH American Society for Environmental History

ESEH European Society for Environmental History

ASFS Association for the Study of Food and Society

MLA Modern Languages Association

NEMLA North-East Modern Languages Association

AAIS American Association of Italian Studies, Critical Race Studies Caucus